



Fabric of United Way woven in union power

Technically the Community Campaign for United Way of Greater Milwaukee lasts three months — starting in September when it reveals its multimillion dollar goal, which it expects to reach by early December.

In reality, planning, organizing and preparation for the essential charities and services under the United Way umbrella — which will be in need of more than \$40 million from this year's campaign — goes on all the time.

Organized labor is a major component — and a formal one, with goals set for its participation.

When unions hold their Labor Kick-Off Rally September 20 at the Center of Excellence on Wisconsin Avenue, it's more than a festive party to motivate increased giving. Labor's volunteers, campaign leaders and staff will have already spent months arranging ways to support 60-plus major agencies.

Did you know that labor itself is a formal United Way agency — the AFL-CIO Community Services/Field Liaisons?

Funded by United Way and run by the Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, this three-person unit is devoted to the community. It provides charitable efforts such as the health and hygiene drive for homeless shelters. It helps workers in trouble. It spurs workplace giving and donations from labor groups. It develops strategies for union and non-union companies alike



At the Labor Cabinet, Bill Sukkert of UAW Local 407 examines one of the new treasury certificates unions will get for supporting United Way.

to increase the fund-raising.

United Way sets goals for this labor arm, which last campaign created a 16% increase in its funds raised. For the current campaign, United Way is asking labor for a 13% increase, and that's aside from the workplace giving that unions are deeply involved in. The focus is increased money from union offices and through treasury gifts by cooperating unions and councils.

Frequent Labor Cabinets bring union leaders together with experts to discuss progress and outline methods of success.

On Aug. 8, a dozen participants gathered for the second Labor Cabinet of this campaign. This one took place in the boardroom at AFSCME District Council 48's headquarters, 3427

United continued Page 23



Special Labor Day Edition

The parade of the people

Unions and their families and partners will kick off down Wisconsin Avenue promptly at 11 a.m. Monday, September 3, and all Milwaukee workers and families are welcome to watch - or to simply speed ahead to the afternoon free party at the lakefront.

This is our big annual Labor Day party, a reminder of how work should reward the heart and the pocketbook, comfort families with assurances of safety and health - and how a national day of rest earned by organized labor is also a time to both reflect and celebrate.

This is Laborfest, one parade more notable for the thousands in it than the hundreds who watch. But it is worth watching.

Some of the biggest machinery of union construction whips down Wisconsin Avenue. This year that occurs in sight of the Marquette Interchange where many of the rigs and cranes have been employed.

Flatbeds and busses carry retired workers and their grandchildren, both sometimes throwing candy to the children watching.

Long lines of trucks operated by the Teamsters honk down the route, intermingled with lawyers providing drill routines with their briefcases, retired workers marching faster than their young counterparts, and members of the Wobblies pushing a wooden wagon that looks like a tiny railroad car.

This coordinated pattern of banners, colors, flags, slogans and big rigs continues a tradition dating back to the 1960s. But there may be a special excitement this year as organized labor looks forward to a revived 21st century for the union movement.

Unions keep White House wide open

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Seriously, how much clout should be attached to the nationally televised AFL-CIO presidential forum Aug. 7 where seven of the Democratic candidates took questions from workers, argued with each other and made the blatant plea for union support?

There has been the avalanche of presidential forums — held for bloggers, foreign policy buffs, health advocates, youtubers and on and on.

So what difference could a union gathering make, even with questions culled from the rank and file and an impressive 15,000 members gathered at

Forum continued Page 12

The parade is followed by a series of attractions at Maier Festival Park, commonly known as Summerfest, a festival of events run for free by volunteers — games, displays, and family relaxation, camaraderie and mingling. *See accompanying lists of activities.*

Before the parade, from dawn's early light, unions will be organizing and socializing at Zeidler Union Square Park, Michigan St. between 3rd and 4th.

On this notable day off, the workers still get up early. An impressive variety of unions, more than a hundred, will be setting up tables and displays, parking their bikes, cooking up goodies, preparing for a prayer service, joining broadcasters at the union gazebo in the center of labor's park and lining up for the parade by 9:30 a.m. (worst stragglers still must be in line by 10:30 a.m.)

The marshals and walkie-talkie commanders are ready for the thousands who will be in the parade. WMCS 1290 will again occupy the gazebo for radio broadcasts from early morning until the parade's start and search

Laborfest continued Page 9



The exhausted executive chefs stood proudly after their cookout accomplishments July 29, but you'll note that they left it to MCLC VP Annie Wacker (right) to carry the hundreds of resulting hot dogs and brats. The chefs at labor's annual dinner for St. Ben's homeless and hungry were (from left) Scott Redman (plumbers), Willie D. Ellis (operating engineers and MCLC president) and Sam Gallo (UNITE HERE). **More photos on Page 31.**



EVERY KID DESERVES A GREAT SCHOOL

Wisconsin students consistently rank 1st or 2nd on the ACT. They recently ranked 2nd in the nation for graduation rates and 2nd in the world on international science comparison. And Wisconsin teachers rank as the most qualified in the nation. Coincidence? We think not.

Great schools depend on great teachers and staff!



Recall ordered on tire maker efforts to cut health premiums for retirees

Continental Tire has been bounced by a union complaint. It was ordered by a federal judge to pay health premiums for 2,000 retired steelworkers, labor news sources reported in August. The suit by the United Steelworkers forced the company to honor its contract to the retirees after the company arbitrarily cut the health insurance premiums.

A. Philip Randolph Institute

Celebrating Labor Day

With Our Union Brothers & Sisters

From the Executive Board and Members of A. Philip Randolph Institute, Milwaukee Chapter



“Freedom is never given; it is won.”

UNION COPY CENTERS, INC.

3060 S. 43rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219
 (414) 329-2054 • Fax (414) 604-8221
 Website: www.unioncopycenters.com
 E-mail: unioncopies@aol.com

The Only Full Service UNION COPY CENTER in the USA

Have a Happy & Safe Labor Day

Price Guarantee
 We will beat any written price quote by a minimum of 10% on any in-house printing.

FREE Pick-Up & Delivery
100% Union Made



Orthopedic Surgeons of Wisconsin, SC

Thomas J. Perlewitz, MD
 Orthopedic Surgeon Fellowship
 Trained Spine Specialist

2901 Kinnickinnic River Parkway
 Suite 102
 Milwaukee, WI 53215
 414-384-6700

"I offer comprehensive evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of all spinal conditions by utilizing state-of-the-art techniques, procedures and instrumentation. My ultimate goal is improved quality of life for the patient through both operative and nonoperative measures."

Specialty Procedures and Professional Achievements

- ◆ Fellowship trained in spinal surgery at Harvard with emphasis on treatment of conditions of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spine
- ◆ Compassionate care focused on the whole individual
- ◆ Selected as Chief Resident in Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin
- ◆ Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society

Medical Education
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Milwaukee, WI

Fellowship – Orthopedic Spine Surgery
 Harvard Medical School
 Boston, MA

Residency
 Medical College of Wisconsin
 Milwaukee, WI

Board Eligible

For more information or scheduling, please call 414-384-6700.

AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL AFL-CIO
 633 S. HAWLEY ROAD MILWAUKEE, WI 53214

Published Monthly by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO
 www.milwaukeealabor.org

Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran
 President Willie D. Ellis
 Vice-President Annie Wacker
 Communications Director
 and Editor Dominique Paul Noth
 Advertising & Editorial Assistant Lynnda Guytan

EXECUTIVE BOARD - Mary Jo Avery, Communications Workers of America Local 4603; Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council; Carolyn P. Cantore, Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 9; William F. Christianson, International Association of Machinists Lodge 1845; Paula Dorsey, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 426; Naacire Feaster, Laborers Local 113; James K. Fields, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 33; Brandon W. Jensen, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998; Candice Owley, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals; Sam Purdy, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494; Scott J. Redman, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 75; Kenneth Roberts III, Graphics Communications Council International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 577M; Andy Vozelke, United Steel Workers (USW) Local 2-209; Patrick R. Weyer, Brewery Workers 9, United Auto Workers; Ross M. Winklbauer Sr., Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers (USW, formerly PACE) Local 7-0232.



AFL-CIO Milwaukee Labor Press
 Editorial and Business Office
 633 S. Hawley Road, Milwaukee, WI 53214
 Telephone (414) 771-7070 FAX (414) 771-0509
 E-mail: laborprs@execpc.com



THE MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS (USPS 350-360) is published once a month by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214, and is also available by subscription for \$12 a year. Periodical postage paid at Milwaukee, WI.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 110, Milwaukee, WI 53214.
 The Publisher reserves the right to refuse or discontinue any advertisement which is deemed objectionable. Publication of advertisements is not to be construed as a personal endorsement nor are all ads necessarily from unionized companies or services of the Milwaukee County Labor Council or any of its affiliates. **COPY DEADLINE:** Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).

It's still the economy . . . and indicators are stupefying

Economic figures are often like the proverbial donut – optimists see the sugar, pessimists see the hole. But the Center for American Progress, a progressive nonpartisan think tank that employs a lot of Clinton era economists and is headed by the president's former chief of staff, John D. Podesta, says it is committed to just crunching the numbers to halt the hype, which the American economy is full of.

On August 14, with Wall Street slumping and the housing market teetering, the center took the long view in economic comparisons. It didn't like what it found, reporting that most current indicators, particularly in the labor market, point toward a weakening economy.

The economy also faces large

risks such as massive household debt, a comparatively high trade deficit, and continued budget deficits.

Some of the realities that frankly frighten researchers:

Wage growth is low.

Factoring in inflation, hourly wages were 2.3% higher and weekly wages were 1.8% higher in June 2007 than in March 2001.

Benefits are disappearing.

The share of private sector workers with a pension dropped from 50.3% in 2000 to 45.0% in 2005, and the share of people with employer-provided health insurance dropped to 59.5%.

Family debt is on the rise.

In the first quarter of 2007, household debt fell relative to disposable income for the first time in five years, but still stayed at a

comparatively high 130.7%, the third-highest on record. In the first quarter of 2007, families spent 14.3% of their disposable income to service their debt, up from 13% in the first quarter of 2001.

Families feel the pressure.

The share of new mortgages entering foreclosure reflected the fourth increase in a row.

Housing market slows.

Existing home sales in June this year were 11.4% below the level of June 2006 and new home sales were 22.3% lower. The median sales price of existing homes was 0.3% higher in June 2007 than a year earlier and the median sales

price of new homes was 2.2% lower than a year earlier.

Home equity declines.

Home equity dropped by 1.8 percentage points relative to disposable income in the first quarter of 2007, the largest such decline since the second quarter of 1992.

Already weak job growth slows.

Monthly job growth since March 2001 has averaged an annualized 0.7%. Over the past 12 months, the average monthly job growth was 148,600 jobs, compared to 199,300 in the preceding 12 months and 205,300 in the 12 months before that.

Poverty climbs. The poverty rate increased to 12.6% in 2005.

The government's finances deteriorated. In 2001, the Congressional Budget Office anticipated that the government would be in the black by 2011 to the tune of \$5.6 trillion. Today, the CBO projects deficits of \$2.9 trillion. This constitutes deterioration of \$8.5 trillion.

Economic independence endangered. Foreign investors bought 82% of new treasury debt and the share of US foreign-held debt grew to 46%.

Trade deficit remains high despite strong export growth. The last trade deficit is still larger than any since the Great Depression.

Carhartt
UNION MADE CARHARTT
BLANK OR EMBROIDERED

FR carhartt

CARHARTT FR WORKWEAR

FLAME RESISTANT

SINCE UMA IS ON THE HILL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CAPITOL YOU MUST EXIT CAPITOL ON GUMINA ROAD WHICH RUNS ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CAPITOL FROM SPRINGDALE NEXT TO (SPRING CREEK CHURCH) TO BARKER RD

EMBROIDERY AVAILABLE ON EVERY GARMENT

PEWAUKEE GUMINA ROAD CAPITOL DRIVE BROOKFIELD

UNION MADE IN AMERICA SPECIALTIES

GUMINA ROAD 190

UMA SPECIALTIES 21100 CAPITOL DRIVE

SPRINGDALE ROAD 190

BARKER ROAD

UNION MADE IN AMERICA SPECIALTIES
N35W21100 CAPITOL DRIVE
PEWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53072
262-373-0777

LERA
SHAPING THE
WORKPLACE OF
THE FUTURE

ONE DAY CONFERENCE

The Wisconsin LERA chapter, an organization of labor, management and neutrals, involved in labor relations, is sponsoring a One Day Conference in Milwaukee

Speakers Include: Author Ellen Bravo, NLRB Chairman Battista, National LERA President Eileen Hoffman, WERC General Counsel Peter Davis, Attorney Dean Dietrich and Professor Corliss Olson

Date: September 7, 2007

Time: Registration – 8AM
Program – 9AM

Place: Four Points Sheraton Hotel
4747 South Howell Ave.

Fees: Members – \$95
Non-Members – \$115

Continental Breakfast and Buffet Lunch Included • Walk-ins Are Welcome

For more information or to request a registration and/or membership form contact:
Suzanne Clement at 414-297-3883 or e-mail suzanne.clement@nlrb.gov

Northwest Funeral Chapel, Inc.
O'Be, Ford & Frazier

6630 W. HAMPTON AVE. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53218 • 414/462-6020

*Serving the Families of Union Members
From one Generation to the Next*

In Loving Memory

Ernestine O'Be
1907-2007

Offering pre-need, at-need and after-care services to families in Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha and other communities throughout Wisconsin

J.C. Frazier
Funeral Director

"We are Setting New Standards for Funeral Services in our Community"

Let us remember in our prayers the families of:

Mr. William Harris, Public School
Mr. Venton Newsom, Briggs & Stratton
Ms. Beverly Burrus, Automotive Mfg.
Mrs. Mattie Buchanan, Milwaukee County
Mr. Mark Wright, Airport
Mr. Andrew Rowsey, City of Milwaukee
Mr. Willie Simpson, Tower Automotive
Mr. Edward Yowell Jr., City of Milwaukee
Ms. Vanessa Sprewer, Milwaukee County

ASSOCIATED SURGICAL & MEDICAL SPECIALISTS

Dedicated to putting the patient first.

- Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery, Ltd.
- Layton Ear, Nose and Throat Associates, S.C.
- Anesthesiology Associates of Wisconsin, S.C.
- Greater Milwaukee Surgical Associates, S.C.
- Gastroenterology Consultants, Ltd.
- Orthopedic Surgeons of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Radiologists, Ltd., S.C.
- Innovative Pain Management
- Southeast Surgical, S.C.
- Clinic of Urology, S.C.
- The Surgery Center
- The Imaging Center

Associated Surgical and Medical Specialists

3111 W. Rawson Avenue
Franklin, WI 53132
414-761-2600
www.asmsdoes.com

Jursik wins county seat; Darling faces senate fight

The Milwaukee County Board returned to full strength Aug. 7 with a special election in District 8 won handily by labor's endorsed candidate for supervisor, Patricia Jursik, who is a lawyer in Cudahy with public service experience.

The special election was required in the Cudahy, St. Francis, South Milwaukee and Oak Creek area when Ryan McCue resigned last spring after winning the race for Cudahy mayor.

The Aug. 7 election brought a turnout of more than 5,700 voters with Jursik gaining nearly 55% over a candidate who allied

Election News

himself with County Executive Scott Walker and the privatizing of parks, South Milwaukee's Chris Kujawa. Walker had openly backed Kujawa but was conciliatory after Jursik won.

The election adds Jursik as a needed vote in the fight to protect the parks, which she endorses, and at least in letting the public indicate a preference in a referendum on a protected source of revenue for threatened county services. Walker has vowed to veto such a referendum and it will take votes from a full county board to

comfortably override him.

It also puts Jursik in a healthy incumbent position for next April, when all County Board seats are up before the voters, as is Walker's seat.

Tough senate race shaping up for 8th

In what is shaping up as one of next fall's most competitive and combative races for the Wisconsin legislature, Sheldon Wasserman is abandoning his Assembly seat, where he has been reelected comfortably for 12

years, to move up to the state Senate by challenging Alberta Darling, who has held the 8th District seat for slightly longer.

Wasserman, the state legislature's only physician, has come out swinging, pointing out that while his opponent originally "pretended" to be a "social moderate," the good ship Darling has tacked hard to the right since, a conclusion hard to dispute given her votes.

By making this a race of their records, Wasserman plays right into the wheelhouse of the district issues. He has a firm track record of success on helping sexual assault victims, promoting



Sheldon Wasserman

SeniorCare and renewable energy, resisting lobby money, and protecting women's rights.

The seriousness of the campaign can be measured by the instant attack on Wasserman by Darling forces, which are also lobbying hard for donations.

The senator had a sizeable war-chest four years ago when school board member Jennifer Morales came closer than most political pundits expected in challenging her. But the race against Wasserman will be more than Republican vs. Democrat. Both candidates have distinctive and successful political styles, with Darling expert at working the media and Wasserman tireless in pounding the doors. Both have sizeable stakes in the outcome of the current state budget.

If the issues and attacks are this hot 15 months before the election, it could be searing by November of 2008.

Democrats punch up Milwaukee presence

Corinne Rosen, active in the Fair Wisconsin campaign, was a one-woman energy center at the State Fair running the Democratic Party booth.

In fact, she is the new full time staff person for the Democrats in Milwaukee, who are opening their new headquarters in September and seem freshly determined to make sure Wisconsin stays in the blue camp.

NAACP steps in at Smithfield

Smithfield Foods workers and the United Food and Commercial Workers union at the hog processing plant in Tar Heel, North Carolina, have agreed to an NAACP call to meet with the company in a new effort to resolve long-standing issues, as reported by Labor Radio, whose daily broadcasts are carried at www.milwaukeeelabor.org.

Smithfield has a long history of anti-union illegal actions, including beating, intimidating, threatening, illegally firing and using racial epithets against workers.

If Smithfield is willing to do it, the workers have agreed with the NAACP effort to try and work out a fair process that safeguards workers' rights in a new union election at the company.



SOME OF THE NEIGHBORS MAY DISAGREE ABOUT WHERE TO GET THE BEST PACZKIS, BUT NOT WHERE TO HAVE AN ANGIOPLASTY.

You'd have a hard time getting everyone on the south side to agree where to buy their bakery come Fat Tuesday, but not where to go if they had a heart problem. Someplace with personalized care, certainly. But also a place that has all that medicine can offer. A place where advanced procedures are performed every day. One that's been named an accredited Chest Pain Center. A place with over 800 doctors on staff, in a host of specialties including all areas of cardiology.

For the residents of the south side, that place is Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare—St. Francis. We are located just south of Oklahoma on 16th Street. Stop in or contact us for information about our world-class cardiac program.

3237 S. 16th St., Milwaukee
414-647-5000



Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare
St. Francis

In Partnership with the Felician Sisters

Partisan extremists keep hijacking WMC

By Cory Liebman

Special to Labor Press

In May, state Revenue Secretary Roger Ervin publicly suggested that members of Wisconsin's corporate lobby, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce (WMC), should fire its senior staff.

Ervin no doubt realizes that WMC has increasingly become little more than a funding arm of the Republican Party, rather than an operation that is truly advocating for business interests. For evidence, look no further than WMC's virtual bankrolling of two recent statewide elections. Some understandably say that its financial involvement amounted to a purchase of the state attorney general's office and even a seat on the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Although its large membership includes politically moderate and even progressive businesses and executives, WMC insists on turning hard-right when lobbying for public policy.

If this trend continues, WMC should at least be honest with its membership about its partisan approach. Unfortunately, WMC has not been candid on the facts supporting several recent policy issues. So how can members expect any honesty regarding its true motivations and partisan leanings?

Shortly after the state Senate Democrats introduced Healthy Wisconsin, an initiative that would guarantee health care for all Wisconsinites, WMC sent out a letter attacking the plan. While leaders of WMC are entitled to their own opinions about public policy, they are not entitled to their own facts.

In its letter attacking the first real attempt to reform our broken health care system, WMC claims that Healthy Wisconsin represents a \$15 billion tax

Comment

The author serves as blog editor and coordinator for One Wisconsin Now. This piece was originally published in Milwaukee's Shepherd Express weekly newspaper.

increase. However, a recent study of the plan by the Lewin Group shows that Healthy Wisconsin will save state and local government \$1.3 billion, much of which could be used for property tax relief. Further, the study projected that Healthy Wisconsin would reduce health care spending by \$13.8 billion over the next 10 years.

Most of these savings would be generated because the plan would replace an expensive and inefficient status quo, which will benefit not only individuals, but government and businesses as well. With their resistance to real reform, it is actually WMC and the Assembly Republicans that appear to support what could be called a \$13.8 billion inaction tax.

In the current budget, Gov. Jim Doyle has proposed a hospital tax. In a knee-jerk reaction, WMC publicly assailed the idea as just another tax. While WMC seemed content to focus on familiar sound bites, it once again failed to point out the complete facts of the matter.

As it turns out, the proposed hospital tax would generate \$1 billion in federal matching funds, or roughly \$2 billion in additional revenue. A portion of this increase in funds would go directly back to the hospitals to pay the cost of treating patients in state health programs. The state estimates that hospitals currently are paid only 63% of their cost for treating patients in state

health programs, whereas that amount would increase to about 83% under the governor's plan. Wisconsin hospitals would actually end up with more money due to federal matching funds. This would be a win-win for Wisconsin hospitals and Wisconsin taxpayers.

WMC may have rushed a bit too fast in proclaiming that hospitals were against the governor's plan, since it appears that some hospitals and health systems will do quite nicely under the hospital tax plan. For example, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin would receive \$49.6 million in revenue in the first two years alone. Further, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare, which operates several hospitals in the Milwaukee area, would also gain significantly from the governor's plan. But one would not have found those benefits in WMC's misleading and partisan press releases on the subject.

Once again demonstrating its focus on partisanship instead of business interests, WMC is toeing the party line by opposing the funding for the proposed Kenosha-Racine-Milwaukee (KRM) commuter rail project. Most major cities in the country have upgraded to smart forms of mass transit that usually include various types of light rail.

Although this has not been a partisan issue in most cities, Wisconsin Republicans have inexplicably decided that any form of light rail in Milwaukee is bad. So it is no surprise that WMC has sent out a decree from Madison declaring that investing in better transit in southeastern Wisconsin is somehow bad for business.

It came to this conclusion even though the list of KRM supporters includes a virtual "who's who" of southeastern Wisconsin

business leaders, including many of its own members. These business leaders support KRM for reasons that are revealed in a recent community impact study. It projected that the new KRM train stations would spur economic development, including an increase of about \$7.8 billion in real estate values and \$750 million in retail sales.

Local business leaders must be astounded that their WMC membership dues are going toward an effort to fight what should be a slam-dunk decision for business and economic development in their own back yard.

WMC's partisan loyalty

encompasses a blind acceptance of ideology over facts and practical solutions. This is hardly a good model to run a business, much less an organization that purports to represent the interests of thousands of businesses.

WMC may have seen a measure of success with its recent impact on elections and in a few partisan squabbles, but soon it may find its fortunes changing. It will simply take a cost-benefit analysis by WMC membership to realize that the partisan choices currently being made are not good for business interests or for our state as a whole.

Your One-Stop Union Printer

Wells Print & Digital Service is constantly updating to give our customers the latest in technology for quality and convenience. We strive to give our customers the best **ONE-STOP** union print shop in Madison. Technology, union craftsmanship and pride in what we do has made us a leader in the printing field. Wells Print & Digital Service has been carrying on the union tradition in Madison since 1923 and proud of it.

So for all your printing and mailing needs Wells Print & Digital Service would like to be your **ONE-STOP Union Printer**.

**WELLS
PRINT AND DIGITAL
SERVICES**

3121 Watford Way
Madison, WI 53713
608-274-7474
www.printanddigital.com



**TRI CITY
NATIONAL
BANK**

Mike Koenen
Senior Vice President

Thomas Rave
Vice President

6400 South 27th Street
Oak Creek, WI (414) 761-1610

Paying tribute to
American workers year-round!



visit our website at www.tcnb.com



Solidarity Forever!

**HAWKS QUINDEL
EHLKE & PERRY, S.C.**

COMMITTED TO REPRESENTING LABOR UNIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS

Labor and Employment Law
Workers Compensation
Family Law
Social Security Disability Law
Criminal Law

MILWAUKEE OFFICE

700 W. Michigan Avenue, 5th Floor

Milwaukee, WI 53233

414-271-8650

MADISON OFFICE

222 West Washington Avenue, Suite 705

Madison, WI 53701-2155

608-257-0040

Toll Free 800-236-3348
www.hqeplaw.com

House strikes back at Supremes on equal pay

The outrage was immediate. Within days the House whipped through 225-199 the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act to repudiate and neuter a 5-4 ruling that serves as one of the most embarrassing decisions of an already embarrassing Supreme Court.

If, after the August recess, the Senate wants to embarrass the GOP further by rejecting the Ledbetter Act, or if President Bush wants to exercise yet another veto threat, supporters of the bill are angry enough to build a political campaign out of a key point: They have yet another proof of how out of touch the administration and the current court are with the realities of work and the daily struggle of working families.

Public sentiment is clearly on the side of the bill, though it won't benefit Ledbetter. But it will force corporations not to discriminate in pay and, when exposed, argue that the clock has run out on penalizing them.

Relying on a technicality, the Supreme Court narrowly rejected the decision of a jury and of lower courts. To do so, as the New York Times put it in an editorial, "a court that once proudly stood up for the disadvantaged is increasingly protective of the powerful." It slapped

in the face not just women workers but women in supervisory positions. It also slapped down a civil rights tradition. To re-cap:

Ledbetter worked as a supervisor, the lone female one, at a Goodyear plant in Alabama. The company kept her on the job and getting raises for 19 years.

As is true in many corporate cultures, however, salaries are not openly shared; in fact, they're kept quiet. So it was years before she discovered she was being paid less and raised far less than the lowest-paid man doing the same work.

And not just a little less. Charges of discrimination brought in 1998 before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission — which, ironically, Justice Clarence Thomas once headed — proved that she was being paid between 15% and 40% less than each of her male counterparts, including those with less seniority. The least senior of her male counterparts made \$6,500 more a year than she did, she belatedly discovered.

After she gathered enough evidence to file suit, a jury agreed that it was blatant sex discrimination and awarded her \$3.8 million in back pay and penalties. The laws are clear,

after all, that there should be no pay discrimination based on race or sex.

But the law is also written to encourage court filings quickly, within 180 days of discrimination.

Goodyear challenged the jury finding, attacking a longtime legal interpretation by the EEOC that addresses the 180 day rule by pointing out that every time a paycheck was issued that constituted continuation of the original pay discrimination. Each paycheck, in fact, is often expansion of discrimination in many cases, since the gap constantly widened in terms of gender pay.

But the Supreme Court bounced the EEOC interpretation and sided with Goodyear by one vote. It ruled in May that Ledbetter should have gone to court within 180 days of her first short paycheck — never mind that she didn't find out she was being underpaid until years later. Dumbfound court observers didn't know whether to call the decision Catch 22 or Alice in Wonderland, but reaction came immediately from the bench, where Justice Ruth Ginsburg took the rare step of reading the dissent.

So narrow an interpretation of the law's statute of limitations, noted Ginsburg,

virtually begged Congress to correct any technical deficit in the language. Both Senate and House leaders promptly did, entering the Ledbetter bill.

"The Supreme Court severely limited the civil rights of workers," noted Rep. Gwen Moore of Milwaukee in one of the many statements issued by Congress members. "Most employees would be left with no recourse under this Supreme Court decision since those who are discriminated against in their pay commonly do not find out until years later."

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney noted that "the majority on the Supreme Court bent over backwards - ignoring both precedent and simple common sense - to rob her of her right to equal treatment in the workplace." In other words, companies could continue to discriminate in pay based on gender, race or disability and only face penalties if a worker found out within six months.

The bill, as is true of all Democratic bills at present given the narrow margin in the Senate, faces a tougher road to Bush's desk, and companies are arguing that it is excessive to not impose some time limitations on pay discrimination suits.

The ferocity of their complaint and lobbying, supporters of the Ledbetter bill note, simply makes workers wonder what sort of pay bias they have been getting away with.

Goodyear's insensitive reaction may actual propel the bill to passage. It pulled what one blogger described as "a greedy stunt bound to generate bad publicity."

Saved by the Supreme Court from a \$3.8 million penalty, the company's reaction was to bill Ledbetter \$3,165.20 for expenses related to the lawsuit. Ledbetter, now living on Social Security with a husband who underwent cancer surgery in August, expressed disappointment at her treatment by the corporation "when all I asked for was to be treated fair and equal to my peers."

-- D. P. N.

Retirement help for women online

A 78 page book titled, "What Women Need to Know About Retirement" is available at www.unitedlodge66.org. A hard copy is free at www.womensretirement.org.

This book was co-authored by Maria Cordone, director of the International Association of Machinists Community Services and Retirees Department.

**The workers of St. Francis Hospital
urge you to come to our hospital--
the only unionized, private hospital in
Milwaukee--for all your healthcare needs.**

**High Quality Care
with a Union Label!**



 Wisconsin Federation
of Nurses & Health
Professionals AFL
CIO 
A Union of Professionals

For more information, contact the WFNHP
at 414-475-6065 or visit www.wfnhp.org

What we don't know about Iraq hurts all of us

There are two major issues of Iraq that are failing to get much if any attention from US media.

One is the rising opposition to an oil law that benefits American companies, yet is being pushed as an "essential benchmark" to get the US military out.

The other is how Americans — certainly overwhelmed with awareness of Iraq as a war zone — see very little news that Iraq has emerged as what the United Nations calls "the world's largest and fastest-growing humanitarian crisis," with half a million children among the refugees.

That is not the only raw number that confirms this view of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As of Aug. 10, its agents and partners verified the following statistics as conservative estimates:

- Internally Displaced Persons: 2 million
- Refugees in Syria and Jordan: 2.2 million
- Refugees fleeing monthly: 50,000
- Refugees (total): 4.2 million
- Iraqi refugee children: 500,000
- Iraqi refugee children attending school: 60,000
- Amount of Iraqi refugees the US pledged to resettle in fiscal year 2007: 2,500 (State Dept. figure)
- Refugees resettled in US in June: 63
- Refugees resettled in US in July: 57
- Iraqi refugees accepted by US to date in fiscal 2007: 190
- Iraqi refugees processed by



Faleh Aboud Umara during his Milwaukee visit: Demonstrating that Iraqi oil workers are real — and real determined.

UNHCR: 160,000
• Iraqi Refugees UNHCR has processed and referred to US: 8,000+

• UNHCR appeal for large-scale assistance program for Iraqis in Jordan and Syria: \$123 million

• Amount of appeal funded by US: \$37 million

Meanwhile, world and AFL-CIO unions along with a variety of agencies have condemned the Iraqi government's refusal — on its summer break! — to recognize or deal with Iraqi unions.

The issue is specifically related to the pressure imposed by the Bush administration to get Iraq to pass an oil law that opens profits to foreign companies and turns the Iraqi people into minority shareholders in their own future.

After union objections and calls for discussion of the law, the Iraqi government's response was to pretend the unions weren't there.

The oil ministry ordered its

agencies and companies to cut off dealings with the union. "There are no legal unions in Iraq," Oil Minister Hussain al-Shahristani told the UPI in August. "Those people who call themselves representatives of the oil workers have not been elected to the position."

It is a remarkably obtuse statement since the workers did elect their leaders and were actually denied democracy under both Saddam Hussein and the US provisional authority.

Saddam outlawed worker organizing in the public sector (the oil industry is nationalized). Subsequent US occupying powers — echoing the infamous law passed by Saddam in 1987 — and now the supposed democratic Iraqi government

still refuse to recognize the workers' rights.

The reaction from US labor was swift and supportive of the unions. It put the pressure on the US Congress to wake up. AFL-CIO President John Sweeney urged recognition of the Iraqi unions and United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard wrote a pointed letter to key Senate and House committees.

"To all appearances the labor movement is one of the few organizations structured on a secular basis, has genuine popular support, and has membership across the growing ethnic and sectarian divisions," noted Gerard. "It is one of the few organizations capable of playing a significant role in lessening and hopefully ending the sectarian strife plaguing their country."

Yet why is the Bush policy ignoring that opportunity? As Gerard noted, "Iraq's oil is a national resource that should not be privatized, and specifically that oil privatization should not be used as any kind of 'benchmark' of the Iraqi government's success or failure."

The implication is that the Iraqi government is doing Bush's handiwork by muffling those who oppose the oil law sought by foreign companies.

Iraqi union leaders made just

that case on a summer speaking tour that included Milwaukee but was largely neglected by the media.

Instead of giving in to government pressure, from both D.C. and Baghdad, the unions are turning up the heat with a petition to both countries, linked to by www.uslaboragainstar.org.

"The Iraqi and American people are told that the oil law will assure equitable distribution of Iraq's oil revenue," the petition reads in part. "However, they are not told that the Iraqi people will only get what small percentage of revenue is left after the foreign oil companies take their share."

"The Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions and virtually every other labor organization in Iraq oppose this law, as do dozens of oil experts, Nobel laureates, and a majority of Iraqi parliamentarians."

"The time has come for the people of Iraq to be the decision makers about their revenues and the fruits of their life-time work."

The Iraqi workers want outside help to modernize the oil system they have kept working through more than a decade of sanctions and war. But they want to "Stop the Theft of Iraqi Oil" — which they are convinced the US government is encouraging.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

LABOR DAY

GREETINGS

From

UNITE HERE

LOCAL 122

AFL-CIO

414-271-0290

WISCONSIN VISION
"Eye Care Done Right"

Say Goodbye To Dry
Today's environments can create tired, dry eyes. Ask For a FREE* Trial Pair Today!

WISCONSIN VISION
BACK TO SCHOOL PACKAGE **\$75 Off**
Designer Frame and Single Vision
Save \$75 When You Purchase a Designer Frame with a Minimum Retail Value of \$129.00 and any Lenses.
*Choose either Plastic or Polycarbonate Lens Material.
Offer Not Valid With Other Discounts Or Promotions. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Good Through 11/30/07.

WISCONSIN VISION
\$37 Comprehensive Eye Exam Includes dilation
Performed By A Licensed Doctor of Optometry.
Call Today to Schedule Your Appointment.
Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts.
Some Restrictions May Apply. Excludes Contact Lens Examination. Offer Expires 11/30/07.

WISCONSIN VISION
\$99 Disposable Contact Lens Package
Price Includes:
1. Comprehensive Eye Exam
2. Three Month Supply (6 pr.) of Soft, Vision, Spherical Disposable Contacts
3. Instruction Class
4. Starter Kit of Solutions
5. Follow-up Care with the Doctors
or \$35 Off Complete Contact Lens Package Exam, Fitting & Lenses
Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 11/30/07.

For A Smart Look In Back To School Styles

We accept most insurance plans and will submit the insurance on your behalf. Plans include: EyeMed, Cole, NVA, Spectera, Cigna, OSF, BlueCross, Principal

MILWAUKEE 1920 W. Layton Ave.	414-325-8600	WEST ALLIS 1401 S. 108th St.	414-476-0200
MILWAUKEE 7528 W. Burleigh St.	414-873-9090	KENOSHA 5725 75th St.	262-694-5553
ELM GROVE 12876 W. Bluemound Rd.	262-432-0052	WAUKESHA 203A E. Sunset Dr.	262-524-1130
GREENFIELD 4818 S. 76th St.	414-431-0385	WAUKESHA 1921 Silvernail Rd. Ste. D.	262-436-0884
		FRANKLIN 8225 S. 27th St.	414-761-2269
		RACINE 3905 Douglas Ave.	262-639-5360
		GRAFTON 1260 N. Port Washington Rd.	262-546-0234
		MEMONONE FALLS N85 W16033 Appleton Ave.	262-251-1900

The State of Wisconsin recommends eye examination for all students. www.wisconsinvision.com

Memories from last year's Laborfest parade



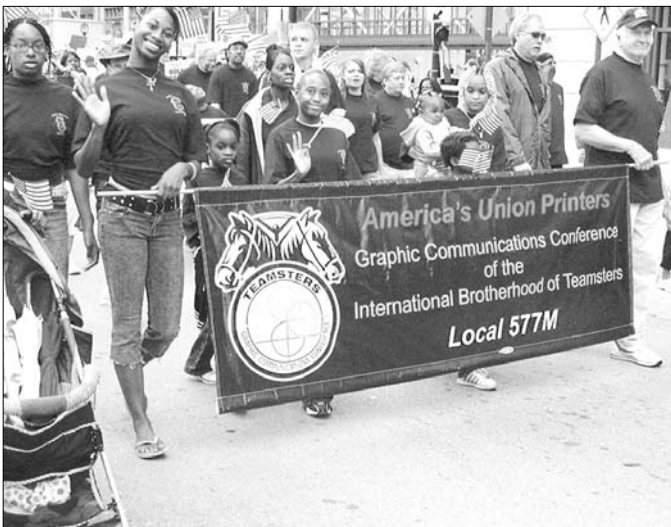
ABOVE LEFT: The 2006 Laborfest confronted construction downtown and concerns about traffic and access. That led the vintage car drivers and the Harley riders who lead off the parade to find some new space and co-mingle (read that as early partying) as the parade assembled.

ABOVE RIGHT: Children got to see what daddy (and mommy) did for a living as a long line of union trucks covered blocks of Wisconsin Ave. — honking horns and cheering.



BELOW LEFT: How do you react to media cameras? The range of choices unions made were almost a theater event in itself. Mugging it up here were members of Communications Workers of America Local 4603.

BELOW RIGHT: Settling for a more demure approach of delicate waves were the families and members of Graphics Communications Conference Local 577M. See accompanying stories for more photo memories of last year's Laborfest.



Labor Day

*a day to rest,
a day to renew the fight for all that others have gained for us,
a day to determine what we want to leave for others.*

United Lodge 66, Machinists Union
Since November 30, 1895

Office Space for Rent.

2611 W. Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-671-3800
Your online site for activities:
www.unitedlodge66.org

dwc/famaw166, afl-cio


"BUY AMERICAN!"
BELL-WELL SALES CO.

***Tool & Die Maker Supplies**
N54 W13864 Woodale Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
For Sales or Service or
More Information
Call:
(262) 781-3670


Butters-Fetting Co., Inc.

***Mechanical Contractors**
"Our 83rd Year!"
•Heating •Plumbing
•Air Conditioning
24-HOUR SERVICE
1669 S. First Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204
For Sales or Service
Call:
(414) 645-1535

LABOR DAY GREETINGS
ADMINISTRATORS SUPERVISORS COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION
through
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY EXCELLENCE



Solidarity Greetings From Our


**Members Employed at WTMJ,
WITI, WMVS/WMTV, WISN
AND NORLIGHT TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Laborfest

From Page 1

out union members to put on the air. (WMCS will also be set up in the afternoon at Laborfest.)

When the parade kicks off, it uses a block on 4th St. to steer all the units into line. Then off it goes east down Wisconsin Ave., then south on Milwaukee St., then east on Chicago St. right into Festival Park.

By 12 a.m. the party, food and entertainment will be in full swing. Dozens of unions and district councils such as AFSCME have been unstinting in their financial support of Laborfest, which is sponsored and organized by the Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and its staff.

But all unions regardless of their federation participate enthusiastically, as do affiliate groups and partners.

Corporate sponsors have been generous as well. Topping that list are AT&T, Miller Brewing and two companies currently employing hundreds of union members on their projects, We Energies and Bechtel Corporation.

MCLC, along with the supporting sponsors, Waukesha and Washington counties labor councils, have for thirty years invited the entire community to watch the parade and enjoy the free festival at Summerfest. Once again that invitation has been sought and given, so community partners and workforces will march along with member unions in more than one hundred units.

The invitations are extended through the chief organizer, Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran, but must be submitted early. Insurance requirements mandate advance approval of groups in the parade.

Once again, Laborfest sponsors are counting on volunteers to set up the grounds, then dash to

PARADE AND BUS ROUTES



Kids party even in the rain

Children's busy area a major attraction

Quietly and most capably, the entertainment of children remains one of the major attractions of Laborfest. It attracts a lot of families to the grounds.

With supervision provided by the Milwaukee Public Schools, the playgrounds that dot the children's area are bolstered by a series of performers and events commissioned for Laborfest. Some roam the grounds; some perform under a schedule at the children's theater, and some do both. Among the clowns, jugglers and magicians scheduled:

Magician Glen Gerard.

Shows from Ken Head's "Heads Up Juggling Revue."

Matthew the Magician, alias Mathew Morgan.

"Mom the Clown" & Company (also providing face painting).

"The Pocket Lady" (Kathleen Mohr), providing stories and activities.

Debra Davis, the stiltwalker extraordinaire who performs around the grounds after strutting the entire parade route!



Zeidler Park to help coordinate the parade, then help out at lakefront festivities - and then at 5 p.m. help take down the flags and chairs at festival's end.

But this year the need is for separate shifts of workers. It would be a sturdy union member who answers the call for both setup and takedown. Summerfest activities all weekend long require a setup before the sun is up Monday morning to get Laborfest going.

Shuttle service a free chance for park and ride -- and to express solidarity with bus drivers

Shuttles run until noon back and forth from Summerfest to the parade, along with free parking near Summerfest. That makes transportation a snap for marchers and spectators.

It also will make it easy to express your support for Milwaukee's professional transit drivers who are not only fighting for a new contract but to keep County Executive Scott Walker from cutting services while increasing bus fares to as high as anywhere in the land.

Thanks to the union as well as county supporters, this shuttle service is free to users. It is operated by ATU Local 998 bus drivers and runs from parking lot F and the main Summerfest gate to Zeidler Park from 8 a.m. to noon.



GOT A MORTGAGE???

Pay off the mortgage and all other DEBTS in as little as 8-11 years or SOONER!

Works for residential, churches or commercial property!!!

CALL 414-445-9956 FOR INFORMATION



Habush Habush & Rottier s.c.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

When Accidents or Injuries Happen to Someone You Love Our Family of Lawyers Will Protect Your Family.



WHY CHOOSE ANYONE ELSE? ®

Injuries or Deaths From Motor Vehicle Accidents and All Other Injuries

Automobile & Truck Accidents | Motorcycle Accidents | Product Defects | Fires & Explosions | Farm Accidents
Boat & Air Accidents | Medical Malpractice | Workplace Injury | Construction Accidents Machinery Accidents
Our Reputation, Experience & Honesty Result In Most See The Statuary Teamwork at Miller Park-Donated By
Of Our Cases Settling Without a Lawsuit or Trial the Habush, Habush & Rottier Foundation

Helping Injured People For Over 75 Years | Wisconsin's Largest Personal Injury Law Firm | Free Consultation | No Fees or Costs Unless We Are Successful | 100's of Millions in Settlements and Verdicts Collected For Our Clients | More Nationally Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyers Than any Firm in Wisconsin | Contingent Fee Available

1-800-2-HABUSH
1-800-242-2874

Milwaukee Office
1-800-242-7205

777 E. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 2300 | Milwaukee, WI 53202

Waukesha Office
1-800-559-5599
Hwy J & I-94 | Waukesha, WI 53188

Racine Office
1-800-682-3434
5439 Durand Ave., Ste 220 | Racine, WI 53406

Kenosha Office
1-800-388-8222
6905 S. Green Bay Rd., Ste 103 | Kenosha, WI 53142

Sheboygan Office
1-866-888-3620
2108 Kohler Memorial Dr. | Sheboygan, WI 53081

Appleton 1-800-472-9334
Green Bay 1-800-757-8644
Lake Geneva 1-800-275-1729
Madison 1-800-822-1690
Stevens Point 1-800-248-0171
Rhineland 1-800-369-5990
Wausau 1-800-248-0171



Visit us on the web at www.habush.com

Laborfest floats on musical magic carpet

Music will be in the air all day at Laborfest. Wall to wall even when there are no walls.

Local 8 of the American Federation of Musicians will perch its orchestra atop the MASH flatbed and swing show tunes out along the entire parade route. MASH is the group name for union action of an aggregation of stagehands, actors and musicians.

A retirees band from the Letter Carriers (Branch 2, National Association of Letter Carriers) will greet parade arrivals at the Summerfest gate.

But the chief attraction on the grounds will be two big bands, rollicking out impressive and popular sets for listeners and dancers.

Both bands wowed the crowd in 2006 but one involves a name change this time and the other is a Labor Day perennial.

The latter is **Spider George and the Web**, formed back in the mid-1980s.

As regular festgoers know (or also have discovered at Summerfest, the Potawatomi casino and Festa Italiana) this large group led by George Busateri tirelessly rocks the house, playing everything "from Sinatra to Santana." With Busateri handling lead vocals and featuring a mighty brass section, Spider George jumps everywhere from big band favorites to Motown, from salsa to Golden Oldies.

Last year, Laborfest was introduced to a swinging group then called Resonance, which shook the Harley stage while Spider George shook the Miller. The same dual shakeup occurs this year, but Resonance has changed its name to **Night Life**. A chief organizer, pianist David Brady, notes the band still boasts a stirring instrumental set

of swingers (trumpet, trombone, drums, guitar, drums) but also an assortment of lead vocalists.

The double dose of dance and party music continues all afternoon, cutting off just before the 4:30 p.m. raffle.



Close behind the music last year were the artists federation and the oldest union, the Wobblies, who often put a guitarist inside their wagon.



Musicians and other artists decorated the MASH float and then joined the operating engineers (right) to send music down Wisconsin Ave. last year.



"BUY AMERICAN"
BROOKFIELD HILLS GOLF COURSE, INC.
 16075 Pinehurst Drive
 Brookfield, WI 53005
 - For Reservations -
 Call: (262) 782-0885



MILWAUKEE
 DEPUTY SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION
 821 West State Street, Room 408
 Milwaukee, WI 53233
 414-276-2222
 Roy Felber, President
 Rich Graber, Vice President
 Joe Kuntner, Secretary
 Norb Gedeiner, Treasurer


MILWAUKEE COUNTY
 LABOR COUNCIL
 is online now
milwaukeelabor.org

We Salute All Men
 and Women of Labor



Local 2-232
 Representing Employees of:
 Briggs & Stratton Corp. & Strattec Security Corp.

Labor Day greetings from the officers of
 The Milwaukee Newspaper Guild (Local 51)



**CELEBRATING
 23 YEARS OF
 PROTECTING
 WORKERS RIGHTS**


P.O. Box 778 Phone 414-273-5151 E-mail: guild51@execpc.com
 Milwaukee, WI 53201 Web site: www.execpc.com/~guild51




**GOOD LUCK
 FROM
 TRANSIT WORKERS**
 IN
 MILWAUKEE, KENOSHA
 SHEBOYGAN & WAUKESHA

**Amalgamated Transit Union
 Local 998**

UAW REGION 4
 Honoring America's
Work Force






Dennis Williams
 Director



Dennis Kinard
 Assistant Director

Region 4
 Members and Staff

**LABOR DAY—
 YOU EARNED IT!**

National Association
 of Letter Carriers
 Pioneer Branch 2

O.P.E.I.U. Local 9
 Wishes You A Great Labor Day
 Wages are the heart of the contract
 and seniority is the soul



Local 9 Office & Professional Employees
 International Union — AFL-CIO & CLC
 6333 West Bluemound Road
 Milwaukee 53213-4146 — (414) 771-9730

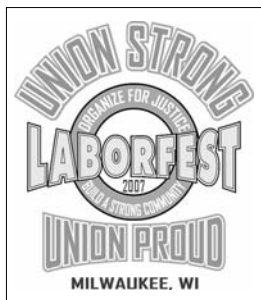


*Labor Day
 Greetings*



From the Executive Board
 and Membership of
**GCC/IBT
 LOCAL 7C**

Speed-dialing through Laborfest highlights



The annual Laborfest "Cruise Show" features privately owned vintage American-made (and hence union-made) cars dating back some 75 years and lovingly polished by their owners.

Dozens of cars have already signed up and will be assembled pre-parade in designated areas near Zeidler Union Square Park.

Then they will chug, putt-putt and mainly hum down Wisconsin Avenue, following the hundreds of Harley motorcycle riders at the front of the parade.

And look for more Harley riders than usual as plant union members celebrate their own anniversaries and prepare for the 2008 worldwide celebration of 105 years of Harley-Davidson.

These automobiles, a perennial attraction in the parade, are driven right over to the north end of the Summerfest grounds and are on display throughout Laborfest.

The Harley riders more flexibly park their bikes on the south end of the grounds and usually stir up the dancing around Miller stage. Some cross their fingers that they will win another bike when the 2008 Harley is raffled off at the end of the festivities.

Other Laborfest attractions: Adult bingo remains an afternoon draw, suitably at the Potawatomi stage.

The Union Industry Tent and nearby display areas have expanded. Both unions and community groups are providing exhibits and brochures.

Until about 4 p.m., raffle tickets will continue to be sold for those eager to win the Harley-Davidson 2008 Sportster given away at the Miller Stage about 4:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the grounds are dotted with special boxes for the free raffles - children items and hotel and restaurant packages for adults. (Remember -- unlike the Harley raffle, winners must be present at the 4:30 p.m. finale to collect).

Two separate pro wrestling groups have committed to this festival. But visitors know better than to wrestle with the fire and police units touring the grounds. Or with the corporate mascots - such as MET Life's Snoopy.

Unless, as in some years past, they are forced to head south to help restore power to



One of the most enduring - literally! - performers at Laborfest is Debra Davis, who stilt-walks the entire parade while juggling and then repeats her act for the Laborfest crowds, sometimes dancing with children as the bands perform. She is shown here in last year's Rosie the Riveter get-up.

hurricane victims, the We Energies bucket trucks will be back. Set up north of the children's area, the bucket brigade will take the brave high into the air, courtesy of IBEW Local 2150. The operators of the bucket trucks ask those who can afford it for a \$1 donation to the Hunger Task Force.

Back with sketchpads are Reynaldo and a group of artists similarly adept at quick

sketching. Reynaldo is responsible for many of the murals that dot Milwaukee, including the one at the back of Esperanza Unida visible to freeway riders. The sketch artists can deftly reveal your personality in art - a remarkably attractive draw for families at this festival.

Food tickets are purchased in advance by many unions for distribution to their members, but they are also sold from

booths throughout the grounds (60 cents a ticket).

Many of Summerfest's traditional drink and food vendors participate in this festival.

Though after many years Laborfest was forced to raise the (gasp!) price of a 16 ounce beer, to \$5 in tickets when purchased in advance.

Plan ahead: it will cost a buck more on the grounds.

Cases of water bottles bearing the MCLC logo and the slogan "Working in Solidarity" remain to be given away to participants.

Many unions have customized Laborfest T-shirts so that their logo joins Laborfest's special logo and their choice of colors makes their marching group stand out in the parade and on the grounds.

Political candidates are always free to mingle with voters before and after the parade, and many do, providing an opportunity to speak your mind. It requires an invitation from a union to walk in the parade. And many candidates do. So see who you can spot.

Another tradition near Zeidler Park is a special ecumenical prayer service at 9 a.m. - serving coffee and donuts as well as reflection and thanks. The ecumenical prayer service organized by the Faith Community for Worker Justice and open to all will again take place at Postal Workers Hall, 417 N. 3rd St.

The service will pick up forcefully on the theme of Labor in the Pulpits -- organizing and justice for low-income workers. See Pages 27 and 28.



Accept No Substitutes!

The Allied Printing Trades Council Label

It is the only officially recognized all inclusive printing label representing that *all* operations in the production of the printing were done by union labor. It is not a local union emblem indicating that only part of the work was performed under union standards.

Write the words **ALLIED PRINTING TRADES UNION LABEL** on your copy when you send it to the printer!

633 South Hawley Road Suite 100
Milwaukee, WI 53214
Phone: 414.476.1577 Fax: 414.476.2022

Injured? Protect your family, your finances, your future.

If you have been injured or in an accident, hire experience. Hire knowledge. Hire the law firm of Previaut Goldberg. We have the legal background to help you obtain the settlement you deserve. Call Previaut Goldberg today at 414-271-4500. We'll provide a free, no obligation consultation.

- auto • motorcycle • boat • airplane
- dog bites • defective products

Personal injury at Previaut Goldberg



Previaut, Goldberg, Uelman,
Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, s.c.

1555 N. RiverCenter Dr., Suite 202, Milwaukee, WI 53212 • 414-271-4500 • Toll-free 800-841-5232

www.previaut.com

Forum

From Page 1

Chicago's Soldiers Field?

Was this, as Chris Matthews suggested in a post-forum discussion on MSNBC, a defining moment in the national debate on what issues are truly important and which candidates cogently addressed them?

Or was it, as several pundits and bloggers deridingly noticed, simply an excess of "Yay Unions! Unions are great no matter what!" from a series of candidates eager and maybe desperate for support?

There was certainly a bit of both.

All these gatherings have a sense of theater, exaggeration and discussions never quite completed or concluded. All these are political balancing acts designed to appeal to the crowd. So it's okay to express some cynicism about how sincere was all the sincerity. And to cold-bloodedly measure the candidates' eloquence on their feet (in this case, all seven were pretty darn good).

But there were undercurrents in the AFL-CIO event that may linger long after this summer of forums. Strategies and personalities took firmer shape. Despite media sarcasm or jadedness, the AFL-CIO forum pointed some key developments on this long trail. Let us count the ways:

1. As many expected, it confirmed an AFL-CIO decision to cut its unions loose for primary endorsements. Details below.

2. As not expected, it personalized the plight, frustration and anger of Americans. The

Candidates were in high form at AFL-CIO event but the voices from the street were even better

voices from the street at this forum — union voices — more than at any other forum, almost eclipsed the host (the competent MSNBC "Countdown's" Keith Olbermann), framed the key concerns and stirred the candidates to sometimes genuine passion and even nearly tears.

What voices and questions! Jim McGovern, who returned from Iraq to find his job at Maytag outsourced. Shirley Brown who had struggled with co-workers for four years to get an AFSCME union at Resurrection Health Care in Chicago. Deborah Hammer, whose husband was killed in the Sago mine disaster.

And Steve Skvara of Indiana, a retired steelworker with a heart condition, whose family suffered a car accident a decade ago.

He worked 30 years with "a given that you had insurance benefits for the rest of your life." But his company went bankrupt, his pensions crumbled "and I sit at the kitchen table across from the woman who devoted 36 years of her life to my family and I can't afford to pay for her health care. What's wrong with America, and what will you do to change it?"

It was these questions that tested the candidates and, when all is said and done and after Congress members hear from their constituents throughout their August break, it may be these questions from the heart that drive the entire debate.

3. In what was a strategic surprise to many, the AFL-CIO

forum exposed a new tag-team approach among the candidates, particularly those on the lower ladder but anxious to move up. Joe Biden and Chris Dodd seemed engaged in a fight to rise into second place behind Hillary Clinton by taking on the hottest sparkplugs right behind her. Barack Obama and John Edwards were specifically in their sunsights.

Mainly, that allowed Clinton to stand pretty above the fray as they criticized Obama in her stead on foreign policy (notably Pakistan and talking to hostile countries) and even took on Edwards (on health care).

Edwards used such attacks to confirm his stance as a legitimately angry populist. Obama neatly and quickly dissected the critics, finding it "amusing that those who voted to authorize and engineer the biggest foreign policy disaster in our generation are now criticizing me."

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson stayed away from any bashing, sticking with his platform. Dennis Kucinich, free from the growling shadow of an absent eighth candidate, Mike Gravel, came across as humorous, self-deprecating and straightforward.

But Clinton, always cool and quick to the point, may have won the debate by not having to attack so much.

NBC's Chris Todd suggested that this forum "would be the moment remembered when Biden turned into Hillary's surrogate." Calling the event "part pep rally and part debate," Todd said, "It's a fascinating dynamic that I think is developing in this primary. But how long can Edwards and Obama be allies and how comfortable will Dodd and Biden be carrying Clinton's water?"

But it may be simplistic to regard this as the old senators (Biden, Dodd and Clinton) gangling up on the young folk. Elsewhere in the debate, it was

Clinton, Obama and Edwards agreeing that, whatever the faults of NAFTA, trade agreements shouldn't be thrown away, a position they stood by much to the dismay of some in labor.

The rotating views may reflect some new strategies to elevate votes but they also reveal that these are complex issues — and that Democrats are willing to disagree openly about real issues rather than hiding behind phony ones.

4. And speaking of Republicans, this forum may have changed their tactics. It seemed to shock their entire presidential field that all the Democrats were ferociously supportive of the union movement and the Employee Free Choice Act. (The GOP was invited to participate but not a one completed the AFL-CIO questionnaire.)

The GOP has spent the weeks after the forum tarring all the Democrats as "moving hard to the left" implying that was where the union issues were. And certainly some unions are. But the issues the forum centered on are rather dangerous to categorize as leftist — failed corporate promises, invasion of privacy and rights, providing good care and education for veterans, getting our military out from the middle of a civil war.

Historically such used to be central concerns of the GOP. Some AFL-CIO unions have 30% GOP members who are also concerned about universal health care, rights at work and resistance to outsourcing — all topics embraced at the forum.

You can only categorize all this as "all about lefty" if your compass is lost in the warped environment created by Karl Rove, who on Aug. 31 is getting out of Dodge just ahead of the marshal.

What has moved the unions and the Democratic candidates to unity is, quite frankly, President Bush and the failure of so much

of his administration policies. It's moving a lot of Republicans there, too. They also have begun to associate the problems facing the middle class with the current policies that weaken workers.

In sum the AFL-CIO humanized key concerns that will remain central in the presidential debate. It confirmed that unions and Democrats are being drawn together by the need for solutions not by a left-right mentality. It also revealed the alliance of surrogates and strategies among a Democratic field so polished that no member can be taken for granted.

So realized the AFL-CIO Executive Council, which had promised to decide after the forum whether to endorse one candidate for the primaries.

That seemed unlikely from the get-go. The talents displayed by all seven assured that there was no one winner. Not when the rules require two-thirds of the AFL-CIO's individual unions to agree on a candidate.

Clearly Edwards was hoping and Clinton and Obama wouldn't have minded, but the other candidates — lacking the money or poll numbers to be seriously considered but possessing effective tongues and credentials — more pragmatically wanted the AFL-CIO to hold off.

"A number of the Democratic candidates have the experience and the credentials to lead our nation," the council decided. "And it is equally clear that our members support a number of the candidates — many union members have told us all the candidates are impressive and they are eager to support many of them."

The federation may well endorse after the primary season but what it in effect did was turn its 55 member unions and 10 million workers loose for now, free to make up their own minds. The race for endorsements is on.

"Organized labor is sometimes underestimated because the percentage of workers who belong to unions has dropped off precipitously," noted author Peter Francia after the forum. "You often hear people talk about labor in decline, that unions are irrelevant, unions are dinosaurs, that they no longer matter."

"But in the political arena there's a different story."

The Republicans who didn't pursue a seat at the forum table keep commenting on that union decline, only one in 10 of the workforce, they say.

But union households make up one-quarter of the electorate, the people who go the polls.

That reality may have been the most consequential effect of the forum. There won't be one big endorsement, but over the next few months it will make a big difference where the unions sign up.

A Great Labor Day to All

from the

School for Workers

FALL 2007 Milwaukee Area Class

Sponsored by: School for Workers, UW-Extension Outreach & E-Learning, Milwaukee County Labor Council and Milwaukee Area Technical College

Collective Bargaining, Oct 16 - Nov 13

5-week class on Tuesdays, 5:30-8:30 p.m., Fee \$49.05
WFNHP, 9620 Greenfield Ave, West Allis

Madison Commuter & Residential Programs

Sponsored by: Wisconsin State AFL-CIO

Sept 5-6	Financial Officer Training
Sept 11	Spreadsheet Training-Basic
Sept 12	Spreadsheet Training-Intermediate
Oct 22-26	Worker's Compensation
Oct 29-Nov 2	Time Study
Nov 12-15	Job Evaluation
Dec 3-5	Union Leadership
Dec 10-12	Building Arguments for Bargaining Power

Information: 608/262-2112

Email: schoolforworkers@uwex.edu

Web: <http://schoolforworkers.uwex.edu>

Regal Ware Worldwide™

- ★ INTEGRITY
- ★ DEDICATION
- ★ PERFORMANCE
- ★ PRIDE

We salute Wisconsin's workers, especially USW Local 850!

©2006 Aurora Health Care.



What Drives Aurora Health Care?

In a word: you.

The people of Aurora see health care as a living, long-term relationship with you, our patients. That's your assurance that we'll be there for you with the right care, at the right time, in the right place and for every phase of your life. That means keeping doctors close to where you live, bringing technological advancements to local communities, maintaining your neighborhood pharmacy, and providing services to you at every stage of your life. Constantly striving to provide you with the latest, most advanced treatments and patient-centered care.

It's called integrated health care. We like to call it our way of caring for you.

 **Aurora Health Care**[®]
Finding better ways[™]

www.AuroraHealthCare.org

KEEPING PACE WITH
PROGRESS

**SKILLED
OPERATING
ENGINEERS**

International Union of
Operating Engineers
Local 139

Terrance E. McGowan
Business Manager
N27 W23233
Roundy Drive,
Pewaukee, WI



LABOR DAY

OURS
IS ALSO

**A LABOR
OF
LOVE**



Milwaukee
POLICE
Association



Local #21 IUPA-AFL-CIO

UNION WORK FOR A BETTER AMERICA

**International Union of Bricklayers
Allied Craftworkers Local 8**

FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL 8

Chuck Hutchins - President
Ben Gutkowski - Vice President Denise Dostalek - Trustee
James Jerome - Financial Secretary Dustin Hines - Trustee
Phil Dupor - Recording Secretary Al Brazzoni - Sergeant at Arms

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL 8

Fred Hultquist and Ray Wersel



Chartered in 1880
2005 Marked 125 Years of Building America
Visit our website at www.bacwi.org

LABOR DAY - A DAY TO BE PROUD



STEAMFITTERS LOCAL 601

3300 S. 103rd Street
Milwaukee, WI 53227

Kevin La Mere . . . Business Manager

Joel ZielkeFinancial Sec./Treas.	John McGrathRecording Secretary
James CoxBusiness Agent	Bob RohlederExecutive Board
Fran FaberBusiness Agent	Peter StecklExecutive Board
Doug EdwardsPresident	Steven BonaparteExecutive Board
Martin VanBeekVice President	Ed FitzsimmonsExecutive Board

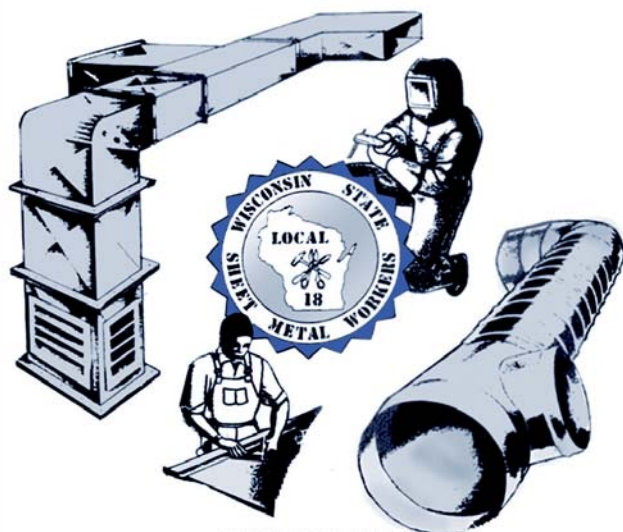
LABOR DAY GREETINGS



**MILWAUKEE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION
TRADES COUNCIL, AFL-CIO**

Lyle A. Balistreri, President

5941 W. Bluemound Rd. (414) 475-5580



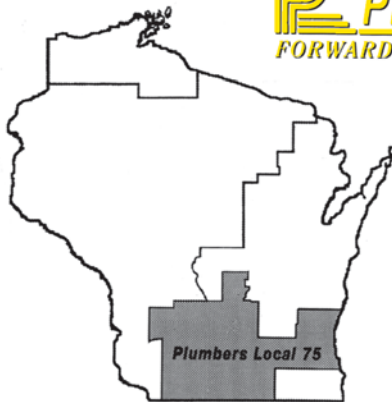
**UNION CRAFTSMEN
SHEET METAL WORKERS - STATE OF WISCONSIN**

Marc Norberg - State Business Manager
William Hoepner and Michael Mooney - Area Business Representatives
Randall Krocka - Financial Secretary Treasurer

HEADQUARTERS - MILWAUKEE
5425 W. VLIET STREET, MILWAUKEE WI 53208
1-800-242-5822 FAX (414) 778-0987

This ad paid for by the members of Local 18

Plumbers 75
FORWARD IN OUR INDUSTRY



PPC
PROFESSIONAL
PLUMBERS & CONTRACTORS



To locate a plumbing contractor in your area

www.plumbers75.com

Plumbers Union Local 75

Business Manager: Steve Breitlow
11175 West Parkland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53224-3135
888-248-3392 • 414-359-1310
fax/414-359-1323

Advertising WORKS In
Milwaukee
Labor Press
 Contact lynda@milwaukeeelabor.org
 Call 414-771-7070

Happy Labor Day



Law Offices of Mark A. Sweet

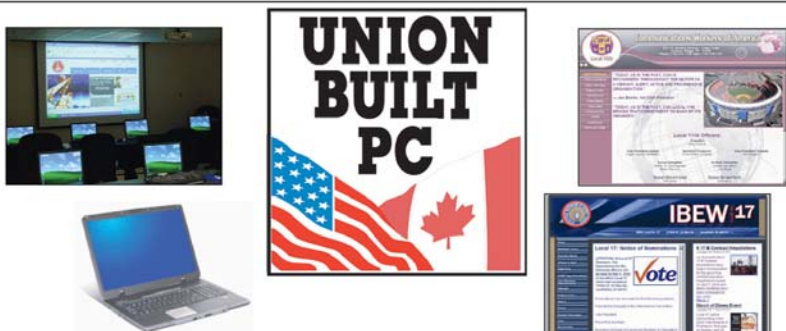
Proud to be Wisconsin's
 Fastest Growing Labor Law Firm

- Labor Law
- Employment Discrimination
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Worker's Compensation
- General Practice

Milwaukee metro area: **(414) 332-2255**

Toll free statewide: **(866) 784-2344**

UnionYesLaw.com



- Websites
- Grievance Manager software
- Technology Equipped Classrooms
 - Desktop and Laptop PCs
 - Onsite service contracts

Contact us today!

www.unionbuiltpc.com
(877) 728-6466

All Union Built employees are technology experts and union members!

MILWAUKEE TEACHERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

mtea

What Does Her Future Hold?



We hope she'll grow up to be a strong, confident woman – a person with dreams and the skills to succeed.

As educators and members of the Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, we are here to help her get there. That's why we teach in Milwaukee's public schools. Our focus is on helping all children achieve and thrive.

By supporting reform, leading the dialog, gathering resources and reaching out to the community, we promote quality public schools and ensure a brighter future for the children and families we serve.



Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association

Putting Children at the Center of Education

5130 W. Vliet Street • Milwaukee • 414-259-1990 • www.mtea.org



my name: *Morgan Bailey-Wright*

biggest challenge: *Not knowing what would happen next*

childhood ambition: *To be a firefighter*

alarm clock: *My mom*

fondest memory: *Having our own house*

perfect day: *Watching cartoons, hanging out with friends*

soundtrack: *"Beautiful struggle" by Talib Kweli*

first job: *Taking care of myself and my mom*

retreat: *Pathfinders (United Way shelter program) where I could hang out and just be a kid*

indulgence: *My own bed*

wildest dream: *Not having to worry about my mom's cancer*

inspiration: *My mom who survived breast cancer and showed me anything you go through, you can make it through.*

proudest moment: *Deciding to take care of myself.*

my life: *Is great*

Help. It's the United Way. When you support United Way, you're giving someone the power to change their life. Learn more at unitedwaymilwaukee.org

matters.



United Way of Greater Milwaukee

MORGAN WAS A HOMELESS TEEN IN NEED OF IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM HELP IN ORDER TO ATTAIN A BETTER FUTURE.



Labor....

Changing Lives

Changing Communities

*You are cordially invited to attend the
Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Labor Kick-Off Rally
at the*

Center of Excellence

3841 W. Wisconsin Ave.

Thursday, September 20th, 2007

6:00 p.m.—

Cocktail & Hors d' Oeuvres

\$30.00 per person or 10 for \$250.00

*For more information or to reserve your ticket, please contact:
Annie Wacker at: 414-771-9830 or annieaflcio@sbcglobal.net*

We Are Proud
To Give Honor To
All Workers On This Day

LABOR DAY

“Serving You Faithfully
Every Day of
the Year”



“Milwaukee Area Local”

LABOR DAY

Labor's Own Holiday

IBEW



LOCAL 2150

Utility & Outside Construction
www.ibewlocal2150.org

SPRINKLER FITTERS
UA LOCAL
183
MILWAUKEE

**FIRE PROTECTION
SOLUTIONS SINCE 1906**

INDUSTRIAL ~ COMMERCIAL
RESIDENTIAL ~ SERVICE

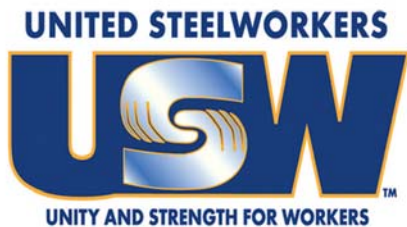
CHRIS SCHOENBECK BUSINESS MGR. COREY GALL BUSINESS REP.

W175 N5700 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
MEMONONEE FALLS, WI 53051
PHONE: (262) 252-0183 FAX: (262) 252-7183
E-mail: ua183@sprinklerfitters183.org

www.sprinklerfitters183.org

Educate, Agitate, Organize !

Jon Geenen,
District Two Director



414-475-4560

Ernie Dex

Southern WI Sub
District Director

1126 S 70th Street
STE N509A
Milwaukee WI 53214
www.usw.org

Staff:

Dennis Latus
Doug Drake
Don Collins
Bill Breihan
Tanita Mitchell



Greetings To Our
BROTHER and SISTER UNIONISTS
LOCAL 4603

6511 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53213

Officers

GEORGE R. WALLS, President

Jim Courchane	Rich Pearson
Chris Stapelfeldt	Cindy Wade
Greg Burns	Greg Proudlove
Carrie Murphy	Peggy Brown
Holly Sherard	Al Stein
Chris Wunder	

The Community Minded Union
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA



Local #815

ACD-GLDC
AFL-CIO

Happy Labor Day
to the Entire
Labor Family!

President: Tom Reitzner Vice Pres.: Dan Dziedzic
Rec. Sec.: Lee Schlund Trustee: Joe Smith & Tom Schwarz
Business Agent, Financial Sec., Treas.: Doug Kubick

I.L.A. also means "I Love America"

Labor Day
GREETINGS



**AFSCME Council 48
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Richard W. Abelson, Executive Director
Paula Dorsey, President

in the public service®



A Salute to Labor

From the Workers
at Harley-Davidson
Motor Company

**United Steelworkers
LOCAL 2-209**

12034 W. Adler Lane 414-476-1069

LABOR DAY GREETINGS

from

UNITED FOOD & COMMERCIAL WORKERS

John R. Eiden
President



Grant Withers
Secretary-Treasurer

LOCAL 1473

www.ufcw1473.org



**AFT, LOCAL 212
SALUTES ALL
WORKING PEOPLE!**

“We want more school
houses and less jails;
more books and less
arsenals; more constant
work and less crime;
more leisure and less
greed; more justice
and less revenge; in
fact more of the oppor-
tunities to cultivate our
better natures...”
Samuel Gompers


SEE YOU AT LABORFEST.07




USW LOCAL 2-1114
Wishes for a Happy Labor Day
 From the Union Employees at:
P & H MINING EQUIPMENT
 4400 W. National Avenue
 Milwaukee, WI

UNITED STEELWORKERS
 UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

HAPPY LABOR DAY




Waukesha County
 Labor Council, AFL-CIO




Local 469
 Brad Schwanda, President
 Representing Master Lock Workers
SALUTING LABORFEST
 And All Wisconsin Workers

LABOR DAY



LABORERS LOCAL No. 113




"THE BACKBONE OF THE BUILDING TRADES"

BUILDING, SEWER, TUNNEL, UTILITY & PAVING LABORERS

Labor Day Greetings
 Wishing Everyone A Happy and Safe Labor Day
D.A.L.U. Local 24111
 AFL-CIO

HAPPY LABOR DAY FROM LOCAL 2006



UNITED STEELWORKERS
USW
 UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

REPRESENTING WE ENERGIES

Honoring Organized Labor
Laborfest 2007
"Standing Together, Marching United"



This advertisement comes proudly From the Brothers and Sisters of
TEAMSTERS LOCAL 200
MILWAUKEE/FOND DU LAC

Only the Best



Partner with the Best

Safe, productive and efficient Carpenters improve bottom lines

Since 1881 Chicago union contractors and carpenters have worked together. Contractors know that highly-trained, skilled carpenters improve their bottom line. And, Carpenters know that profitable union Contractors continue to hire safe and reliable craftsmen.

We Salute the Men and Women of Organized Labor on Labor Day

CHICAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS
 A POSITIVE FORCE IN BUILDING COMMUNITIES


www.carpentersunion.org

Machinists District No. 10
 International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, AFL-CIO and their Affiliated Lodges
 Take This Opportunity To Salute All Working Men & Women

Working Together ~ All Unions

INDUSTRIAL ★★ PUBLIC ★★
 SERVICE ★★ TRADE

WILL MAKE US STRONG



Michael Hornby
 Director

Keith C. Smith Sr.
 Assistant Director

Business Agents
 William Christianson * Benito Elizondo * Donald Griffin
 Russell Krings * Patrick O'Connor * Scott Parr

AFFILIATED LOCAL LODGES
 66, 78, 140, 510, 516, 957, 1061
 1266, 1326, 1367, 1377, 1430, 1564
 1668, 1845, 1862, 1916, 1947, 2110, 2560

How teen's story keeps the Dream Act alive

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Editor, Labor Press

The immigration debate has been described as "toxic" but small outbreaks of humanity may create the piecemeal passage of some needed reform when Congress returns in September.

The biggest hope surrounds the Dream Act. That's partly because of the case of Juan Sebastian Gomez and the determination of his high school friends.

Juan, then 2, and his 3-year-old brother were brought to America from Colombia on a tourist visa in 1990 by their parents, Liliانا and José Gomez.

The parents applied for legal status as they established a small catering business in Miami — and as Juan grew up American and obviously dedicated, personable and smart.

He aced advanced placement tests, tutored his classmates in European history and biochemistry, borrowed the computer his parents couldn't afford for

his homework, held a 3.96 grade average, and even volunteered at a homeless shelter.

The government turned down the parents' application in 2002, a tough year for anyone to be an immigrant. That made the parents subject to deportation.

On July 25, just as Juan was getting ready for college and, as one of his friends noted, "a career that does America good," in came ICE to deport him and his family. It was part of the nationwide immigration operation stirred up by con-

servative anger at immigrants.

Bound for a country he never knew — that spoke a language he hadn't learned — Juan made cell calls to some classmates on his way to the deportation center. It was his friends that sprang into action.

They created a Facebook site to tell his story, buttonholed officials in Florida and D.C. Thousands spoke up and seven schoolmates roamed Capitol Hill on Juan's behalf.

Now, the New York Times reports, Homeland Security has stayed the family's deportation to allow a bill introduced by Republicans and Democrats to work its way through the House to offer the Gomez family legal status. Meanwhile, others in Congress have introduced similar emergency bills for three other cases brought to their attention.

And Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) has reintroduced the Dream Act.

He expects broad bipartisan support for teenagers who are illegal only because of decisions their parents made when the children were tiny. The act would create a path to citizenship for high school graduates who are illegal immigrants if they complete two years of college or military service. Nearly a million immigrant students across the country could gain legal status under the Dream Act.

The Gomez case has spurred legislators' conscience because "it's unfair to make these young people pay for the sins of their parents," said Durbin, who is ready to attach the bill to a military appropriations act in September if the likely passage in the Senate is not supported in the House.

But the Gomez story "is not that unusual," noted Christine Neumann-Ortiz, whose Milwaukee-based Voces



Christine Neumann-Ortiz

de la Frontera has fought for both state and federal versions of the Dream Act, sometimes gathering for the demonstrations the high school valedictorians who happen to be undocumented.

"What's exciting about this one is that it was his friends, the people who knew him, who rallied and caused the change," she said. "There are many young people in his position, tied here by their life and caught in a broken system that would send them away to a country they don't know."

"Yet we've invested so much in these children, K to 12, so why would we abandon them and rob ourselves of the brighter future they can provide?"

"I think we're going to see more and more of this," added Neumann-Ortiz. "The US citizens stepping forward, the neighbors and the teachers who know these children."

There's an irony here. Conservative Republicans in fits of hostility passed extreme immigrant security acts in pieces while rejecting a comprehensive approach.

This Congress may see that piecemeal they can fix the system through an emerging alliance with moderate Republicans. Juan and his American friends helped a lot of politicians see the waste and feel offended by the extremism.

Huffington adds union blogging

One of the most recognized blog centers of commentary, the Huffington Post, has added its own regular union component called Just Work.

It can be found at <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/living-now/>

Launched Aug. 3, Just Work is a series presented by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) to give an online voice to working people and provide personal stories discussing their daily struggles to balance work, afford life and participate in a more just society.

SEIU welcomes submissions to Just Work. Stories (700 words or less) can be sent to justwork@seiu.org.

Health Care That Fits Your Busy Life

"One Stop Shop"

Call for an Appointment Today - Major Insurances Accepted

Dental Cleanings

- Routine Exams
- Oral Surgery
- Crowns
- Bridges
- Dentures
- Extractions
- Root Canals

Emergency Dental Care
Cosmetic Dentistry

Internal Medicine

- Family Practice
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Neurology
- Endocrinology
- ENT
- Cardiology
- General Surgery
- Podiatry
- Gastroenterology
- Urology

- Dermatology
- Laboratory
- Radiology
- Physical Therapy
- Dietician
- Diabetic Educator
- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy

Dental Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri.
7:00am to 5:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
7:00am to 7:00pm

Pharmacy Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri.
8:00am to 6:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
8:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday
8:30am to 12:00pm

Wisconsin Health Fund

6200 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee WI 53213

(414) 771-5600
www.whfund.org



Clinic Hours

Mon., Wed., Fri.
7:30am to 5:00pm
Tues. and Thurs.
7:30am to 7:00pm

Serving Organized Labor for 50 years!

Dental Associates, Ltd.



A Beautiful Smile Lasts a Lifetime.

- General Dentistry • Pediatric Dentistry
- Orthodontics • Periodontics
- Oral Surgery • Cosmetic Dentistry

Monday-Thursday: 7:00 a.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.

Saturday (alt.): 7:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.

Proudly Union Built and Staffed.

- Kenosha**
7117 Green Bay Rd.
Kenosha, WI 53142
(262) 942-7000
- Milwaukee**
1135 S. Cesar Chavez Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 645-4540
- Milwaukee (North)**
11711 W. Burleigh
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 771-2345



MPS board embarks on uncertain new voyage

By Amalia Oulahan

Special to Labor Press

Since veteran member Peter Blewett was elected president of the Milwaukee Public Schools' controlling board in April, Superintendent William Andrekopoulos has faced new and very vocal opposition — some from unexpected quarters. It's shaping up as the first unanticipated challenge he's had in five years.

For any number of reasons, change is in the air, even while the emphasis is still on finding what really works and learning from mistakes.

"The board now includes a lot of diverse personalities with a lot of diverse agendas and I hope we can stay focused on the students," noted member Jennifer Morales, who then added, "The interpersonal dynamics are really rocky right now."



Blewett

Blewett's aggressiveness for change is only one of the recent alterations facing the administration.

The election of Michael Bonds in District 3, replacing a reliable Andrekopoulos supporter, is yet another. And most notable when it comes to conflicting viewpoints, the "small schools" initiative in Milwaukee high schools has gained new controversy,



Morales

despite its tempting sources of foundation funding.

Prompted by Blewett and Bonds pushing for change, the rest of the board must reconsider the drawbacks in a plan that the previous board had moved forward.

"I'm very concerned about small schools," said Bonds. "There is a lack of complete evaluation of teachers working outside of their fields and lack of



Bonds

educational and extracurricular resources."

Although he does not oppose the concept of small schools, Bonds does not want to see the school board "constantly adding small schools" without methods of accurate evaluation. (That evaluation issue still lingers heavily with the school choice program as well.)

Some primary concerns are "small school" teachers working in grade levels and on subjects they are not licensed for, and a deficiency in materials for extracurricular activities.

"We continue to learn from some of the failures of small schools and continue working with some of the others," said Morales. "Maybe other board members feel differently, but in a lot of cases, it's really working. We should make the needed improvements, but don't abandon the entire initiative."

As school board directors submit resolutions for revisions, representatives from the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association, the teachers' union, agree on the goal — that evaluation remains important to develop successful plans. "Our involvement always is to try and get the focus on what's going to

work best in schools," said Pat O'Mahar, assistant to the executive director of MTEA, pointing out that the union works for cooperation and compromise with the administration.

"Within the MPS Strategic Plan" — created with union involvement — "is a commitment to both kinds of high schools, small and traditional," said O'Mahar.

The MTEA also strives for community involvement — another issue increasingly emphasized after Blewett's election to the chair. When the MPS Strategic Plan was approved, community meetings were held to get input from parents and students.

Bonds is also concerned about increased community involvement in school board proceedings. "One of my biggest frustrations," he said, "is looking up at a meeting and seeing no community people there at all." He's calling for direct action, like moving school board meetings to weekends so working parents can attend.

As the school board faces conflicting agendas, the MPS administration must remember "the value of taking a really careful look at what's working best," said O'Mahar. But he also sees differing viewpoints increasingly in play. The school board, many interviewed agree, is moving toward an unseen future with unknowable results. Old alliances and old simplicities seem to be fading away.

The author is a product of the MPS. A former intern at Rethinking Schools magazine, whose uncle is president of the MTEA, she is now a journalism major at Northwestern University.

Local 212 adds support to Conyers bill

Joining a staggering range of unions, locals and federations around the US, Local 212 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Milwaukee has endorsed the national single payer health care legislation introduced by Congressman John Conyers (D-Mi). It is known as HR 676.

There are both moral and pragmatic reasons to push for in effect universal coverage, noted Michael Rosen, the local's president. That is the aim of both Conyers bill at the federal level and the "Healthy Wisconsin" effort for the state.

As Labor Press passed its deadline, Local 212 had been working without a contract for over a year and negotiating since September of 2005. It represents 1,500 faculty as well as counselors, and other professional

staff who work at the Milwaukee Area Technical College, one of the ten largest technical colleges in the country and acknowledged as one of the most capable.

"One of the biggest obstacles in reaching a settlement is the rising cost of health care," Rosen noted.

"We believe that health care is a basic democratic right; all Americans should have health care. We also recognize that once there is universal coverage and health care costs are removed from negotiations, labor negotiations will be less contentious."

HR 676 would institute a single payer health care system by expanding a greatly improved Medicare system to every resident.

It would cover every person in the US for all necessary med-

ical care including prescription drugs, hospital, surgical, outpatient services, primary and preventive care, emergency services, dental, mental health, home health, physical therapy, rehabilitation (including for substance abuse), vision care, chiropractic and long term care. Conyers' proposal ends deductibles and co-payments and eliminates the high overhead and profits of the private health insurance industry.

It already has been endorsed by nearly 300 union organizations in 43 states. Sample resolutions and more information are available through Kay Tillow, All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care—HR 676, (502) 636-1551 or ursenpo@aol.com.

Insuring the Health of Wisconsin's
Working Families Since 1946



866-297-4977
www.wpsic.com

WPS
HEALTH INSURANCE®

© 2007 Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation.
All rights reserved. 21648-021-0706

Workers Compensation

Lawyers Representing Injured Workers
for over 50 years.

Michael H. Gillick - Dennis H. Wicht

Patrick J. Gillick - Charles J. Graf

Claim denied? Job Lost? Back Injured?
Hearing Loss? Other Questions? FOR ANSWERS:

Call 414-257-COMP (2667)

No fees unless we get you money.

Calendar

Tuesday, August 28

Last Laborfest Planning Meeting

5 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, August 29

MCLC Executive Board

2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Thursday, August 30

Celebrate the Legacy of Vincent Toran

Wisconsin's First African American Apprentice

Fund-raiser for new lab in his honor

\$25 admission, food, drinks

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave.

See story Page 26

Saturday-Sunday, September 1-2

Labor in the Pulpits

Visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org

for a complete schedule

See related stories on Pages 27-28 .

Monday, September 3

Laborfest!

Downtown Parade 11 a.m.

Free lakefront party, noon to 5 p.m.

See stories Page 1 and Pages 8-11

Wednesday, September 5

Delegate Meeting

Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO

6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Friday, September 7

Wisconsin LERA Conference

8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Four Points Sheraton, Airport

See story this page

Thursday, September 20

Labor Kick-Off Rally for United Way

6 p.m., Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave.

See United Way story on Page 23

Wednesday, September 26

MCLC Executive Board

2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, October 3

Delegate Meeting

Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO

6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Conference a big first for state LERA

Mayor Tom Barrett, 9to5 founder Ellen Bravo, the chair of the National Labor Relations Board - all are part of the state LERA stepping up and stepping out September 7 in its first-ever annual conference.

LERA stands for the Labor and Employment Relations Association, and the Wisconsin chapter puts together monthly luncheons on important issues for management, labor, academics and such associates as lawyers and public administrators.

It has won awards for these quiet luncheons, which will continue, but is elevating its presence with this conference of cutting-edge topics, workshops and speeches.

With a registration fee of \$95 for members, \$115 for guests, the conference will run from 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m., including a luncheon. All will be at the Four Points Sheraton (special rates have been arranged).

Barrett along with LERA officials will welcome attendees

and set the stage. Bravo will conduct a workshop on feminism and when it's good for business. The NLRB chair, Robert Battista, will speak after lunch.

Other special workshops will address arbitration, ethics, and bullying in the workplace. State AFL-CIO President David Newby and BIG STEP leader Earl Buford will be among the panelists exploring skilled construction workers in today's atmosphere.

LCLAA schedules weekend gathering

The Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) will make a weekend of its Policy Summit and Advocacy Day for Latino labor leaders. The event will be held September 30-October 2 at the Hilton Washington Hotel in Washington, DC.

The theme is "Transforming Mobilization into Political Action." Policy roundtables will highlight important legislative issues affecting Latino working families.

Delegates will also learn

A brochure and sign-up for the conference are available at www.uwm.edu/Org/LERA/ or call (414) 297-3883 or email suzanne.clement@nlrb.gov

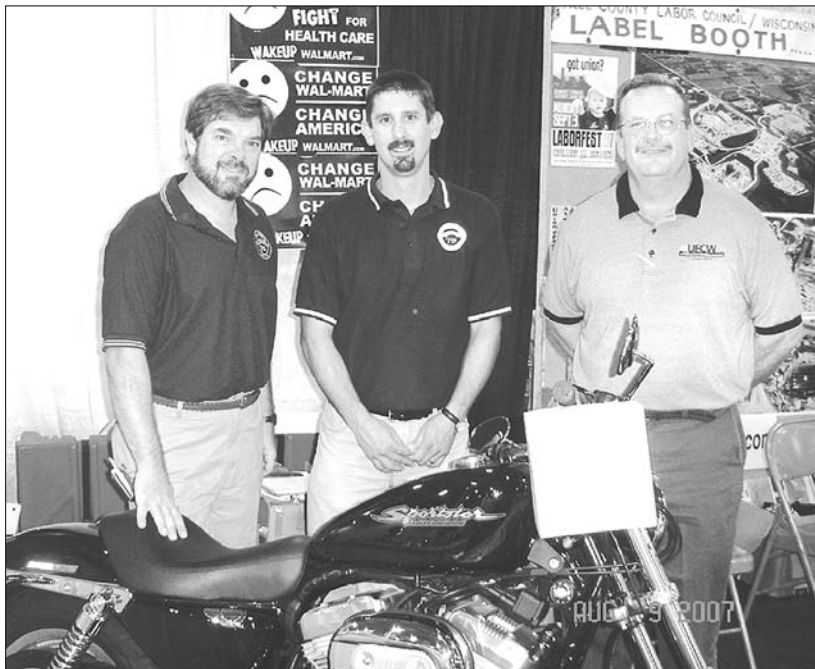
LERA takes no partisan attitude on issues. It shares research and ideas and presents viewpoints at its gatherings.

There are special organizational, student and retiree rates to join LERA and there is now a rolling membership effective for a year whenever you join.

about LCLAA's new plan - the Democracy Initiative: A Community-Building, Leadership Development and Political Empowerment Project.

"We must turn our voices and votes into positive results," said LCLAA National President Milton Rosado, citing the conference as an "opportunity to forward the Latino agenda for better jobs, better pay and a better quality of life in America."

To register online - and for hotel information - go to www.lclaa.org.



THE ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE OF WISCONSIN

General Orthopedics/Joint Replacement
Joint Reconstruction/Arthroscopic Surgery
Spinal Surgery/Fractures
Sports Medicine/Work Related Injuries

Jeffrey Butler, MD	William Pennington, MD
James Stonc, MD	Joel Wallskog, MD
Daniel Guehlstorf, MD	Jamie Edwards, MD
Steven Trinkl, MD	Thomas Perlewitz, MD
Eric Pifel, MD	

Immediate Appointments Available

Mention this ad.

Suite 102 2901 W. KK River Pkwy. Milwaukee, WI 53215 414-384-6700	Suite 310 2323 N. Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53226 414-771-5080	Suite 200 3111 W. Rawson Ave. Franklin, WI 53132 414-325-4320
--	---	--

www.TheOrthoInstitute.com

2810230

WE'LL GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANYBODY



Milwaukee's only exclusive Red Wing Shoe Stores

Red Wing Work Boots come with something extra - peace of mind. That's because they're built for your safety and comfort - from the soft padded collar to the tough steel toe.

Not Valid With Any Other Offer
Sizes 5-16, AA-EEEE

10% Discount with Ad

Expires 9/22/07

3821 S. 108th St.
Hwy. 100 & Beloit Rd.
414-321-4742



13680 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield Place Center
262-790-1927

Red Wing Shoe Store

OUR STATE FAIR

No, these are not the proud owners of a new Harley, but they are among the proud sellers of raffle tickets for the Laborfest hot ride. Volunteers hawked nearly \$4,000 in raffle tickets for the bike, manned the Union Label Booth in constant shifts during the 11 day State Fair, gave away trinkets, urged people to sign up to change Wal-Mart and also had a pretty good time taking in the fair after their shifts. Dozens of unions contributed helpers with Willie D. Ellis, president of the MCLC and chair of the Union Label Committee, riding herd. These were (from left) Tom Gasperetti and Wesley Zastrow from Plumbers Local 75 and Mark Culotte of UFCW Local 1473.

United From Page 1

W. St. Paul Avenue.

In the midst of brisk business, it featured a motivational talk from Rep. Barbara Toles who, for years before her election to the state assembly, served as United Way advocate for her union, the American Federation of Teachers Local 212.

Toles shared a key philosophy — not to concentrate on increased money from union members who had already given to United Way but rather to expand the pool of workers who were giving. “You would be amazed how many people have never been asked,” she said. “And how they do respond to being asked.”

Everyone recognizes the many areas that United Way helps, but Toles focuses on three groups served. “Foremost is children,” she said. “So many have been dealt a bad hand.”

“Then there are older adults — we all are heading that way. And then workers, who never expected to fall on hard times.”

“People recognize how easily any of us can fall into these paths and need help.”

Planning and motivational tips have made Milwaukee’s United Way community campaign among the nation’s most successful.

Executives who often get the headlines deserve applause for their generosity — but more than half United Way’s 40,000 contributors give \$100 or less a year. These are people hardly rolling in money. Yet still they give as much as they can or often more than is comfortable — probably responding with empathy to the very circumstances Toles describes.

The ordinary citizens who are the bread and butter of United Way success include union members.



The Labor Cabinet met August 8 in the boardroom of AFSCME District Council 48.

LEFT: During the meeting (right to left) they were stirred to action by Rep. Barbara Toles and heard compelling figures from MCLC leaders Sheila Cochran and Annie Wacker, who reported a greater number and size of treasury gifts in 2007 than was true at this point last year.

It’s one reason the field liaisons do triple duty. They help workers in trouble. They travel throughout the community to develop programs and attitudes that favor United Way and they also develop and operate charitable campaigns and workplace giving initiatives.

It’s interesting that in an age of such political division and efforts to spur class warfare that United Way also succeeds

because it is a bridge to understanding and cooperation between

employers and employees.

Conscious of the community’s needs come first in this campaign, and how many essential services require a United Way umbrella, the field mobilizers work to maximize giving at all companies. The strategies they help develop to motivate their union brothers and sisters flow into non-union workforces as well, though the unions keep their involvement quiet.

Sheila Cochran, the MCLC secretary-treasurer and chief

operating officer, serves as both labor representative on United Way committees and also as administrator for the field mobilizers.

She points out that her role and the role of field mobilizers require aggressiveness — in pursuing money — and diplomacy in getting everyone to work together.

Last year was the first time the union kick-off rally was held at the Center of Excellence, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave., which had

just opened. Now the facility has expanded, is undergoing further renovation with federal support and has multiplied its number of apprentice programs to prepare Milwaukee residents for skilled good-paying jobs.

It seemed ideal to return to the Center for the festive launching party since it represents such a deep partnership of labor, business and education — and it’s also a United Way agency, operated the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership in concert with BIG STEP.

The kickoff will include food, speeches, dignitaries, gifts from unions — and announcement of the most prestigious community award offered union members, named in honor of a legendary labor and United Way leader.

The annual Werner J. Schaefer Labor/United Way Community Service Award is given each year to a union member in the four-county region who reflects outstanding community service as a volunteer, resource or trainer.

To help union efforts for United Way or offer nominations for the award — or to find out what field mobilizers can do for workers in trouble — contact Annie Wacker - 414.771.9830 / annieaflcio@sbcglobal.net

OR Mike Balistriere - 414.771.9829 / mikeaflcio@sbcglobal.net

OR Jay Reinke - 414.771.9828 / jayaflcio@sbcglobal.net

Nominations for the Schaefer honor can be submitted until September 14. A written explanation, nomination form and when possible a photo should accompany nominations, which are voted on by a special labor committee. Send nominations to AFL-CIO Community Services, MCLC, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Suite 106, Milwaukee, WI 53214.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

Union sticks it to DuPont over chemical indifference

The United Steelworkers is pressing DuPont to take responsibility for what the union says are adverse health and environmental effects of PFOA, a class of chemicals used in Teflon coatings on cooking pans and utensils, in Scotch Guard carpeting and even on pizza boxes.

“What we would like DuPont to do is to stop making the stuff,” said the USW’s Rick Massengill. “And then to own up to its responsibility and do more widespread training and also testing of its workforce.”

The USW has been actively pursuing this health concern since 2005 when PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid, present in a DuPont product known as Zonyl) was identified as an environmentally persistent chemical that has

been linked with developmental impairment and is listed by EPA as a possible carcinogen.

One problem was that few people knew where the chemicals were or what was happening because of the manufacturing process. Neither workers nor

some companies knew that it was present without testing.

Massengill, a spokesman for the USW, accused DuPont of being “one of the worst companies we have to deal with - bar none” in owning up to workplace problems.

HAWKS QUINDEL EHLKE & PERRY, S.C.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

*Proudly Representing Labor Unions
and Members for Over 30 Years.*

Labor and Employment Law
Workers Compensation
Family Law - Divorce, Custody, Support
Social Security Disability Law
and Criminal Cases

414-271-8650
or
800-236-3348

Minimum wage boost important step to EFCA

From Sen. Russ Feingold
Special to Labor Press

In the new Democratic Congress, we are making real progress to support Wisconsin's working families. As a longtime supporter of the minimum wage, I was very pleased that the first increase in ten years was signed into law and took effect on July 24. On that day, hard-working Americans received the first of a number of increases over the next two years, which will bring the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour.

This new increase will help Americans struggling to make ends meet, and it's about time. The old minimum wage was at its lowest level since 1955 after adjusting for inflation. I have consistently supported Sen. Ted Kennedy's bill to give a raise to the hard-working Americans who make the minimum wage. I was pleased when the new Congress made increasing the federal minimum wage a top priority.

Right now, there are thirty-seven million Americans living in poverty, including thirteen million children. Since the 1970s, poverty has increased by fifty percent for full-time, year-round workers. Minimum wage workers who work full time earn \$10,700 a year, which is almost \$6,000 below the federal poverty guidelines for a family of three. No American should work full-time, year-round, and still live in poverty. While this modest increase in the federal minimum wage will not eliminate poverty, it will provide hard-working Americans with a well-deserved increase in their wages.

Increasing the minimum wage was a step in the right direction, but much more remains to be done. Congress can help more Americans increase their standard of living by supporting



US Sen. Russ Feingold

the right of workers to form and join unions to collectively bargain for better working conditions.

I recently voted in favor of the Employee Free Choice Act, which supports the right of workers to unionize and collectively bargain for better pay and benefits. I am encouraged that a majority of the Senate voted for EFCA. While passage was blocked by the Senate's Republican minority this time, I hope this vote has laid the groundwork for EFCA's eventual Senate passage.

Workers who belong to unions earn 30 percent more than non-union workers, are 62 percent more likely to have employer-provided health care, and are four times more likely to have a pension. That is why I will continue to advocate for EFCA, which supports American workers' rights, and their ability to build a better life.

An increase in the minimum wage is just a first step. We should pass EFCA, protect the safety of workers on the job, keep fighting unfair trade agreements, and make sure that the minimum wage is adequate, so that working families get the decent wages they deserve.

Trading in death

Unions paying the ultimate price for standing up in Colombia

By Mark Weisbrot
Special to Labor Press

A news report in the Washington Post summed up Colombia's ever-widening scandal: "Top paramilitary commanders have in recent days confirmed what human rights groups and others have long alleged: some of Colombia's most influential political, military and business figures helped build a powerful anti-guerrilla movement that operated with impunity, killed civilians and shipped cocaine to US cities."

Yet the Bush administration wants to sign a "free trade" agreement with Colombia, which is the administration's closest ally in Latin America and receives \$700 million annually in mostly military aid. Congress is threatening to block the agreement, and they should.

The word "paramilitary" is a euphemism. In the 1980s, when the Reagan administration was supporting the mass murder of tens of thousands of civilians in countries like Guatemala and El Salvador, these organizations were called "death squads."

The Colombian death squads -- which are classified as terrorist organizations by the US State Department -- were mostly demobilized in recent years under an agreement that allows lenient sentences for the murderers in exchange for telling the truth about their crimes.

But the truth has shown increasingly close ties between the death squads and high-ranking allies of President Alvaro Uribe.

More than a dozen legislators, mostly Uribe allies, have been arrested, and his foreign minister has resigned. As the investigation progresses, including to President Uribe's home state, it is becoming clear that the death squads have been an integral part of the government.

One of the most sinister revelations has been the government's role in the murder of trade unionists, which continues despite the incomplete demobilization. Last year 72 trade unionists were killed, making

Colombia the most dangerous place in the world by far for a union activist.

According to witnesses cooperating with the Colombian Attorney General's office, the government's intelligence services provided names and security details of union activists to the death squads. The former chief of the intelligence service - who managed Uribe's 2002 presidential campaign in the state of Magdalena - has been arrested and charged with conspiring with the death squads to kill union leaders and others.

Over the past three decades the United States has greatly expanded trade with -- and moved factories to -- countries where workers have limited rights to form unions or bargain collectively.

One of the main purposes of such commercial agreements as the NAFTA and the WTO has been to reduce wages here by throwing US workers into competition with their much lower-paid counterparts throughout the world.

Partly as a result of these policies, the average real wage in the US has hardly moved over the last 30 years, despite productivity increases every year. These "free trade" agreements have become increasingly unpopular, and this issue helped tip the balance of Congress to the Democrats in the 2006 election.

These agreements have also

lost popularity in Latin America, where the governments of Ecuador and Bolivia -- accountable to their voters -- cannot sign the kind of agreement that Colombia and Peru are willing to accept. All four countries currently have access to US markets under the ATPDEA (Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act).

But some Republicans in Congress have been threatening that duty-free access in order to punish Ecuador and Bolivia for not signing a "free trade" agreement, and for not being sufficiently subservient to foreign investors. This kind of bullying will not force these governments to ignore their electoral mandates and will only increase resentment against the United States in the region.

Congress should stop using the "free trade" preferences as a political weapon against Ecuador and Bolivia, and reject the agreements with Colombia and Peru.

Approving the Colombian agreement would send an especially chilling message to the world that Washington is seeking access to cheap and repressed labor -- and doesn't care how much violence is used to terrorize workers into submission.

The author is co-director of www.cept.net, the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington, DC.

MinutemanMedia.org

Did union card save his TV career?

Keith Olbermann, the MSNBC commentator who hosted the AFL-CIO's presidential forum Aug. 7, says a union card may have saved his broadcast career.

The host of "Countdown," famous for his forceful rhetorical dissection of the Bush administration and the war in Iraq, recounted his first radio job when he was 21 and how his boss' boss, returning from "a liquid lunch" overheard one of the frequent arguments Olbermann had about what news to cover.

"He basically fired me because he was drunk and didn't like me," recalled Olbermann. Instead, the boss received a reprimand.

"It's as simple as this," Olbermann told the AFL-CIO. "If that had not been a union operation, if there had been no Wire Service Guild, if we had not set certain brakes on the unilateral of what employers can and cannot do ... if that firing had held I might not have been able to continue in broadcasting."

Olbermann was also asked why he felt union involvement in politics was important. "It is a terrific way to let politicians know what large groups of the public want," he said. "The union base might be the last organic collective interest in American politics."

LASIK

for as little as \$1.74 a day...



...the price of a cup of coffee.

Call today for a complimentary evaluation.



1-800-20HAPPY

www.80020happy.com

Where are your healthcare dollars?

- No Consultants
- No Brokers
- No Stockholders
- No Commissions

+ AFFORDABILITY

+ SIMPLY AFFORDABLE COVERAGE

WHF

WISCONSIN HEALTH FUND™

www.whfund.org • +1-479-3634

Robert C. Angermeier
Attorney



Social Security Disability

- 30 years experience
- No attorney fees unless the case is successful
- Call now for your no obligation consultation

Law Offices of
Angermeier & Rogers, LLP
414-289-9200

First step to fixing property tax inequities

News from Wisconsin state AFL-CIO

Wisconsin's working families won a major victory against corporate efforts to create a new property tax loophole when Gov. Doyle signed Senate Bill 122.

It prevents more than \$1.5 billion worth of manufacturing property from being removed from the local tax rolls.

Otherwise, property taxes for everyone else would go up substantially — or communities would suffer major cuts in vital services.

"This success is a milestone in our campaign for tax fairness," said Phil Neuenfeldt, secretary-treasurer, Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

"For decades, the largest corporations have found new ways to avoid taxes, while shifting a larger share to homeowners and working families. It isn't right. SB 122 is the first step in rebuilding a tax system that is fair to everyone and will raise enough revenue to fund the vital public services on which we all rely — including corporations."

Bill 122 plugged the Newark Decision corporate tax loophole created when a court ruled in favor of a paperboard manufacturer based in Milwaukee and owned by the Newark Group, Inc., of New

Jersey. The ruling vastly expanded the interpretation of a Wisconsin property tax exemption for waste treatment facilities and pollution abatement equipment that was passed in 1953. The court ruled that the entire paperboard manufacturing facility was eligible for the property tax exemption because it recycled waste paper.

This opened the door for other companies to immediately seize on this new "recycling" tax loophole and apply for more than \$145 million in property tax exemptions. Local governments statewide were braced for many more companies to do the same. SB 122 restores the original intent of the 1953 law so that the property tax exemption is not abused.

It will apply only to property purchased or constructed as a waste treatment facility and used exclusively and directly to handle industrial waste or air contaminants.

The Newark corporate tax loophole hit a nerve. Closing the door on this new loophole was possible only because community leaders, union activists and some state legislators decided they weren't going to take it any more.

Senators Dave Hansen, a Democrat, and Robert Cowles of Green Bay and Rep. Dean Kaufert of Neenah, Republicans,



Phil Neuenfeldt

took the lead in introducing the bill. Elected officials worked with union leaders and the Institute for Wisconsin's Future to organize local meetings with state legislators to demonstrate support for SB 122.

Workers want to see their employers thrive, but workers are homeowners, too. They rely on public structures, public education and public investment for the quality of life in their local communities. After months of meetings and hundreds of postcards and calls to legislators, the Wisconsin Legislature passed SB 122 with no opposition.

The Newark corporate tax loophole is only the latest in a string of crafty tax avoidance schemes developed by corporate lawyers. According to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue, of the 4,275 corporations that filed income tax returns in 2003 and had total rev-

enue of more than \$100 million, 62% paid zero state income tax.

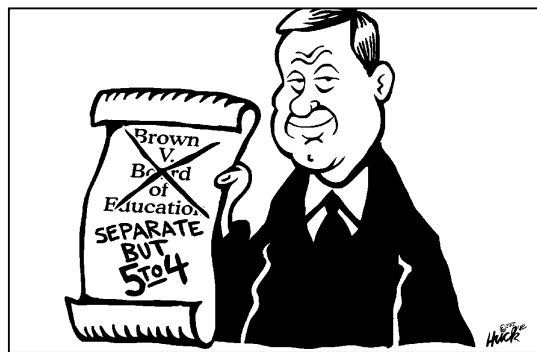
Wal-Mart avoids millions of dollars in state income tax by using clever accounting tricks, despite getting public subsidies for its stores. The "Las Vegas loophole" allowed 80% of Wisconsin banks to avoid income tax by shifting their Wisconsin profits to operations in Nevada, which has no corporate tax.

Forward Wisconsin, which promotes economic development, brags that "Wisconsin's business-friendly attitude is reflected in positive business tax changes made in every biennial legislative session since the early 1970s." According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Wisconsin business taxes are

lower than those in 35 other states.

Noted Neuenfeldt, "It's just not fair. Strong public structures — from schools, roads, sewers, parks, police and fire protection — are essential for a strong state economy. The corporate sector should not get a free ride on the backs of working families and homeowners.

"Corporations should pay their fair share of taxes to support the vital public services and quality public education, which they need as well. How many times have workers heard from an employer that there is no such thing as a free lunch? The Wisconsin State AFL-CIO is committed to work with allies to rebuild our tax system so that everyone picks up their fair share of the lunch tab."



Where is
our country headed?
What's driving you crazy?
What kind of president do
working families need?

WorkingFamiliesVote08 is the online center where union members can have their say in selecting America's next president. This is your comprehensive voter guide, full of news and the presidential candidates' records and positions on the issues we care about most.

Even better—you can join the conversation and take part in the AFL-CIO's presidential endorsement process. Click on FORUM at the top of the page and jump right in.

**JOIN THE CONVERSATION at
www.WorkingFamiliesVote08.org**

ADVERTISEMENT

WARNING: Low Back Pain Suffers! **"Controversial FREE Report Reveals The Shocking Truth About How To Eliminate YOUR Low Back Pain Once And For All!"**

FREE Report Written For Greater Milwaukee Residents Reveals How To Get Rid Of Your Low Back Pain Safely, Quickly, And Easily Without Drugs Or Surgery! Discover What Most Doctors Don't Even Know!

If you suffer from relentless and annoying pain in your lower back and you want it to end NOW - please continue reading this health bulletin. It may be the most important thing you read this year! Why is this? Finally, someone is speaking out and revealing to Greater Milwaukee residents the shocking truth getting rid of low back pain once and for all that many doctors don't know and many drug companies would prefer you never found out!

What Your Doctor Doesn't Know About Low Back Pain CAN Hurt YOU!

If you've gone to your family or company doctor complaining of low back pain, you may have heard from your doctor, "You're probably suffering from a sprain or strain and some bed rest and medication will take care of it."

This is a sure sign that your doctor may not be the person to talk to if you really want to safely get out of pain fast!

You see, most doctors don't have the training or experience to diagnose and treat the REAL cause of your low back pain. Not knowing what to look for will only result in ineffective treatments and you being in pain longer!

Dark Secrets Of Pain Medications Finally Revealed...

Taking any pain medication, whether it's over the counter or prescription, will never cure you of low pain! At best, these drugs will only offer 4-6 hours of relief

by sabotaging your body's ability to feel pain from your lower back.

This puts you at risk in 2

ways: 1. Pain is your body's way of keeping you injuring your back even more. Take a pill and you're disabling your body's first line of defense. And, 2. Taking drugs, even aspirin, can have damaging and sometimes deadly effects on your stomach lining, kidneys, and liver.

So before you take another medication to help you with your pain, ask yourself this question: *Are the risks (a chance at increased pain, and dangerous side effects) worth a measly 4-6 hours of numbed out pain?*

Here's Why Back Surgery Is Only 50-53% Effective...

If your doctor has suggested back surgery to relieve your pain, there is important information you simply MUST know! You see, many doctors don't have the training to detect the root cause of all your pain.

If your doctor's diagnosis is incorrect, how can a surgery which is performed under that diagnosis be helpful to you? This is why the vast majority of all low back surgeries are deemed unnecessary and will only offer temporary relief, *if any at all.*

World Famous Study Uncovers Startling Results...

In search of a safe, effective, and natural treatment for low back pain and similar ailments, a team of university scientists performed a double blind study. One group received the

traditional treatment of drugs traditionally prescribed by many doctors. The other group tried a drug and surgery free method that's been tried and tested for over 100 years. Both groups reported they felt better after one month. **Now, this is where it gets interesting...**

University Scientists Discover

#1 Treatment To Eliminate YOUR Back Pain Is...

After a month, all treatments were discontinued. Immediately the group receiving traditional care reported their pain had come back. The group that had received the natural, drug free treatment continued to report being pain free!

After a careful examination, it was discovered this Natural Treatment Corrects The REAL Cause Of YOUR Pain!

FREE Report Reveals How To Eliminate Your Low Back Pain Quickly, Safely, And Easily Without Dangerous Drugs And Unnecessary Surgery!

If you are one of the millions of Americans who continue to suffer from low back pain then this treatment may be perfect for YOU!

To learn more about the hidden truths about back pain, order the FREE report entitled "**The Truth About Low Back Pain And How To Eliminate It Once And For All Without Drugs Or Surgery!**" by calling toll-free **1-888-302-1889** and listening to the toll-free, 24 hour recorded message. Don't live another day in pain!

An excellent legacy to honor

When the community gathers August 30 at the Center of Excellence to celebrate "The Legacy of Vincent Toran," the first African American apprentice in Wisconsin, the shock may be how recent that legacy has been. And how influential.

It was only in 1952, with support of MATC teachers and colleagues who perceived his ability in four-year carpentry courses, that Toran completed the Milwaukee Area Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship & Training program previously denied to blacks. Many African Americans were accomplished in trades at the time but, shamefully, Wisconsin apprentice programs had been barred to them.

Toran and the carpenters broke that barrier. But Toran also endured hardships and prejudices to change Milwaukee and a number of trades -- achievements that led in 1991 to being the 36th person inducted into the Wisconsin Apprenticeship Hall of Fame.

He was used by educators and unions as an example of excellence and an advocate and administrator of affirmative action. After prominent positions in federal, state and union funded programs, he became executive director of "BIG STEP" - an acronym for the Building and Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program.

That group continues today as adjunct partner of WRTP, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership. With BIG STEP, WRTP runs the ever expanding apprentice and training programs at the Center of Excellence.

So the building is one part of Toran's legacy and it is building an apprentice lab named in his honor.

The event with cocktails and appetizers runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at the center, 3841 W. Wisconsin Ave., with a \$25 admission.

For more information, call (414) 342-9787.

MILWAUKEE PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Bobbie R. Webber
President

Michael E. Torpy
Secretary



Dean T. Gonzalez
Vice President

Steven J. Bukowski
Treasurer

LOCAL 215 • AFL-CIO

A Labor Day Salute To All of Our Union Friends

National Investment Services, Inc.

We are proud to provide investment management services for Jointly Trusteed Union Funds.

**777 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-765-1980**

Real stories, people flood the pulpits on Labor Day

On Labor Day weekend, more than 80 speakers from all strata of Milwaukee life and experience — young and old, rich and poor, union and non — will spread out among 100 congregations. For this Labor in the Pulpits they will share personal stories or philosophical reflections on something that all faiths ask us to do:

To speak out against injustice and to answer the call to be prophets of justice.

In this case and pointedly on this national holiday, the speakers will remind audiences, each in their own way, that this is not some strange offshoot theme — it is actually at the center of religious teaching, shared in diverse religious texts. It is ignored at the peril of one's soul.

It is, simply, the right of workers to organize, to work together without fear of censure, intimidation or harm. It is "The Struggle for God's Children, Immigrants and Citizens Alike."

About a dozen of the speakers will be low-wage workers engaged firsthand in that struggle and prepared to testify about how their health and their children's health are endangered and how they are denied the chance to speak up. The simple facts may shock some congregations — plantation treatment right here? Feudal attitudes of class and rulers just blocks from where I live? Afraid so.

Others will tell of such places they have visited throughout the state, the nation and the world, urging congregations to remember that sometimes it is only the accident of geography, the fate of birth, the availability of food and mentors, that have kept these horror stories from being your horror story. Some of the speakers will look back on their own experience as immigrants.

Some will, frankly, share their emotional passion: How can America's supposedly religious close off their minds and shutter their hearts and doors in the face of what the Bible teaches? Yes, for Christians, the current political climate is a particularly curious example of antagonism and selfishness since the Bible speaks of all of us as sojourners, strangers once who from our own experience should welcome other strangers in our midst.

On Aug. 7 at MCLC headquarters on Hawley Rd., about 30 of those 80 speakers got together for a picnic, singing and some tutorials about the issues and how to present them. They shared in person a packet of information that all speakers will receive in the mail, including a quick selection of some 30 biblical passages supporting the issue ("Woe to those who trample the needy . . . buying the poor for silver." "Treat the alien well like God has treated the Israelites.")



With ministers including (front left) chapter president David Heckenlively joining in, the Faith Community choir offered songs to warm up the picnic. Tables full of Labor in the Pulpits speakers were among the listeners including (front to back below) Kim Pendleton, Elizabeth Dixon and Elizabeth Skroch. BOTTOM LEFT: Rabbi Berman addresses the crowd. Check the Milwaukee County Labor Council's website: www.milwaukeeelabor.org, for a complete list of faith centers and speakers.



The instructions within the Muslim faith are similar.

And an orthodox rabbi, Yitchak Berman, picked up on the theme at the picnic, noting how the conservative Jewish faithful were turning increasingly

to recognize not just the value of workers but also the shame of how workers and immigrants have been exploited and how to shun companies that do so.

Other speakers, recognizing how modern times has made the

OUR FAITH INTERN CONTEMPLATES WHAT THE SUMMER MEANT TO HIM ON PAGE 28

message palatable.

Labor in the Pulpits is a national project, but historically Milwaukee has been among the leaders in the number of congregations participating.

This hardly happens by accident. The local sponsors, the Faith Community for Worker Justice (FCWJ), part of the national Interfaith Worker Justice, joins each summer with the Milwaukee County Labor Council, AFL-CIO, to fund summer interns (usually college graduates in theology or social studies) to run the show, preparing sheaves of information and hooking up capable speakers.

This year, the quiet but dedicated intern, Jon Royal — see Page 28 — a Milwaukee resident, did happy double duty, researching a specific case of worker injustice in the community, which will be revealed at many pulpits on Labor Day weekend.

The picnic, an indoor and outdoor affair, was put together by FCWJ, which served up brats, salad and dessert and whose choir kicked things off at Yatchak Hall.

Welcomes were offered by MCLC Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran, who introduced some of the actual workers who would be speaking and outlined their issues, and FCWJ Milwaukee chapter president, Rev. David Heckenlively.

theme uncomfortable for some parishioners, offered inviting methods to get listeners to share their own feelings and experiences. The aim, the speakers reminded the assembled, was to make the stories real and the

Will your congregation be part of Labor in the Pulpits? Check the ever updated complete list of times, locations and speakers at the Milwaukee County Labor Council's website: www.milwaukeeelabor.org.

Carhartt
ON WHEELS
BRINGING WORKWEAR TO YOU

Announcing Carhartt on Wheels:

- Contact us for an appointment and we will show up at your union meeting, job site, business or union hall with our trailer.
- We offer a full range of union workwear including flame resistant and safety reflective garments.
- Special discounts available to all carhartt on wheels customers.
- Quotes for quantity discounts available by request.
- Custom embroidery and silk screening available by order through UMA Specialties.
- Payments options are cash, check, Visa or Mastercard.

Carhartt On Wheels
N35W21100 Capitol Drive Suite 2
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Phone (262) 373-0777 www.carharttonwheels.com
Fax: (262) 373-0778 wheels@umaspecialties.com

Brought to you by UMA Specialties; we guarantee the union label.

LOOKING FOR A CAREER CHANGE?
AMERICAN INCOME LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY
N88 W17015 Main Street
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

We look forward to continuing our tradition of union serving unions.
Ask about our food bank.

For more information call:
Bill Verbeten or Laurie Onasch at 502-9777

OPEN
LOCAL #777



The 100% Union
Label Company



Activist reflects how workers changed faith

By Jon Royal

Special to Labor Press

What does it mean to be a person of faith? What does it mean to be an activist? I am not 100% sure of either and I doubt that I ever will, but this summer gave me a little better understanding of both.

Many of my activist tendencies may have been inspired by guilt that I was doing nothing to fix the broken down structure that allows for 80% of the wealth to be controlled by something like 20% of the population. How could we have existed in a structure like this that allowed for so much wealth discrepancy?

Fueled by a sense of anger to fix this, I set out on a journey to do my little part in creating the ideal that I had read in my political theory books.

What I found was something so much more inspiring, so much more beautiful; something that couldn't be published in a book by a great academic theorist.

What I found were people! People struggling without the slightest reason to hold on to any hope, yet everyday they got up that morning and went to fight the fight, to struggle for another day's wages, to put food on the table that night, to not get evicted from their house — the whole time subjected to some of the most atrocious working conditions that one could imagine.

When Mother Teresa was asked by sympathetic onlookers about what they could do for the people who had nothing, she always simply responded, come and see. For coming and seeing could transform lives toward love and justice.

Coming and seeing was my role this year organizing the Labor in the Pulpits program. Although much of my time was spent of the phone making pes-

In My View



Jon Royal (at right) helped put together the food, literature and people for the Labor in the Pulpits picnic. In this article he describes what he learned as the faith intern for the summer, working out of the MCLC offices. Among the speakers you can spot John Goldstein (center), past president of the MCLC.

tering phone calls to priests, rabbis, imams, reverends and potential speakers to get involved, in the end I got a good response!

About 100 congregations from across faith backgrounds decided to either speak on the issues of low wage worker justice or have speakers on Labor Day weekend come to their congregations and speak about worker justice. I also developed all the resources that would be used by all of the speakers.

Also on a weekly basis I would meet up with Helen, Christine, Kimberly, Jeanette, Desiree, and Jason to name a few of the workers at Capital Returns, an unfolding supportive campaign that the faith community and unions are getting involved with.

They were fed up with what was happening to them at work; they were tired of being treated

like slaves making barely enough to live. Not much has changed for the minority worker since the times of slavery and, after hearing their stories, I am convinced that slavery still exists. They get paid a meager wage that allows them to make only enough to pay for the most inexpensive of housing, and commodities.

What I learned is there are people, all individuals, all inspirational, all beautiful. All are stuck in these situations. They each have a story, they each have a face, they each have things that make them laugh and make them cry. They ARE human despite what sort of machines their jobs want to turn them into.

We gave each other hope; we gave each other inspiration that operated in a cyclical fashion. I would walk out of meetings feeling as if, collectively,

we had hope as a human community. Listening to Kimberly speak out about the conditions at work, I heard passion; prophetic, pure and unrefined. She spoke with a heart that had forgotten how to hate and instead had learned to get people to stand together as one. These were not people I just "helped." They helped me; through them I discovered the magic of living life to the fullest.

Now, I do not wish to paint this as a completely rose colored vision. There are stresses and really tough times. We watched as union busting took its toll on the Capital Returns workers and folks got scared about showing up to our union meetings. We heard the stories of miscarriages at the workplace, of mothers that wouldn't be told by the company that their children had had an accident and was on the verge of death in the hospital. I had people of faith tell me that I was all wrong, that helping the poor was not something that the church had any business in.

But I promise you, the good is there! And happiness cannot be found through the endless accumulation of things, but instead through the human relationship, the constant interactions of people with one another. That is the bounty that a life in solidarity with the poor affords.

On youtube, I watched a video where a guy was going out asking people in the streets what the meaning of life was. Overwhelmingly, people responded by saying that the goal was to be happy through work.

No matter how nutty it got sometimes, I cannot remember a time when I was happier and more fulfilled with the beauty of working so hard to achieve something through our journey here on Earth.

"I cannot remember a time when I was happier and more fulfilled with the beauty of working."

Riding home through the degraded and destitute neighborhoods, I saw hope breaking out of every boarded up window, colorful murals painted on the sides of abandoned buildings serving as constant reminders that a new world was possible despite the gunshots, drugs, and bombed out buildings. The community was alive, still looking for the good in every situation!

So where do I go from here? After thinking and praying on it I have decided that this is the work that I would like to continue to do for the next year. The internship will be over but I was able to connect with the Capuchin Volunteer Corps. The Capuchins have a program where young people of faith come together in a house that has a basis in voluntary simplicity. If it all works out, I will live in community, pray in community and act in community.

During the day, the group of volunteers will all work at various places around town primarily with the poor on all sorts of issues. Then in the evenings we will come home to share our experiences with one another. We will try to live our lives simply, in service to others.

Through this work I would continue to be a full time volunteer for the Faith Community for Worker Justice, organizing people of faith around issues of low wage worker justice and continue to stand in solidarity with the everyday people struggling to make ends meet.

Peace Always.

LABOR DAY GREETINGS



From The Officers and Members Of

Iron Workers Local 8

12034 W. Adler Lane (414) 476-9370

Salute to all workers on LABOR DAY



**BOILERMAKERS & HELPERS
CONSTRUCTION LOCAL 107**
Blane Tom, Business Manager

Support Union Theaters



Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Historic Captain Pabst Theater
Wisconsin Center
Summerfest & Ethnic Fests
Wisconsin State Fair
Miller Park
Milwaukee Stage Employees Union
Since 1894



Happy Labor Day

From Our Members Employed At:

Briess Industries, Inc.
International Malting Co.
Miller Brewing Co.

**BREWERY WORKERS
LOCAL 9 UAW**
(Amalgamated) AFL-CIO

9618 W. Greenfield Ave. (414) 475-5898



More than 120 years of service to millions of customers has taught us one thing.

Union employees make the difference.

At AT&T, our union workforce, comprised of members of the Communications Workers of America and other unions, is one of our most valuable assets. The expertise, dedication and tireless service of our union members is the backbone of our company.

The cable companies do not share our support for organized labor. But we will continue to rely on the union employees who helped us create the most secure and complete network in the world. We recognize you have a choice of telecommunications companies, but when making that choice, consider AT&T's decades-long commitment to employing union workers.



Support union workers.
For AT&T Phone, Internet, Video and Wireless Services,
call 1-888-667-8489 or go to att.com.

The new  **at&t**
Your world. Delivered.



Mistreated plant workers get MCLC help

The August delegate meeting - and multiple pulpits on Labor Day - serve as the opening salvo to introduce the community to the problems of workers at Capital Returns: Several hundred mostly African American women, many mothers, locked inside a building to help count, sort and return expired medicines and medical supplies. At puny wages.

All sorts of laws tell the medical industry how to dispose of expired drugs and used instruments, but no new regulations address the workers.

PHOTO AT LEFT: At the delegate meeting,, USW's Douglas Drake, a board member of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, introduced two of the workers. There were actually

about a dozen of the plant's hundreds of employees at the Serb Hall meeting. Many of them will serve as speakers at Labor in the Pulpits.

The steelworkers and MCLC have investigated the stories and been touched and angered. They have already helped bring the situation to elected officials (both US Rep. Gwen Moore and state Rep.

Barbara Toles have attended these meetings). Experts liken the treatment to plantation workers and want the larger community to hear the issues.

The workers want to speak for themselves, and the meetings and the pulpits give them that opportunity. Many were surprised and pleased that there are people in the community who care about their treatment.

Helping average worker is Bush's bridge too far

By Michael Rosen
Special to Labor Press

A week after a deadly bridge collapse in Minneapolis, President Bush dismissed the proposal of raising the federal gasoline tax to repair the nation's bridges.

Bush said Congress should change its priorities rather than raise revenue to fund repairs: "That's not the right way to prioritize the people's money. Before we raise taxes, which could affect economic growth, I would strongly urge the Congress to examine how they set priorities."

Bush ignored the fact that only 8% (\$24 billion) of the last \$286 billion highway bill was devoted to highway and bridge

projects singled out by lawmakers. The balance is distributed through grants to states, which decide how it will be spent. Federal money accounts for about 45% of all infrastructure spending.

The Democratic chairman of the House Transportation Committee proposed a 5-cent increase in the 18.3 cents-a-gallon federal gasoline tax to establish a new trust fund for repairing or replacing structurally deficient highway bridges.

More than 77,000 of the nation's bridges are rated structurally deficient, including that bridge that collapsed over the Mississippi River. The American Society of Civil Engineers estimates that it would cost \$1.6 trillion over five years just to bring the nation's infrastructure up to "good" condition. "Establishing a long-term development and maintenance plan must become a national priority," says the group.

Bush is nothing but audacious in challenging Congress' priorities. Recall that the price tag on the 2001 Bush tax cuts was \$1.3 trillion, almost enough to cover the entire cost of bringing the nation's roads and bridges up to par. Half of that tax cut went to the wealthiest 1%, those averaging over \$900,000 a year. One-third of all workers received no tax break at all.

It's the Bush administration's priorities that need changing!

The author, an MATC economics professor and president of the AFT Local 212, first posted this commentary at mid-coastviews.blogspot.com

PORT PUBLICATIONS
125 E. Main Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
262.284.3494 / 262.284.0067

Design • Newsletters • Books • Catalogs • Annual Reports • Newspapers
Parts Manuals • Product Brochures • Directories • Inserts • Presentation Folders

Proud Printers of the Award-Winning AFL-CIO Milwaukee Labor Press

www.portpublicationsinc.com

MASTERS OF THE ART OF FINE OFFSET PRINTING



It's one thing to expect consumers to be smarter and another to show them **how**.

HUMANA.

Guidance when you need it most

Seeing an industry crippled by complexity, Humana took action to change the way consumers choose and use healthcare - with innovations like our SmartSummary™ personal finance and benefits statement. And our HumanaAccess™ Card for easy access to spending accounts. The approach is called consumerism. And a landmark three-year study* proves it works.

Humana rethought an industry - shouldn't you rethink us? Humana. Rethink It.
Go to Humana.com/rethinkit or call 1-800-825-9900.

* Actual analysis prepared by Humana and presented at Society of Actuaries annual conference, June 2005

Humana Plans are offered by the Family of Insurance and Health Plan Companies including Humana Medical Plan, Inc., Humana Employers Health Plan of Georgia, Inc., Humana Health Plans, Inc., Humana Health Benefits Plan of Louisiana, Inc., Humana Health Plans of Michigan, Inc., Humana Health Plan of Ohio, Inc., Humana Health Plans of Puerto Rico, Inc., License # 00282-0008, Humana Wisconsin Health Organization Insurance Corporation, or Humana Health Plans of Texas, Inc. - A Health Maintenance Organization or insured by Humana Health Insurance Company of Florida, Inc., Humana Health Plan, Inc., Humana Health Benefits Plan of Louisiana, Inc., Humana Insurance Company, Humana Insurance Company of Kentucky, Employee Insurance Company, or Humana Insurance of Puerto Rico, Inc. License # 00184-0009

For Arizona Residents: Offered by Humana Health Plan, Inc. or insured by Humana Insurance Company, Employee Insurance Company

Please refer to your Benefit Plan Document or Certificate of Coverage/Insurance for more information on the company providing your benefits.

Our health benefit plans have limitations, and exclusions. An HSA is not a health benefit plan.

© 2007 Humana. All rights reserved.

- Group health
- Medicare
- Individual health
- Dental and Life

loans@brewerycu.com
memberservices@brewerycu.com

WE LOVE MAKING LOANS!

VISIT OUR NEW LOCATION
2826 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue
Inside Outpost Natural Foods

1351 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.
(414) 273-3170



The family Yatchak (above) awaits the start of the dinner. Pretty soon (far left) the serving line starts the guests moving. And (bottom left) get a load of the buns on the UFCW guys – no, we're talking about the baked goods distributed from seemingly endless containers.

Hands form a feast

Union members get a lot out of giving in their annual barbecue feast for the homeless and hungry at St. Ben's church downtown. But they sure gave a lot!



Many (plastic covered) hands made light work of the serving of nearly 500 guests.



Shiny fruit was purchased to go along with the brats and chips.



The church's Brother Dave noted the helpers happily and the turnout rather sadly as he opened with a prayer. He pointed out the need had grown all summer – in fact, it has been growing for several years.

LABOR DAY GREETINGS
 From our members working in skilled equipment operation, maintenance and mechanical operations throughout Wisconsin.

Operating Engineers Local 317
 3152 S. 27th Street Milwaukee, WI 53215
 Visit us at: www.317.org Phone 414-671-0317
 Business Manager: Mark Maierle

GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE
AMERICA'S UNION PRINTERS
Local 577M
Salutes Labor Day!
District Council 1
Protecting the Rights of Workers in the Upper Midwest

Phone: 414.476.1577 • 633 S. Hawley Road, Suite 100

Painters & Allied Trades District Council No. 7

Representing Wisconsin IUPAT Locals
 108, 579, 770, 781, 802
 934, 941 & 1204

**Painters, Drywall Tapers & Finishers
 Glaziers, Paint Makers &
 Sign Display Workers**

JOHN T. JORGENSEN
 BUSINESS MANAGER/SECRETARY-TREASURER
ADAM HOLMES
 ORGANIZER

**JOEL ALLEN, RICK SCHRIENER
 & DEAN WANTY**
 MILWAUKEE AREA REPRESENTATIVES

HEADQUARTERS: 2850 S. 166th St., New Berlin, WI (262) 797-7800

HIRE THE BEST
HIRE UNION

Local 494 Electricians – your best bet for electrical work.

The next time you hire electricians, hire the professionals of Electrical Workers Local 494. With an unparalleled commitment to excellence, our electricians are the best people for your next job. Each worker has unsurpassed training and safety expertise that makes them the most highly skilled and productive electricians available. Plus, our workers finish the job right the first time, on-time.

When you get a bid on your next project, make sure your electricians are union workers from Electrical Workers Local 494. For more information, call Mike Mueller at 414-327-5202. www.ibew494.com

Proud member of Building Advantage

BUILDING ADVANTAGE WISCONSIN
 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS AND TRADES

