

April 26, 2004



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### Top Story

*This week the Capitol Journal is proud to feature an inside look at the power of state legislative elections from former Washington Post bureau chief and noted Reagan biographer Lou Cannon.*

## SNCJ Spotlight

### State elections play big on national scene

**T**wenty years ago, campaigning on a slogan of “It’s morning again in America,” Ronald Reagan was re-elected president of the United States in a monumental landslide, losing only MINNESOTA and the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Reagan’s coattails helped the Republican Party gain 17 House seats and retain control of the U.S. Senate despite losing seats in IOWA and ILLINOIS.





tricting by the Texas Legislature put from four to six Democratic-controlled seats in jeopardy. Looking ahead, control of the House may again depend on the largely invisible elections in legislative districts throughout the country. Republicans control 21 legislatures, Democrats 17, and 11 states are divided. (Nebraska has a non-partisan, unicameral legislature.) In 27 legislative chambers, a shift of three seats or less would change party control. In a nation closely divided on political and cultural lines, state legislative races hold the key to the future.

— *By LOU CANNON*

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## Budget & taxes

**F** **FLORIDA LAWMAKERS ‘BUDGET’ POLICY:** Observers say FLORIDA’s legislative leaders may reach a new low this year in using the budget, instead of standalone bills, to set policy. Substantive policy questions such as who should oversee the state’s five private prisons and whether state agencies should be allowed to award contracts to companies that employ non-residents are likely to be decided in budget meetings open only to key legislative leaders. The practice has drawn criticism from rank-and-file legislators like Sen. J.D. Alexander (R), who cautioned last week from the Senate floor that the erosion of “the protections that members have been afforded in the rules” was taking lawmakers “into some very dangerous waters.” The cause of concern for Alexander and other lawmakers is not only that they — and the public — will be shut out of the policy-making process, but also that with so little time left in the session, it will be virtually impossible to remove a policy decree once it becomes part of the budget compromise bill. In order to delete a provision from the plan, the session would have to be extended beyond its scheduled April 30 adjournment date, a prospect not likely to find much favor among Republican leaders anxious to begin their re-election campaigns. (ST. PETERSBURG TIMES)

**TX CONVENES ‘ROBIN HOOD’ SESSION:** TEXAS Gov. Rick Perry (R) called lawmakers to Austin last week for a 30-day special session to overhaul the state’s troubled school finance system, which has been dubbed the Robin Hood plan because it uses property tax revenues from wealthy districts to support schools in poorer ones. But so far, the only alternative on the table is a plan drafted by Perry, which would reduce the state’s reliance on property taxes by imposing “sin taxes” on cigarettes, adult entertainment and legalized video gaming. That plan has not received the warmest reception from lawmakers. Fellow



Republican Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn accused Perry of “using smoke and mirrors” to promise both property tax cuts and increased school spending. Claiming the plan would actually create a \$10 billion budget deficit, Strayhorn quipped that it “replaces Robin Hood with Robbin’ Everybody.” Due to the lack of consensus on an alternate plan — and likely resentment among both Democrats and Republicans over last summer’s bitter redistricting battle —there doesn’t seem to be much optimism that the issue will be resolved in 30 days. Perry has even said he is willing to call multiple sessions to come up with a plan. (ASSOCIATED PRESS, SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS, DALLAS MORNING NEWS)

**CO COURT RULING WON’T END SPENDING FEUDS:** The COLORADO Supreme Court ruled last week that Gov. Bill Owens (R) did not have the authority to spend the \$146.3 million in federal tax-relief money the state received last year, settling a dispute between the governor and Legislature that began back in January. But the court stopped short of defining what money the governor does have authority to spend, leaving open the possibility of future battles. The trouble began last year when Owens authorized the use of the federal funds for a number of state programs, including heating-bill aid for the poor and youth assistance, while the Legislature was out of session. Lawmakers responded by introducing legislation to curb the governor’s spending authority, which they asked the high court to consider before passing. Owens focused on the broader implications of the court’s ruling rather than on his personal defeat, stating, “It has no impact on future governors’ authority unless the Congress passes legislation identical to the measure at issue.” But legal experts say that while governors are free to test their spending authority in the future, such cases are likely to have a similar outcome. Although

## *The Week in Session*

States in Regular Session:  
AK, AL, CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IL, KS, LA, MA, MI, MN, MO, MS, NH, NY, OH, OK, RI, SC, TN, US, VA, VT, WI

States with Projected Special Session:  
AZ “c” on TBA  
OR on 6/1/2004  
KY on TBA

States in Special Session: TX “d”

States in Recess:  
AR “b”, CA “d”, CA “e”, PA

States in Budget Hearing: NJ

States in Skeleton Session:  
OH (House only)

Currently Prefiling:  
MT (Drafts for 2005)

States Adjourned:  
GA, IA, ID, IN, KY, MD, ME, NE, NM, SD, UT, WA, WV, WY

States in Special Session Adjourned:  
CA “a”, CA “b”, CA “c”, CT “a”, CT “b”, DE “a”, LA “a”, MD “2003 session”, UT “c”, WA “a”, WA “b”, WA “c”, WI “d”, WI “e”, WV “a”

Projected Regular Session Adjournment: AZ, FL, GA

Projected Special Session Adjournment: AZ “c”, ME “b”, VA “a”

Letters indicate special/extraordinary sessions  
Source: State Net, 4/23/04



Owens is not expected to have to return the money he spent, legislative leaders say they plan to pass a “governor-restraining bill,” HB 1098. Which, by the way, Owens does have the authority to veto. (DENVER POST)

**BUDGETS IN BRIEF:** VIRGINIA Senate Republicans privately offered a counterproposal to the group of maverick GOP delegates that drafted the compromise budget plan passed by the House a couple of weeks ago. Sources say the counter-offer could include a freeze on the state’s car tax relief program that is expected to cost the state \$1.6-1.7 billion per year by the end of the decade (ASSOCIATED PRESS, VIRGINIAN-PILOT [NORFOLK], RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH, WASHINGTON POST). • State officials in CALIFORNIA authorized the sale of \$12.3 billion in deficit bonds to refinance the state’s short-term debt. The bond offering — which will be the largest in U.S. history — was made possible by Proposition 57, passed by voters last month (LOS ANGELES TIMES, ASSOCIATED PRESS). • PENNSYLVANIA Republicans opposed to gambling are teaming up with MARYLAND Democrats who killed a slot machine gaming bill in their state last week to try to forestall slots legislation expected soon in the Keystone State. But the unlikely alliance faces a tougher battle than the one that took place in Maryland. Gov. Ed Rendell (D) has made slots legislation a top priority this year, and unlike in Maryland, where lawmakers meet for only a few months, Pennsylvania’s Legislature has all year to pass a bill (PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER).

— *Compiled by KOREY CLARK*

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# Politics & Leadership

**R**OWLAND’S OUSTER JUST MATTER OF TIME? Recent developments in CONNECTICUT have spurred a new round of speculation that Gov. John G. Rowland (R) won’t be around much longer. Depositions taken by the Legislature’s impeachment committee revealed more damaging information about the favors Rowland has accepted from state contractors, political appointees and friends, a growing list of gifts that now includes a hot tub, renovations to his vacation cottage, luxury hotel stays and expensive suits. Meanwhile, news broke that two of Rowland’s top aides — Chief of Staff Dean Pagani and budget advisor Marc S. Ryan — may be leaving the administration. Although both insist it’s not a case of abandoning a sinking



ship, it certainly appears that way to those who believe Rowland's resignation is imminent and will come either as part of a plea arrangement with federal prosecutors investigating his administration or when the legislative committee recommends his impeachment. But others contend that while each successive revelation places more pressure on Rowland to leave office, his voluntary departure is very unlikely. (NEW HAVEN REGISTER)

**FINNERAN OFF HIS GAME:** The actions of MASSACHUSETTS House Speaker Thomas M. Finneran in recent months have raised some doubts about the 54-year-old Democrat's fitness to lead. According to observers, the socially conservative speaker seemed overwhelmed by a complicated and heated debate over same-sex marriage at the start of the year. Then, in late February, a panel of federal judges publicly challenged testimony he gave during a trial over redistricting, initiating an investigation of the affair. Some say the usually sharp lawmaker created problems for himself by giving the impression during his testimony that he had not personally been involved in the redistricting process, a notion those who know Finneran consider laughable. Some of the speaker's fellow House Democrats have said privately that he has seemed distant and distracted since. "He's not paying attention," said one lawmaker. "Ask him a question and you don't get an answer." Finneran's allies, however, claim he is as engaged as ever. Rep. Peter J. Larkin (D), assistant vice chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee said, "He kicks me in the tail every day. I can tell you he is intellectually engaged." Legal experts say proving Finneran guilty of perjury will be tough due to the formidable burden of proof in such cases. But Finneran's current predicament is drawing comparisons to that of the state's last House speaker, Charles F. Flaherty, who faced a federal grand jury probe in 1996 that eventually forced him out of office. (BOSTON HERALD)

**POLITICS IN BRIEF: GEORGIA** Gov. Sonny Perdue (R) announced that two longtime legislators would be switching from the Democratic party to the GOP. The defections are the result of a lobbying effort by the governor and his fellow Republicans — who already hold a majority in the Senate — to take control of the House, an objective that observers say is within the realm of possibility due to new court-drawn legislative district maps that favor the GOP (ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION). • **COLORADO** lawmakers proposed legislation to modify the term limits law approved by voters in 1990. Under the controversial proposal, elected officials would be allowed to remain

*Continued on page 9*

# Across state lines

## *Power could shift in next state elections*

State legislative races can often play a significant role in determining national elections (see SNCJ Spotlight). This November it could again come into play as 27 states have at least one chamber where partisan control could switch if only a few seats change hands.

Many states where a single party controls both chambers will face significant challenges. In the COLORADO Senate, for example, Republicans and Democrats are separated by only a single seat, with the GOP holding a slight 18/17 margin. Republicans hold a much more secure 11-seat advantage in the House. The situation is exactly reversed in the MAINE Senate, where Democrats hold a razor-thin single-seat advantage and a 16-seat edge in the House. Other close Senate margins exist in TENNESSEE, ARKANSAS, WISCONSIN and ARIZONA, where no party holds more than a 4-seat edge. The OKLAHOMA House is also separated by only four seats, with Democrats in the lead.

States with control split between the two parties could see the biggest change, particularly in GEORGIA, where redistricting is expected to dramatically dig into the sizable 37-seat advantage Democrats currently hold in the House. Some observers think there is even a possibility the GOP could draw even or surpass Democrats in that chamber. Republicans already control the Senate. Redistricting could also play a major role in ARIZONA, MAINE, and COLORADO. NORTH CAROLINA Republicans hold a two-seat advantage in the House, while trailing by four seats in the Senate. Other very close margins are in the INDIANA House (51/49 in favor of Democrats) and OREGON, where the Senate is in a 15/15 tie. Republicans hold a slim one-seat supremacy in the WASHINGTON Senate.

The charts below show the partisan breakdown in each state, separated by states where both houses are controlled by the GOP, states where both houses are controlled by Democrats and states where control is split between the parties. The chart also indicates each state governor's party affiliation.

Only six states — VIRGINIA, LOUISIANA, NEW JERSEY, ALABAMA, MARYLAND and MISSISSIPPI — do not have elections this year.

— By RICH EHISEN

State of the state elections							
State	Gover- nor's party	Both Houses controlled by Republicans			Senate		O/V
		House		Dem	Rep		
		Dem	Rep			O/V	
AK	R	13	27		8 #	11	
AZ**	D	20	39	1	13 #	17	1
CO	R	28	37		17 #	18	
FL	R	39	81		14	26	
IA	D	46	54		21	29	
ID	R	16	54		7	28	
KS*	D	45	80		10	30	
MIL	D	46	63	1	16 #	22	
MO	D	73	90		14 #	20	
MT**	R	47 #	53		21	29	
ND	R	28	66		16	31	
NH	R	119	273	8	6	18	
OH	R	37	62		11	22	
PA	D	94	109		21	29	
SC*	R	50	73	1	20 #	26	
SD	R	21	49		9	26	
TX	R	62	88		12	19	
UT	R	19	56		7	22	
VA	D	37	61	2	16	24	
WI	D	40	59		15 #	18	
WV	D	15	44	1	10	20	

State of the state elections							
State	Gover- nor's party	Both Houses controlled by Democrats			Senate		O/V
		House		Dem	Rep		
		Dem	Rep			O/V	
AL	R	63	42		25	10	
AR	R	70	30		27	8	
CA	R	48	32		25	15	
CT	R	95	56		21	15 #	
HI	R	36	15		20	5	
IL	D	66	52		32	26 #	1
LA	R	67	37	1	24	15	
MA*	R	136	22	2	33	7	
MD	R	98	43		33	14	
ME*	D	82	66	3	18	17 #	
MS	R	77	45		29	23	
NJ	D	47	33		22	18	
NM*	D	43	27		24	18	
OK	D	53	48 #		28	20	
RI	R	63	11	1	30	6	
TN	D	54	45		18	15 #	
WV	D	69	31		24	10	

State of the state elections							
State	Governor's party	States with split control					
		House			Senate		
		Dem	Rep	O/V	Dem	Rep	O/V
DE	D	12	29		13	8 #	
GA**	R	108	71	1	26 #	30	
IN	D	51	49 #		18	31	1
KY	R	65	35		16 #	22	
MN	R	53	81		35	31 #	1
NC**	D	59 #	61		27	23 #	
NV	R	23	19 #		8 #	13	
NY	R	103	47		24	38	
OR	D	25	35		15 #	15 #	
VT	R	69 #	74	7	19	11	
WA	D	52	46 #		24 #	25	

Notes: NE has a non-partisan, unicameral legislature.

\*\* Indicates both Houses

\* Indicates Senate only, except in MA which has 17 new house districts

# State control at risk

Source: StateNet database

*Politics & Leadership from page 6 continued*

in office for 12 years instead of the current eight, and judges would become term-limited. The bill's authors deny the proposed change for the judiciary is a response to "judicial activism," the charge leveled by some lawmakers that judges are trying to legislate from the bench, particularly on social issues like same-sex marriage. The proposed constitutional amendment would need a two-thirds vote in both houses as well as the approval of voters (ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS). • A controversial measure to provide full public funding of elections won committee approval in the **CALIFORNIA** Assembly for the first time in more than two decades. The bill, which is modeled after election financing programs in **ARIZONA** and **MAINE**, would provide up to \$80 million a year for candidates who pledge not to accept private contributions and abide by spending limits. Critics say the proposal is not only wasteful, considering the state's current budget crisis, but also would basically force taxpayers to financially support candidates they oppose (LOS ANGELES TIMES).

— Compiled by KOREY CLARK

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# Governors

**F**ORMER GOV RYAN STILL IN LIMELIGHT: Former ILLINOIS Gov. George Ryan (R) continues to make headlines around the world, but not all of them are the kind he likely wishes to be making. Last week Ryan urged the United Nations to adopt a worldwide moratorium on capital punishment, telling the 53-nation Human Rights Commission to “stop the machinery of death.” Ryan, who gained worldwide attention for commuting the death sentences of 167 men on the Illinois Death Row in 2003, said he was greatly concerned about the number of people put to death who might actually be innocent. He also lambasted Illinois’ use of the death penalty, saying, “My state’s capital punishment system was — and still is — broken, racist and inaccurate.” But while Ryan was urging the international community to intervene in countries he says are corrupt in their use of the death penalty, his own troubles continued to pile up back in the U.S. First, one of Ryan’s close friends pleaded guilty to multiple perjury charges in an ongoing federal investigation into corruption in the Ryan administration. Ryan himself was indicted last December on charges of accepting payoffs in exchange for steering lucrative state contracts to political allies. The bad news continued the next day as Lynda Fairman, Ryan’s 43-year-old daughter, received 18 months of probation for her conviction on drunken-driving charges. Ryan has pleaded not guilty to the charges pending against him. His trial is expected to begin next year. (CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, DAILY HERALD [ARLINGTON])

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## Quote ...

“I do not feel comfortable accepting more money when the state, especially our health-care system, is facing a tight budget and so many people are out of work.”

**LOUISIANA Treasurer John Kennedy stating his opposition to bills in the Legislature that would more than double lawmakers’ salaries.**

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## ... unquote

“It is not for me, it is for the dignity of the office of the attorney general.”

**LOUISIANA Attorney General Charles Foti explaining why he endorses the pay hike plan. (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE)**

**WILL DOVE COMPROMISE FLY IN MICHIGAN?** Gov. Jennifer Granholm (D) is seriously considering a compromise proposal that would allow the hunting of mourning doves in MICHIGAN for the first time in 100 years. Hunting the birds has been a source of contention between Granholm and the Legislature all year, as both the Senate and House passed bills this session to allow the practice

in spite of the governor's insistence she would veto any such legislation that came across her desk. Granholm wants the hunt to go before voters, but lawmakers who note that 39 other states already allow dove hunting — and reap the fiscal benefits of money spent by hunters — have insisted on addressing the issue themselves. Enter a potential compromise from the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, which has suggested that Granholm endorse a heavily regulated, three-year trial hunt that would not be subject to a referendum, with proceeds from licensing going toward buying and improving wildlife habitats. Both sides appear to like the concept, although some environmentalists are not happy at all. The Michigan Humane Society urged Granholm to reject the proposal, saying that hundreds of thousands of people voted for her because she opposed the hunts. (DETROIT FREE PRESS, ANN ARBOR NEWS)

**BLANCO BACKS OFF:** LOUISIANA Gov. Kathleen Blanco (D) had to backpedal from a major part of her ethics reform agenda last week after failing to get a single lawmaker interested in carrying the bill in the Legislature. Blanco had called for lawmakers to disclose the same personal information that the governor is required to report — income, debts and investment holdings. Two other major parts of the reform package — a ban on fund raising during legislative sessions and a requirement that anyone lobbying the executive branch actually be registered as a lobbyist — are still under consideration. Blanco took another setback when lawmakers on the House Governmental Affairs Committee ignored her call for shelving plans to seek an across-the-board pay hike by approving HB 1442 and HB 1443, bills that would grant the Legislature and governor significant salary increases. Under the bills, Legislative base pay would more than double while Blanco's salary would climb from \$95,000 to \$124,106.16. A Blanco spokesperson said the governor will work to kill the bills before they reach her desk. (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE)

**GOVERNORS IN BRIEF:** MINNESOTA Gov. Tim Pawlenty (R) attended a Pfizer, Inc. shareholders meeting to lobby for an interfaith group's proposal to limit the pharmaceutical giant's ability to increase prices on its drugs only to the rate of inflation. A similar proposal from the Gopher State will be heard next year (MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO). • ILLINOIS Gov. Rod Blagojevich (D) hinted last week that he will defy Congress by importing lower-cost prescription drugs from Canada and Europe this summer if Congress doesn't lift the ban beforehand. Blagojevich said he will dispatch a team of state experts to five European countries to examine safety standards at drug manufacturers, warehouses and pharmacies



biles. The move comes one day after the Senate unanimously approves SB 341, which would also ban open liquor containers in vehicles. HB 528 goes to the full House, as does SB 341 (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE). • Staying in **LOUISIANA**, the Senate votes 37-0 in favor of SB 679, which would allow judges more discretion in sentencing repeat drunk drivers to longer prison sentences. It moves to the House (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE). • The **OKLAHOMA** House endorses an amendment to SB 1413 that would allow for the surgical castration of violent rapists. It now moves to the Senate (OKLAHOMAN [OKLAHOMA CITY]). • **MISSISSIPPI** Gov. Haley Barbour (R) signs HB 611, legislation that allows prosecutors to use tax-evasion laws to build cases against alleged drug kingpins. The so-called “Al Capone Bill” is modeled after methodology used by federal agents to convict notorious gangster Al Capone in the 1930s (SUN-HERALD [BILOXI]).



**EDUCATION:** Officials at the University of **UTAH** vote unanimously to maintain the school’s 27-year-old ban on students, staff and faculty bringing guns onto campus. The vote was in direct defiance of SB 48, which the Legislature passed earlier this year. SB 48 says only the Beehive State Legislature can determine gun policy, not the university. Utah officials say the case will now go before the state’s Supreme Court (SALT LAKE TRIBUNE). • A House committee in **COLORADO** approves HB 1207, which would allow students to sign a contract promising to graduate in a certain amount of time if the university or college agrees to lock in a tuition rate. The bill now moves to the House Finance Committee (DENVER POST). • The **FLORIDA** Senate grants preliminary approval to SB 3036, a measure that would establish a universal pre-kindergarten plan for Sunshine State children. The full Senate must vote one more time before moving it to the House (ORLANDO SENTINEL).

**ENVIRONMENT:** The **MINNESOTA** House votes to establish a hunting season on mourning doves. The bill moves to the Senate (FORUM [FARGO]). • The **MINNESOTA** House also approves legislation that would ban phosphorus fertilizer from most Gopher State lawns. A similar bill is already in the Senate (FORUM [FARGO]). • **COLORADO** Gov. Bill Owens (R) signs HB 1147, a measure that will set up a three-year pilot program designed to streamline the environmental permitting process for Centennial State businesses. Companies

from the manufacturing, farming, technology and utilities industries are expected to participate (ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS). • **CONNECTICUT** halts its automobile emissions testing program for 90 days after an audit reveals a range of technical problems with the system (NEW YORK TIMES).

**HEALTH:** A **CALIFORNIA** Senate committee endorses SB 1444, which would ban the sale of some performance-enhancing supplements to minors. The committee also approved SB 1630, which would mandate drug-testing for all high school athletes by 2006-07 and require coaches to take a training course on banned substances. Both bills move to new committees (SACRAMENTO BEE). • **WISCONSIN** Gov. Jim Doyle (D) vetoes legislation that would have allowed health care professionals to decline to provide certain medical procedures on religious or moral grounds (CHICAGO SUN-TIMES). • The **LOUISIANA** Senate approves HB 1426, a bill that would make the Pelican State only the second in the nation to allow certain psychologists to prescribe drugs. It now goes to Gov. Kathleen Blanco (D) (NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE).

**SOCIAL POLICY:** A judge orders **OREGON**'s largest county to stop issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, ending the practice in the only jurisdiction in the nation where it had been legal. The judge did validate the 3,022 licenses already issued (SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER). • The **IOWA** Senate endorses HF 2455, a measure that would require most couples to seek premarital counseling or to wait 20 days before being issued a marriage license. The bill heads to Gov. Tom Vilsack (D) (DES MOINES REGISTER). • A **TENNESSEE** House committee overwhelmingly approves HB 3592, which would require Volunteer State women to receive abortion counseling and then wait 24-hours after receiving information before having the procedure done. It moves to the full House (TENNESSEAN [NASHVILLE]). • A **CALIFORNIA** Assembly committee advances AB 1967, a bill that would legalize same-sex marriage in the Golden State. It moves to the Senate Appropriations Committee (SACRAMENTO BEE).

## *In the Hopper*

State Net's database tracks tens of thousands of bills in all 50 states at any given time. Here's a snapshot of what's in the legislative works:

- **Number of prefiles/intros this week:** **1,832**
- **Number of prefiles/intros overall in 2004:** **100,010**
- **Number of bills enacted/adopted this week:** **1,830**
- **Number enacted/adopted overall in 2004:** **13,414**
- **Total number of measures in State Net database:** **170,336**

— Compiled By GINA HUMMELL  
(2003-04 data current as of 4/16/04  
Source: State Net)



ent mixing of guns and booze is a bad idea to some lawmakers. As a result, a Manhattan Democrat, in cahoots with a Long Island Republican, have introduced a bill to outlaw the practice, but at least one lawmaker considers the new legislation “anti-hunting” and has vowed to fight it.

**IF A TREE FALLS ...** At least one resident of ALASKA got an unwanted surprise from the Dept. of Fish and Game: If a moose dies on your property, it’s your moose. So, removal of the carcass is your responsibility. According to The Associated Press, if the animal dies by the side of the road, or in a ditch, Fish and Game will have it taken away. If it stumbles away from the road and takes its final header into your koi pond, you clean it up. The opinion was issued after an Eagle River citizen saw an ear poke from the melting snow around his home. The rest of the deceased emerged shortly thereafter.

**BOWLED OVER.** At least one FLORIDA legislator doesn’t want a repeat of this year’s Super Bowl halftime fiasco, where the top of Janet Jackson’s outfit was ripped off before a few gazillion TV viewers and a large audience on site in Miami. Next year’s Super Bowl also is slated for the Sunshine State — Jacksonville, to be exact — and the *Orlando Sentinel* reports that Republican Stan Jordan wants a different kind of halftime entertainment. He asked the Legislature for a resolution (HR 9085) that begs the NFL to dedicate the 2005 show to World War II veterans.

**SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE OF THE WEEK.** Took place in COLORADO where a Republican legislator introduced a resolution that urges the federal government to rename Park County’s Mount Democrat as Republican Mountain. At the same time, the *Rocky Mountain News* notes, he wants Georgetown’s Republican Mountain renamed as Mount Democrat. The reason? The current Mount Democrat is nearly 2,000 feet taller than the current Republican Mountain, and the lawmaker — Sen. Doug Lamborn — that’s spelled L-a-m-b-o-r-n, for those writing irate e-mails — wants his party’s namesake to be the tallest of the two.

— By A.G. BLOCK



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