

OPINION & COMMENTARY

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Kudos

The calendar girls of Randolph County — seven women ages 76 to 94 who bared all to save the local courthouse — claimed victory last week. County commissioners rescinded their decision to tear down the historic courthouse. The calendar raised about \$20,000 and, more important, publicity for the effort to save the landmark.

Outrage

Another 12 people, including a sheriff's deputy, were charged with voter fraud in Lake County. A total of 34 people now face criminal charges associated with fraud during the 2003 primary.

Overheard



"What happens in Iraq or Afghanistan today is not just crucial for the people in those countries or even in those regions, but for our security here and round the world. It . . . is an entirely noble (cause) — to help people in need of our help in pursuit of liberty, and a self-interested one, since in their salvation lies our own security."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, speaking on the third anniversary of the coalition invasion of Iraq

It's a big world out there

State's fortunes are tied to global marketplace

Our position:

It's time to recognize Indiana's interdependence on the global economy.

Despite being a former Kernan administration official and a "dyed-in-the-wool Democrat," Ball State University Assistant Provost Cyrus Reed thinks the deal Gov. Mitch Daniels struck to lease the Indiana Toll Road for 75 years makes sense. Considering Indiana's fiscal woes, why shouldn't the state hand off the tollway for \$3.8 billion so it can make "productive investments" in its infrastructure and economic revival?

What doesn't make sense to Reed, once an international trade director for the state Commerce Department, are complaints that the firms taking over the Toll Road — Australia's Macquarie Bank and Spain's Cintra — aren't American companies. As far as he's concerned, such xenophobia ignores the reality that Indiana's fortunes are deeply tied to the global economy.

The fact that some 130,000 Hoosiers work in 500 plants controlled or partly owned by foreign outfits illustrates Indiana's interdependence on the global economy. The state's automotive sector in particular "would have collapsed," argues Reed, without the growing presence of Japanese automakers. Their growth, including the recent addition of 1,000 jobs by Toyota in Lafayette, has mitigated the loss of about 16,800 jobs between 1999 and 2003 due to the dwindling fortunes of General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler.

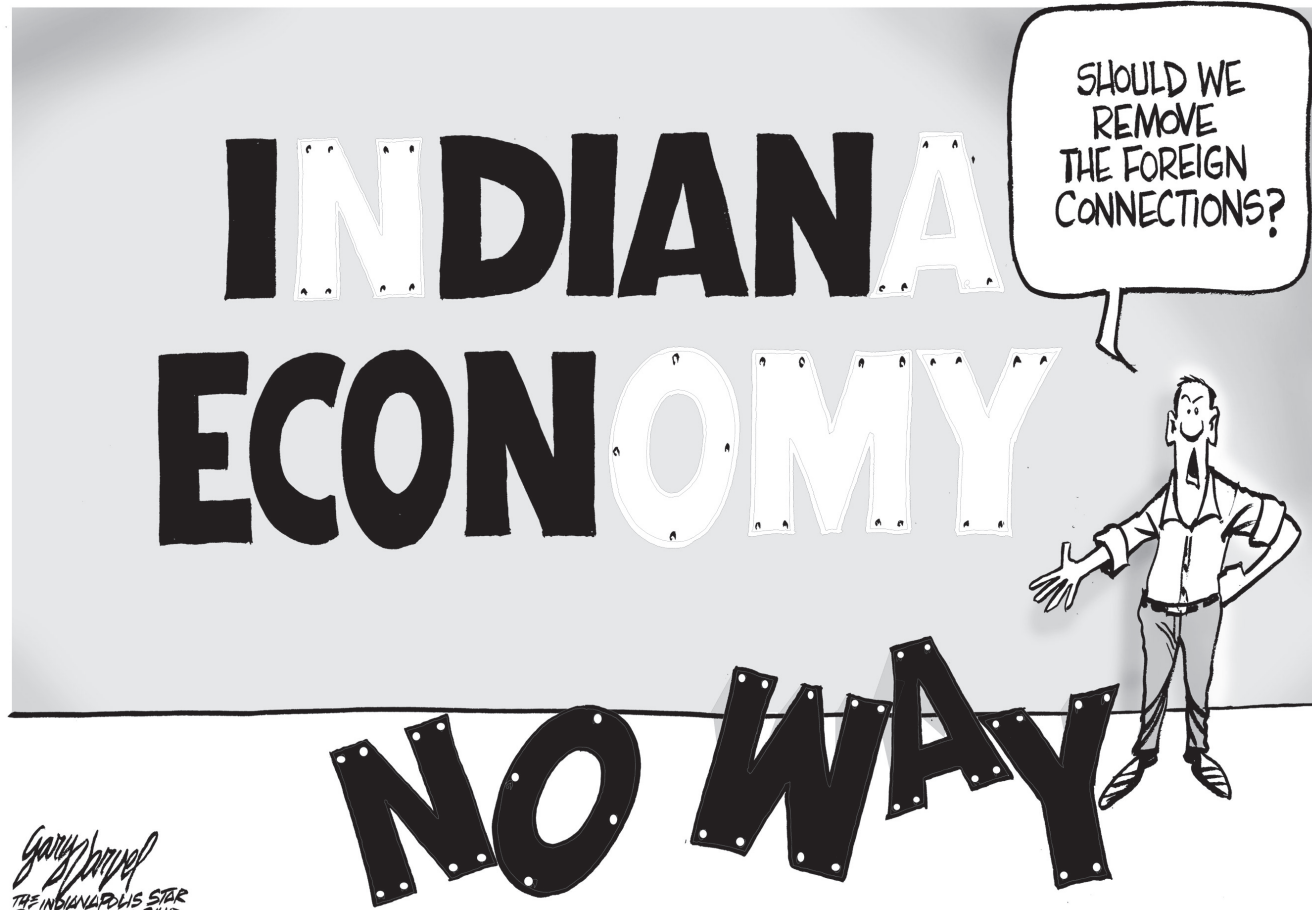
The reality is that a Hoosier is as likely to peddle drugs for Switzerland's F. Hoffmann-La Roche as for homegrown Eli Lilly. The fortunes of farmers, popcorn salesmen, even the state's universities and think tanks, aren't left untouched by the global marketplace.

World trade hub

A drive south on I-65 to one of Indiana's three ports — the Clark Maritime Center in Jeffersonville — exemplifies the state's links to the global economy.

Some 67 percent of the \$452 million in grain and other cargo shipments handled at the port last year either came from or were destined for foreign countries. Altogether, 42 percent of cargo coming through the three Indiana ports either originated from or was destined for foreign ports.

That includes many staples of Indiana's farms. Ninety-five percent of the



Indiana grain heading out of Jeffersonville, for example, was shipped overseas; 90 percent of the white corn harvest shipped out of the port in Mount Vernon went to countries such as Mexico, where it's used by tortilla makers.

The presence of the ports, along with the state's importance as a transportation hub, attracts firms such as Austria's Voestalpine AG and Cargill. Companies associated with the ports account for about 10,000 jobs in Indiana. The state isn't just the crossroads of America, but of the world.

One out of every four Hoosier jobs, Reed notes, is generated by foreign investments, exports to overseas locales, even illegal immigration and other imported labor. And jobs also are created here through the global expansion of Indiana's companies.

Thanks to Eli Lilly's international efforts, its sales outside the United States, accounting for 36 percent of the business in 2000, made up nearly half of its 2005 revenue. Meanwhile, 30 percent of the world's popcorn is supplied by Weaver Popcorn, based in the north-east Indiana city of Van Buren.

Those realities are difficult to accept

for those who long for an isolated, landlocked Indiana and view the Toll Road lease as a sort of foreign invasion. But just as the Toll Road deal gives the state the capital needed to take the next step in improving its future, the interconnections between Indiana and the world offer myriad opportunities.

Schools to the world

A look at Indiana's role in the global market of education offers more examples of the state's interdependence with the world.

Some 13,100 aspiring Chinese engineers, Japanese biologists and other international students attend Indiana's schools this year. They account for 13 percent of Purdue's enrollment, giving it the nation's third-largest foreign student population. Ball State's foreign student enrollment of 500, which has grown at a 5 percent annual clip, likely will accelerate even more thanks to the school's decision this year to charge in-state tuition to students at its sister universities.

International students, who often pay full tuition, contribute \$302 million to the state economy and help reduce college's dependence on state aid. Because foreign students are among the brightest minds, they also help bring in grants

and projects that bolster the state's efforts to become a hub in biotechnology and other life sciences.

Then there's the role these programs play in strengthening Indiana's image in the rest of the world. Indiana University's decades-long program with Malaysia's giant Petronas, for example, built a base of alumni in Asia who serve as ambassadors for the state and scouts for Indiana businesses looking to break into new markets.

As Lynn Schoch, a senior associate director for IU's international services, points out, the global presence also offers cultural exposure to Hoosiers, who may have never eaten baklava or spoken Hindi. About 1,800 Indiana students participated in study-abroad programs last year.

And as the job market becomes global, such ties allow Hoosiers to prepare for a world of possibilities. A few years ago, a Ball State student from Elwood, where a Japanese firm is located, sought some advice from Reed: Should he stay in Indiana and go to college or accept a job and relocate to Japan?

"That's the kind of stuff they face in Elwood," Reed says.

It's also the reality for all of Indiana. It's time for Hoosiers to embrace with open arms the state's interdependence with the world.



RUSS PULLIAM

He may be headed to governors hall of fame

He may be unpopular now, but Gov. Mitch Daniels could be on his way to becoming one of Indiana's strongest governors.

The Indiana Toll Road lease will unleash a road-building boom essential for sparking an economic comeback in the state. He got daylight-savings time adopted, and no other governor was able to handle that hot potato for long. Keeping the Colts here with the 2005 stadium deal became a reality because of his ability to persuade heavily Republican counties around Indianapolis to accept a regional tax.

Few other governors have done so much so quickly. One was Gov. Otis Bowen, who persuaded the General



Gov. Mitch Daniels

Assembly to freeze the state's property tax rate in the 1970s. A medical doctor, he also had the legislature adopt limits on medical malpractice lawsuits.

Bowen was so popular that well into the 1980s Republicans were winning most statewide offices by claiming to be part of the Bowen team.

Before Bowen, Indiana governors were limited to one term and had a hard time strongly influencing the state. One who did was Democrat Paul McNutt, elected in 1932 when Franklin Roosevelt led his party to a national landslide in response to the Depression. McNutt reorganized state government and developed a party machine that affected the state for a couple of generations.

With Prohibition's end, McNutt had the General Assembly set up a liquor license system that benefited both parties and became a corrupting influence. The 2 percent club allowed the ruling party to collect dues from state employees. McNutt's successor, Clifford Townsend, continued McNutt's policies. McNutt seemed on his way to the presidency in 1940, but Roosevelt decided for a third term.

One hundred years before the Daniels election, J. Frank Hanly was a Republican governor with transformational impact. A progressive, he streamlined state government and led the movement to restrict the sale of liquor. He also had a fearless moral code about government corruption and helped send fellow Republican state auditor David Sherrick to prison for stealing state money to feed his gambling addiction.

Daniels may be on his way to join this little hall of fame of Indiana governors. Daniels showed his campaigning ability in 2004 and is likely to scare off the most well-known Democrat, Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson, for a challenge in 2008.

Peterson would have a hard time joining Democrats in complaining about turning the Toll Road management over to a business based in other countries. Peterson also is from Indianapolis. The state capital is even less popular than Daniels in most parts of the state.

One hurdle that could slow Daniels is the temptation to go along with proposals to put casino-style gambling machines in bars, restaurants and clubs all over the state. Scandal is bound to follow such a massive expansion of legal gambling.

Daniels also faces the challenge of ending the state's reliance on an outdated property tax system.

His biggest challenge, however, is to help reverse Indiana's brain drain, making the state an attractive destination for well-educated, talented workers. If he accomplishes that vision, his place in a state hall of fame will be secure.

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Bush's right invasion but wrong explanation

The best moment of political theater at the president's news conference last week came when that thespian carbuncle of bile, Helen Thomas, hung a question mark at the end of a diatribe. The "dean" of the White House press corps all but called President Bush a lying warmonger who invaded Iraq for no legitimate reason.

Thomas lost the exchange, but the sad truth is that her side has won the larger argument. Ever since the controversy over the "16 words" in Bush's 2003 State of the Union address — in which the president alleged that Iraq was seeking uranium from Africa — the administration has been gun-shy about defending its original decision to invade. That's understandable, given the consequences of that episode: Not only did it make the White House seem inept, it made former U.S. Ambassador Joe Wilson and his very important hair a permanent fixture of the media firmament.

It is now simply taken as a given inside this White House that having an argument about why we invaded Iraq is a political loser. So the president prefers to talk democracy, not WMD.

This might explain why the administration has been so blasé about declassifying about 50,000 boxes of captured Iraqi documents. We don't know what's in many of these boxes. But what has



JONAH GOLDBERG

been released so far has been, at minimum, tantalizing, pointing to and illuminating ties between Hussein's regime and al-Qaida as well as other terrorist organizations, including Abu Sayyaf in the Philippines.

There are no smoking guns so far. And we probably won't find an Iraqi equivalent of the Zimmerman telegram — which exposed Germany's hostile intent before World War I — languishing in some government warehouse, like the Ark of the Covenant at the end of the first "Indiana Jones" movie.

But what these documents — as well as other after-action intelligence gathering — demonstrate is that given what he knew at the time, George W. Bush was right to invade Iraq. We now know that the CIA bureaucracy was simply wrong to insist that "secular" Iraq would never work with Islamist terrorist groups such as al-Qaida and Abu Sayyaf. We know that Iraq har-

bored and very likely supported Abdul Rahman Yasin, one of the suspected bomb makers involved in the first World Trade Center attack in 1993.

According to the Pentagon's definitive postmortem on the invasion, some of which was leaked to the New York Times, even many Iraqi generals were stunned to discover that Hussein didn't have WMD. Hussein practiced a strategy that one Republican Guard commander called "deterrence by doubt," in which he hoped to bluff the world into believing he had WMD in order to deter Iran and keep his rep as an Arab strongman with serious mojo.

And that's the point Thomas et al don't want to understand. For reasons that still baffle me, the WMD threat — never the sole reason to invade Iraq — not only became the only argument, it became a thoroughly legalistic one, as if foreign policy has rules of evidence and procedural due process. After 9/11, that kind of foreign policy by lawyers looked ridiculous, and rightly so.

The fact that Hussein turned out to be bluffing about WMD isn't a mark against Bush's decision. If you're a cop and a man pulls out a gun and points it at you, you're within your rights to shoot him, particularly if the man in question is a known criminal who's shot people before. If it turns out afterward that the gun wasn't loaded, that's not the cop's fault.

Hussein had a 30-year track record of pursuing WMD. He dealt with Islamic terrorists. The sanctions regime fell apart thanks to Iraqi bribery and 30 years of spineless U.N. accommodation.

In the 1990s, Hussein tried to kill a former U.S. president and tried to shoot down British and American planes enforcing the "no-fly" zone. The Clinton administration — not the George W. Bush administration — established "regime change" as our policy toward Iraq. In the years that followed, the Iraqi regime openly celebrated the 9/11 attack. And when we tried to get Hussein to come clean about a weapons program that we (and his own generals!) had every reason to believe existed, he played games. After 9/11, calling that bluff wasn't a "choice," it was an obligation.

One reason Bush is down in the polls is that he's giving the impression that he's trying to change the subject from "our mistaken invasion" to "building democracy in Iraq." Building democracy in Iraq is vital — and entirely consistent with the highest aspirations of liberal foreign policy. But he would serve himself and the county better if he simply explained that he's been right all along. Swatting Helen Thomas is a start, but it will take a lot more.

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