



# Voters sift media simplicity in county exec contest

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

Foregone conclusions have often dominated Wisconsin primaries. But not the one Feb. 15, particularly in the contest for Milwaukee County executive.

It started -- unsettling enough -- with potentially eight unknown candidates threatening to clog the proceedings, though only one made it through.

So now it basically comes down to four names notable in civic affairs or public office vying for two spots on the April 5 general election ballot.

That means there is little time for ad money to make a big difference in the primary.

This race will be about perception, reputation, ideology and direction.

It could prove a crucial moment for a Milwaukee County in deeper fiscal crisis than the public has been allowed to know.

Too few recognize that this government's main role is providing essential basic services to the public from parks to courts to transit to health. Such social concerns take a backseat in Madison, though all the current state bills emphasize social sideshows of little weight for the Milwaukee public.

So what will dominate this primary in Milwaukee? Fighting back against the disconnected Madison agenda, beating down the public disinterest in this election so soon after the exhausting bigger show, or getting the public to grasp how essential county leadership really is in their daily lives?

This election could be the first step in getting county elected officials to finally pull in the same direction. All observers tend to agree that the disrespect and conflict between the County Board and departed County Executive Scott Walker have been a chief culprit in the past, wherever you lay the main guilt.

Many concede that this race -- even though it is for the brief year left in Walker's term before

## Analysis

we do it all over again and choose someone for the full four-years in 2012 -- could mark a major change in path and principles.

So the first challenge is to get the voters believing they can make a difference. The next challenge is facing up to some fascinating permutations about which two candidates will advance Feb. 15.

There's no smart money in figuring this one. The right-wing believers in talk radio think they make the difference. The believers in proven name recognition have a different view. The media believes it can dominate with labels and facile analysis. The believers that money talks think everyone else is wrong.

What will primary voters do? Will they add another year to the control of the county board chairman, much maligned in the media but by statute clearly in charge for the next 90 days?

Or will they go in a nonpartisan race for the Republican echo of Scott Walker sure to be touted by conservative talk radio?

Or will sympathy and long-time roots as progressive moderate elevate the recent state senator who lost largely because of a GOP blitz to Leah Vukmir?

Or will they listen to the conciliatory, long-term funding conduit for liberal causes (balanced by conservative free-market principles in such areas as education funding) of the wealthy philanthropist who has stepped from the financial shadows to make his private interest in public service vividly personal?

### Candidates: Abele

**Chris Abele** has funded many local and international progressive causes (including key ones embraced by unions but also a diverse list of community activities) through his Argosy Foundation and largely inherited

money. While known as an involved thinker, he is also a moneybags wealthy enough not to be beholden to traditional political pressures. His willingness to spend \$1 million of his own money and the connections to raise half a million more locally scared off a number of potential candidates (some put on that list former state Sen. Sheldon Wasserman, Rep. Jon Richards, County Treasurer Dan Diliberti, County Clerk Joe Czarnezki and Supervisors Marina Dimitrijevic and Johnny Thomas).

Because he's so hard to read and outguess (evasive of pigeonholes), his support becomes one of trust based on his reputation and track record. The media, of course, would rather brand him with pundit simplicities, as they do with all the candidates.

Given the current times, and the fact that dominant conservative talk radio prefers another, Abele was immediately confronted by doubters focusing on his money and novice status as a candidate - and that was from all sides.

Republicans like rich people but only those they can control, and Abele in interviews is a careful listener and rapid conversationalist, but clearly no one controls him. That scares everyone.

Dems who have knee-jerk doubts about trust fund babies scoffed at Abele's inherited wealth -- quite an ironic turn. Both business leaders and Democrats activists had long

Choices continued Page 6

## Delegates endorse political action

Without a sign of dissent, the democratically elected delegates to the labor council at their monthly meeting in January approved the recommendations of their Committee on Political Education for the upcoming elections and also endorsed the executive council's proposed increase in the monthly per capita dues for the 45,000 plus union members.

The Milwaukee Area Labor Council per capita for each member from its unions will grow from 92 cents to \$1.04 effective in February, and required from all participating in council votes. The increase will be apportioned among many council functions (including its charitable wing and political action campaigns).

The delegates also applauded the congressional citation received by Lyle Balistreri who had hosted in December the 100th birthday party for

### LABOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS FEB. 15



Primary endorsements in races with more than two candidates, to come down to final pairing on April 5. Left: **Eyon Biddle**, 10th District Milwaukee County Supervisor.

Below: **Pedro Colon** (incumbent), Milwaukee Circuit Court Branch 18 Judicial.



**Meagan Holmon**, Milwaukee School Board District 8



### LABOR COUNCIL ENDORSEMENTS APRIL 5 ELECTION

More choices will be announced after primary, but these contests featured only two or no opponents and brought early endorsements from COPE interviews at the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.



Newcomer **Mark Sain**, Milwaukee School Board District 1,



Board veteran **Terry Falk**, running for At Large Milwaukee School Board seat.

Right: Board chair **Michael Bonds**, unopposed District 3.



the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council, a lavish evening attended by several hundred union members and dignitaries at the downtown Hilton's main ballroom. **Photos Page 9.**

The COPE members -- a full room of representatives elected by member unions to evaluate each candidate's positions and written responses and conduct interviews -- listened to a dozen and a half candidates, many running in the Feb. 15 primary but some in just the April 5 general election (if there were two or fewer candidates in their contest).

In detailed voting after the interviews, a process that requires two-thirds agreement, the COPE representatives considered all the lawyers running for judge in Milwaukee Circuit Court Branch 18, passing on Roy Korte and Christopher Lipscomb

Primary continued Page 6

# Louis Butler survives life in judicial limbo

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

Of all the people to run into grocery shopping in December -- on the same day he was chosen as a sacrificial lamb to the GOP by the White House -- I was stopped by Louis Butler Jr. in a parking lot in the cold wind on an even colder day for him, and we had a brief talk.

I immediately commiserated on the recent news -- the reporter in me was also quietly seeking confirmation -- that the White House had just pulled his nomination for a federal judgeship as a bone to win a deal. I found him resigned but remarkably accepting of the vagaries of D.C. and the necessities facing the president. He was not critical but focused on moving forward in life and holiday spirit.

Butler and three others had been put on the chopping block just before Christmas. They were judicial type nominations for public office, removed by President Obama in a deal with the GOP to let about 18 other stalled nominations advance.

A good deal for the White House but painful for blameless victims, who had been painted as extremists simply because they

were, in large part, minorities deemed progressive.

But the deal was only for the last session of a disappearing Congress and on Jan. 5 Obama renominated Butler as United States District Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin, replacing the long-retired John C. Shabaz.

How long has Butler been in limbo? Butler was originally nominated for the same seat in September of 2009. Since then he has been stalled and blocked by Republicans in the Senate.

He is likely to be blocked again by new Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, but some of the realities have changed -- including the possibility that the concerns of the other new GOP senators might not be about reopening old wounds, particularly not now since in Butler's case the false reasoning behind the GOP animosity has been exposed.

It's clear today how big money and a bigger falsehood confronted Butler in his race for the Wisconsin Supreme Court and how his replacement was behind the worse excesses in that election.

Still, suggesting that the voters had rejected Butler (as opposed to acknowledging that

he was pounded with the image of a liberal out of touch with centrist values, which recent experience renders doubly false), the GOP has tried to demean his clearly accomplished track record as a balanced, thoughtful judge seeking a conciliatory approach. Today's public can't help noticing that this is just what the Wisconsin Supreme Court of today so desperately needs.

There is no question the GOP stall has been about politics and repellent rhetorical games (and in Wisconsin trying to keep the public's eyes off the ball of gridlock on the judiciary without Butler). It is interesting how the ad falsehood by the winner, Michael Gableman, creating the myth of "Loophole Louie," was successfully refuted by the national media -- what has replaced it to Wisconsin's sad reputation nationally with "Loophole Gableman" to describe the new justice's fight to keep from being removed for judicial malfeasance.

Between Gableman and Annette Zeigler, who has to recuse herself from so many cases because of money fed into her election by big business, the current state Supreme Court is in lockdown, one side



Louis Butler during his spring 2008 campaign for the state Supreme Court.

refusing to vote against principle, the other side recognizing that principled votes could undo the thin conservative majority.

Some unlikely consequence of those "victories" is that Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce is keeping all that money out of this year's Supreme Court race (at least on the surface), knowing that the Justice Department is watching and that the US Supreme Court has yet to clarify how much money is too much in such political races.

Another consequence. While current conservative justice David Prosser has not been in the headlines, defeating him would break the stalemate, which has encouraged some respected public service attorneys to enter the contest, including Asst. Atty. Gen. JoAnne F. Kloppenburg and Marla Stephens, director of appeals at the State Public Defenders Office. Prosser and

the other candidates except Stephens have agreed to accept public financial limits on their campaign money, a move to clean up the Gableman-Zeigler past. Two of these candidates advance Feb. 15 to the April 5 general election.

Butler, who has taught ethics to the nation's judges, went from the municipal bench to the circuit court and then to the Supreme Court, and is back again teaching, currently at UW - Madison law school while waiting to see if today's Senate will support Obama's new support for him.

The judge and I first met as fathers of daughters at the same public high school. He remains a surprisingly cheerful, balanced guy despite the adversities of the politics around him. To many his is a profile in courage and maybe will prove a case where justice delayed is not justice denied.

**ASBESTOSIS**

**LUNG CANCER**

**MESOTHELIOMA**

The nationally recognized attorneys at Paul & Hanley have been fighting for the health and safety of union members and their families since 1985. Jon R. Neumann, managing attorney of our Milwaukee office, has worked on behalf of asbestos victims for nearly a decade.

**PAUL & HANLEY LLP**

250 EAST WISCONSIN AVE., SUITE 1800  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202  
414-289-3135 • 800-933-2244  
BadgerStateAsbestos.com

ATTORNEY ADVERTISEMENT

**Label Me**

ALLIED PRINTING  
TRADES UNION COUNCIL  
MILWAUKEE • MADISON WI

**Union!**

Accept No Substitutes!

For more information about the Allied Label or for a complete list of Allied Label shops go to: **www.alliedlabel.org**

Allied Printing Trades Council of Milwaukee & Madison  
633 So. Hawley Road Milwaukee, WI 53214  
Phone # 414-476-1577 Fax# 414-476-2022  
E-mail dc1@577m.org

# Martha Love: Fighting for the color of Unity

By Lynnnda Guyton

Editorial Assistant, Labor Press

Martha Love, born and raised in Milwaukee, has been an active leader in the community and political education for important decades.

Love has been an effective participant in the labor movement for more than 37 years. From 1967 until 1995 she worked at what was then called the Milwaukee County Hospital as a medical assistant. After being able to join and become a member of the AFSCME union there, she realized there was a tremendous amount of organizing work to be done.

She recalled that times were extremely tough for African Americans during those years. She can tell horrible stories of how people of color were disenfranchised and treated, because managers did not respect the ideal of diversity.

She credits her mother and father for advising her early on to be careful of who you are involved with and who you partner with -- and she took that advice to heart.

Her decision to become a trade unionist was influenced not only by her father, Percy Dorsey Sr., but her uncle, Aaron Toliver. Both worked for A. O. Smith Corp.

They were very strong advocates in the 1960s to create a fair playing field for all workers. This is a philosophy she experienced and adopted for her own activism. What she saw in them was protection of a quality of life for African Americans in the work place that did not exist as a norm.

Through organized labor and her diligence, she was educated to seek teachable moments and learned to be a team player. Love recognized that being affiliated with a union was a good thing as she became an executive board member of AFSCME



Friends and dignitaries greeted Martha Love warmly at a number of holiday gatherings, including this one by AFSCME District Council 48, a union she was once a leader of.

## Spotlight

Local 1055, AFL-CIO, rising to the ranks of steward, vice president and president. She represented 2,500 members such as workers at the House of Correction, Mental Health Care career employees and technical staff, practical nurses and the maintenance facility crews working at the hospital and in the court system, just to name a few of the categories of workers she was responsible for.

In spite of all that's going on today, Love sees unions gaining strength through neighborhood-based organizations and most certainly the workplace.

"What people must recognize is that labor is unique in getting their message out," she said in an interview. "We primarily support those bread and butter issues that affect all of us. You also get the workers' attention because their quality of life is through their paycheck and benefits."

She remembered the adage for workers in the public sectors who want a direct impact on their quality of life: as "We Elect Our Bosses."

She says all of her labor experience has shaped and expanded her professional undertaking as a small business owner. In 2002 after serving a number of years as Community Relations Director for County Executive Tom Ament, she opened the Martha Love Association B, LLC a consulting firm that specializes in development, public outreach, strategies, business development, enterprise planning, project training, capacity building and strategies to assist local businesses succeed and thrive.

Love charts a course that opens doors, and exemplifies her unending advocacy for voiceless communities. Her message is simple, as she continues to urge people to recognize that "organized labor is your friend" and without it there would not be an infrastructure or eight hour work days. Her goal is to continue to fight for workers rights and neighborhood rights including housing and transportation.

Her extensive activities have provided her the opportunity to make great strides toward her goals for the community. She has broken down some barriers and believes in active participation as a route to a better society.

Martha Love has worn many hats and has been recognized nationally when serving as chairman of the State Democratic Party and recently as chair of the Milwaukee County Democratic Party. Currently she serves as an advisor or sits on the board of UMOS, Forest



Martha Love attended the recent UAW celebration in honor of Dr. King, where the keynote speaker Bill Lucy, the founder of the CBTU, whose regional conference had just honored both him and her. More photos on Page 8.

County Potawatomi Advisory Foundation, Board of the Women Fund, Martin Luther King Annual Celebration, founding member and chair of the African American Woman Fund Project.

She is also the host of "What's Going On", for MATA Community Media, a public affairs talk show on TV channel

14. (And this is only a short list of Love's contributions and achievements.)

She said that she was very grateful for all the awards and recognitions she has received from many organizations, but the honor she is most proud of is the one received from the Coalition of Black Trade Unions (CBTU) at its regional confer-

Her story is "one who has continued the Legacy of civil leaders in uniting for purpose."

ence in November 2010.

Love is one of the founders and a committed member of the Milwaukee chapter.

Regardless of her many accomplishments and many years of leading by example, she is committed to giving back, as many women stand on her shoulders -- and she shares with them the wealth of knowledge she has gained by life experiences.

She relaxes by listening to music, reading a good book or attending cultural events. She also is a history buff and is currently researching what impact different foods have on your system. So she understands why one should eat better to avoid a number of diseases.

Martha has been married for over 40 years to David Love who was also a union member working for the City Sanitation Department. She has three children and a host of grandchildren.



Northwest Funeral Chapel, Inc.  
O'Bee, 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'Bee  
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:

Mrs. Palmar Thames, U.S. Post Office

Mrs. Tamara Stewart, Milwaukee Police Department

Mr. Forrest Rash, A.O. Smith

Mr. Francis Green, Milwaukee County Transit System

Mr. Robert Wells, WE Energy

Mr. Mitchell Turner, City of Milwaukee

Mrs. Virginia Cameron, Milwaukee County

# Paycheck much bigger? Don't thank boss

It wasn't as publicized as the continuation of all the Bush era tax cuts, including those for the wealthiest 2% that was the extortion price for President Obama's approval of the deal (he just wanted the middle class tax cuts extended). That top 2% deal the GOP insisted on is acknowledged by economists as the weakest part of this enormous end-of-year stimulus deal.

But that deal did win direct wealth for working Americans and the results are appearing full blast in 2011 paychecks.

Some of the middle class tax cuts, while important, are likely invisible to the recipients, simply extending rates that existed in past years.

But one aspect of the law is making a visible difference immediately -- \$110 billion in tax relief this year spread among 159 million workers, by US Treasury official estimates.

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010, as the agreement signed by Obama is officially known, reduced the payroll tax paid by employees from 6.2% percent to 4.2% for the year.

The expected boost this year in paychecks averages \$695 per worker. But it could be a lot more depending on circumstances. The treasury department in a fact sheet offered a typical example for a

working married couple, one an imaginary truck driver earning \$28,000 and the spouse a nursing aide earning \$24,500. That couple would receive \$1,050 in tax relief from the payroll tax cut.

Economists from all camps expect this single one-year reduction to significantly boost economy and job growth as an emergency step forward, but there was also good news from the White House for those worried about Social Security's solvency from the deal.

The division's chief actuary has confirmed that fact, noting that each worker's Social Security benefit will be calculated without regard to the tax reduction and that the Social Security trust fund will be made whole by transfers from the General Fund.

For those worried about Social Security's image, there is a potential negative in public perception. Despite years of right-wing claims to the contrary, this is the first time that the federal deficit and Social Security can be directly linked, and even now that is only in attitude and in terms of opening a door one time. Because without hurting Social Security benefits, this provision does add to the deficit.

By law, Social Security has never added to the nation's deficit. It is paid within the con-

tributing to the system, with the government allowed to put that money to work in secured treasury notes (those mythical IOUs in TV ads, the same IOUs that funded World War II and other government initiatives, which by law the US cannot default on as long as the nation exists as a republic).

And while solvency is unaffected, the borrowing from the general fund makes up the difference. So for the first time someone can argue that Social Security has affected the deficit, though it all comes from a one-time suspension to aid the current economy.

Seniors never wanted to see this separation even opened a crack, and it comes at a time when fixes for the long-term system already include such ideas as raising the income level that must contribute to Social Security (long overdue to many) or raising the retirement age (a troublesome idea for anyone in a job too physically or psychologically demanding even for those 65).

"The danger is that this precedent becomes extended," said Bernie Sanders, the outspoken but influential independent senator from Vermont in interviews in mid-January about the Social Security part of the deal. "I know as surely as I'm

sitting here that a year from now, when President Obama says this is only a one-year program, what are Republicans going to say? They're going to say no."

Sanders, as do many advocates of keeping Social Security benefits intact, worry that the GOP will try to use this as a wedge to pressure Obama on other parts of his economic program.

Still, on the whole, there is no question the bill provides

instant benefits far beyond the much publicized continuation of tax cuts.

The payroll reduction is in addition to other job-creating provisions of the Act. These include expansions of the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit for working families, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which helps students and their families cover the cost of college tuition, extended unemployment insurance and business tax cuts.

## Calendar

Visit [www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org) for updated events

**Wednesday, January 26**  
**Executive Council Meeting**  
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

**Wednesday, February 2**  
**Monthly Delegate Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

**Tuesday, February 15**  
**Primary Election**  
**Polls Open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Vote Your Choice but Make Sure to Vote!**  
See Page 1 for labor council endorsements

**Tuesday, February 15**  
**UCAN Training Open to All Affiliates**  
6-8:30 p.m. for 8 Tuesdays, 633 S. Hawley Rd.  
Contact Jay Reinke (414) 771-9828 to sign up.

**Wednesday, February 23**  
**Executive Council Meeting**  
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

**Wednesday, March 2**  
**Monthly Delegate Meeting**  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

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

Published Monthly by the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO  
[www.milwaukeeelabor.org](http://www.milwaukeeelabor.org)

**Secretary-Treasurer . . . . . Sheila D. Cochran**  
**President . . . . . Willie D. Ellis**  
**Vice-President . . . . . Annie Wacker**  
**Administrative Assistant . . . . . Robin Lundgren**  
**Editor, Communications Director . . . . . Dominique Paul Noth**  
**Editorial Assistant, Advertising & Circulation . . . . . Lynnda Guyton**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD** - Richard Abelson, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees District Council 48, Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council; Stephanie Bloomingdale, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals; William F. Christianson, International Association of Machinists Lodge 1845; Ike Edwards, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1473; Nacarri Feaster, Laborers Local 113; James K. Fields, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 33; Sam Gallo, Workers United Local 122; Larry L. Nunley, IAMAW, Lodge 1916; Anthony Rainey, UAW Local 469 (CBTU representative); Scott J. Redman, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 75; Joy Roberts, Communications Workers America Local 4603; Kenneth Roberts III, Graphics Communications Council/International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 577M; Andy Voelzke, United Steel Workers (USW) Local 2-209; DiAnn Wagner, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2150 (APRI Representative); Patrick R. Weyer, Brewery Workers 9, United Auto Workers; Ross M. Winklbauer Sr., United Steel Workers (USW) Local 2-232.

**ILCA** **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: [dom@milwaukeeelabor.org](mailto:dom@milwaukeeelabor.org)  
**MLPA**  
Midwest Labor Press Association

THE MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS (USPS 350-360) is published once a month by the Milwaukee Area 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 Area Labor Council or any of its affiliates. COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).



**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 From Accidents Contingent Fee Available**

Automobile & Truck Accidents | Motorcycle Accidents | Product Defects | Fires & Explosions  
Farm Accidents Boat & Air Accidents | Medical Malpractice | Workplace Injury  
Construction Accidents | Machinery Accidents | Nursing Home Negligence & Elder Care Abuse  
**Our Reputation, Experience & Honesty Result In Most Of Our Cases Settling Without a Lawsuit or Trial**  
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 Lawyers Named in the Best Lawyers in America Publication Than Any Other Personal Injury Law Firm in Wisconsin

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

Milwaukee Office - US Bank Center  
**1-800-242-7205**



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

Waukesha 1-800-559-5599	Appleton 1-800-472-9334	Sheboygan 1-866-888-3620
Racine 1-800-682-3434	Green Bay 1-800-757-8644	Stevens Point 1-800-248-0171
Kenosha 1-800-388-8222	Lake Geneva 1-800-275-1729	Rhineland 1-800-369-5990
Madison 1-800-822-1690	West Bend 1-800-242-7205	Wausau 1-800-248-0171

Visit us on the web at [www.habush.com](http://www.habush.com)

# What will follow the Congress that achieved?

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

The GOP jubilation as the 112th Congress was sworn in a few weeks ago only magnified how misleading were the headlines about the do-nothing 111th Congress - an attitude that was a big part of the Democrats' election loss last November.

Maybe too slow and not clear enough, certainly for the voters, but in terms of results and keeping the US stable through a crisis, that Congress in the last two years will stand as one of the most productive and genuinely progressive in recent times. (Not Democrat progressive but US progressive).

Americans will have to keep that reality firmly in mind as they examine the course of the new Congress over the next few months. Even before the last one ended it was demonized. Republicans feasted on the clever politics of saying no, and selling America on how a black president was forcing gridlock, thus encouraging voters to anticipate disappointment. Certainly belief in gridlock gripped the media and the public in the waning months of Democratic control of both Houses and the White House.

But a bird's-eye view of the full run reveals some remarkable change for America's better, along bipartisan lines. Only now is it better reflected in economic numbers and a healthier Wall Street (a steady return toward normal that the current president will certainly not get any credit for).

Interesting how the healthier hire and recovery numbers only appeared after Nov. 2. Interesting how simply acting like the grownup in the room at the Tucson memorial, (a grown-up parent for the country who saw the future through the eyes of a fallen child) drew praise from the right for the eloquent steadiness the president has

always shown, sometimes to the dismay of the left. Of course, his main reward was a temporary delay in trying to undo his best work and reviving the more demeaning political attacks on his agenda.

Oh yes, the media was still consumed in January with the largely feeble attempts to undermine Obama's achievements and to nibble away at the edges of what the public now generally accepts as positive health care reform legislation (which does what even many in the GOP originally wanted, to include more citizens in health insurance to bring down over time the costs for everyone).

But these continuing attacks on the fringes of victory are just spending taxpayer money in showboating and shouldn't deflect public attention from the broad sweep of rescue and redemption of America.

It began with the successful salvage operations that at the minimum pulled America back from the economic meltdown (some say a second Great Depression). Whether enough was done can be argued for years, but the dreaded TARP started under the Bush years and run successfully by the Obama administration certainly righted the financial institutions (some say unfortunately returning them to the comfortable excess of the past but certainly putting in more controls and actually now on the path to making money out of the taxpayers' investment).

Despite the negative and now discredited GOP rhetoric, the Obama stimulus bill actually has created as well as saved millions of jobs (though millions more are still needed). Other successes despite naysayers were Cash for Clunkers and the rescue of the American auto industry back to profitability, keeping a million jobs deemed lost by the GOP; the stiffer rules imposed on the financial industry; a new agency to protect consumer

## Comment

credit with transparent rules, and dozens of other bills that added to America's security, education and technological advances.

The last few weeks of Congress that voters understandably expected to end in gridlock found the president accepting GOP blackmail and the weakest part of existing tax rates they insisted upon (those for the very rich, who spend the least of what they get on the US economy) in order to keep cuts for the middle class and add a backdoor immediate stimulus of larger size than the original stimulus bill.

Obama also got out of the late flurry a repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell for the military, which most of the country except John McCain supported, the START Treaty (ditto), the first substantial change in decades to protect food and attack E. coli, health coverage for 9/11 responders, unemployment tax relief and much more.

In short, the productivity that took too long to reach and many thought would never get there did. Not that the GOP policy of "no" didn't have destructive consequences.

A number of deficit reducing measures went down to defeat, most prominent surprisingly was the DREAM Act, which would have cut \$1.3 billion out of the deficit in 9 years while increasing revenue some \$2.5 billion. Also blocked were any meaningful attack on global warming and even something else both parties

once wanted, the closing of Guantanamo.

Despite those failures and the continuing mutterings from the left about principles abandoned in the rush for compromise, the lesson is clear. The new Congress will have to do headstands to be even a distant echo of the 111th Congress.

The danger for the Senate Democrats, still in control, is not to be seen as obstructionist to the House Republicans as the former GOP once was in blocking some 400 bills sent the Senate's way. How to resist bad ideas while influencing good ones will be a big task unless the Democrats want to be equal opportunity extortionists.

The task is even harder if the House GOP pushes ahead on useless repeal bills and inflated subpoenas (trying to pretend that Fannie and Freddie Mac should have been in the financial regulatory bill they fought against getting passed in the first place, an exercise in hypocrisy). One sign that the GOP House is in a hate mood toward all unions came with its forced change after 122 years in the name of a committee from the Education and Labor Committee to the Education and Workforce Committee. The change was petty - and it didn't create one single job.

Now it might be a good thing if the biggest government scandals of the past decade were exposed finally to high-profile House hearings, such as "how the United States was misled into the Iraq invasion, how the Afghan War was bungled, how torture became a US practice, or how bank deregulation and Wall

Street greed nearly destroyed the economy." Except, as author Robert Parry pointed out, none of those are targets of the GOP-led House investigations. These topics are off-limits because they started when the GOP had control.

Obama from his inaugural on actually spoke about reducing spending and insisted on "pay as you go" legislation while resisting left-wing calls to investigate all of the above. Now the GOP wants deficit cuts without touching the really big money, such as in defense, and wants not "pay as you go" but "take our word for it" legislation that bypasses nonpartisan double-checks on spending bills.

And to be fair, the moderate deal Obama cut with the Republicans to break the 2010 logjam will add to the federal deficit from the get-go.

That's something the president occasionally mentions but the GOP seldom points out that it insisted on in the deal. But the conservatives who say they want to cut the deficit are ignoring that simple reality, even as they ignore any neutral estimates of how the health care bill they want to repeal would directly bring down the deficit.

So keep your fingers crossed about real concern about spending -- but face reality.

We actually had a do-something Congress, but we are unlikely to see that again for two more years. Maybe an intelligently angry public - not a reactionary one - could cut into that time. More likely, it will be two more years for anything positive to happen.

## Rollovers Made Easy

Deferred Comp, 401(k), 457, 403(b), Back Drop



**Robert S. Johnston**  
Financial Adviser, Financial Services Representative, Special Needs Planner  
(The MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning)  
9000 W. Chester Street, Suite 105  
Milwaukee, WI 53214  
www.nextlevelpwm.com

Contact Bob today at (414) 615-4912  
or at bob.johnston@nextlevelpwm.com

**NEXT LEVEL**  
Planning & Wealth Management

(An office of MetLife.)

**MetLife**

# 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.

# Choices

From Page 1

pursued Abele's largesse, until, that is, he presumed to actually step out of the shadows and seek public office. How dare he?

**Y**et both camps know more than most that Abele is no dilettante. For years he has co-chaired study committees by the business community on Milwaukee County and in this race probably knows as much about the county's financial issues as the best known candidate. Lee Holloway, chairman of the county board. Abele has shown a hands-on interest in whatever he pursues, from supporting the Royal Shakespeare Company to funding women in international culture to promoting local causes.

He was shrewd enough to court business supporters from the start, though his close ties to GOP businessman Sheldon Lubar may have backfired. It forced him to disassociate from the perception that Lubar wants to "blow up" county government.

To counter that, he hired the key players in Tom Barrett's campaign for governor, though they lack the sort of down-home field rep that Abele may most desperately need in the primary. But they do know how to raise money and assuage the business community.

Those trying to read Abele's intentions early find him skittish and he will have to clarify that and prove he has street smarts in a primary where presence will count even more than finances. He will also have to explain his support in 2006 of the idea of a trustee council appointed by the governor and the legislator if

county officials can't work together. Does that mean, elect him or else?

For unions, he defends public workers but is open to private companies if they improve services and save money, but specifics beyond lip-service from all candidates are still scant. None reject privatization.

## Candidates: Holloway

**L**ee Holloway is the opponent with street smarts, and a track record of defending the safety net needs of the downtrodden and the minority community.

But that plus could make this primary an unfortunate case of black versus white, because color is only one of the issues of strong county governance. Still he is the only notable African American in the contest, in a primary where minority voters could operate as a bloc.

The mass media and talk radio have painted him as a thug and slum landlord (heaven knows he's in constant trouble for minor city code violations, which he typically inflates to blaming the city as revenue scrounge). But despite the harping, he is actually a conservative black businessman with a genuine commitment to the county's role in health care and safety nets. He's actually been as much criticized in the progressive media for working with Walker as lambasted on WTJM Radio for working against Walker.

Holloway has to those who know him a quiet sense of humor and the capacity to listen but the qualities that mainly come across are ego, his sometimes bull-necked manner and his reputation for demanding attention, for not

suffering disagreement magnanimously.

That image could be his worst enemy, though many in the community know this side has been overblown in the media, which seldom credits good ideas behind a hard exterior.

**H**is mandated start as acting county executive, likely to follow with his naming a woman as the nominal county exec (look for another obedient supporter, echoing his appointment of Michael Mayo as acting board chairman), reflects that until May he actually controls the direction of the county and probably has the board votes to get his general way.

And few object to what he has outlined -- finding funding for public transit, solving the county mental health boondoggle with a series of smaller dispersed facilities, consolidating services with other local governments for lower costs, resolving the union stalemates on things like furlough days and pension formulas (though the devil is in the unfolding details).

But he does not take opposition well and derides rather than engages his opponents.

**W**ere he not running, Holloway would have actually set the key issues for the race -- choose Walker's old way or take Holloway's general approach to mutual solutions. Once he decided to run, however, his outline became not the issues to debate but the personal plank in his campaign platform, forcing others to challenge the details and his manner.

Holloway wasn't credited in the Walker years for acumen and good ideas and that enforced that image of a surly Buddha with a thin skin. The white-dominated media had a field day with his lavish investiture (two judges, hundreds of guests) neglecting that he is the first African American to serve as county executive and was reflecting a tradition of pride and pomp.

But many voters also angrily noticed how the newspaper pounded on Holloway's landlord problems and how radio went overly sarcastic about his conflicts with Walker without reflecting his rescuing role.

Still, the county has suffered

enough vindictiveness and misplaced vanity in recent times. So Holloway's dismissive attitude and brusqueness could cause primary problems (though more honest than the two-faced rhetoric more polished politicians have employed of late).

## Candidates: Stone

**W**hich brings us to the affable Rep. **Jeff Stone**, who made the holiday party rounds of all interested sectors but avoided in-depth interviews by local unions for the primary.

That duck from questioning came in the same week he co-sponsored a voter ID bill in Madison, which unions don't fear (their members top any surveys of people who possess photo identifications) but oppose because they know how many of the elderly, public transit users and working poor don't have such IDs. They actually depend on an empathetic county executive to help protect that ability to function as well as to vote.

Stone has been too busy sponsoring such Republican bills that address problems that don't exist (such as voter fraud, laughed away in every responsible survey). These bills fill campaign promises to a minority of people who voted for the conservative extremists in the GOP (undermining Stone's efforts to paint himself as a moderate).

He scores few points in the county race, since urban voters hardly believe without evidence that lower liabilities on businesses and health providers for causing injury and death will save money (Wisconsin juries have always been cautious in this regard) or that adding millions to the deficit to solve problems that don't exist is any kind of solution to the employment crisis.

**V**oters who thought the November election was about jobs have yet to see a single bill that isn't pushing some long-debunked social agenda -- and Stone has been right there pushing.

All that confirms his mantle as natural conservative Walker heir. Unknown outside a few western suburbs, and hoping the voters don't tie his presence to such frequent ideas to remove from county control such key

services as the airport and justice services, he knows conservative talk radio will bless his push for Walker's followers and demean all others in the race. But that's fighting for the one-third of the county voters who backed Walker three months ago when Barrett devastatingly carried the county.

Low turnout is clearly the key to Stone's race, at a time when many in this community believe Walker skipped off to Madison just as the worst news of his county reign was about to land.

Stone has to prove he's more than the Madison guy who wanted to regionalize county services, something more than the legislator who earned a zero rating last session from the state AFL-CIO.

## Candidates: Sullivan

**W**hich brings us to the other name, **Jim Sullivan**, who also has to demonstrate knowledge closer to Milwaukee than his Madison experience. By history he has that experience, as a local official in Wauwatosa with close Milwaukee County roots and a good reputation with unions and moderate Democrats. He also has a track record of a common sense approach and the ability to work with all sides on problem solving.

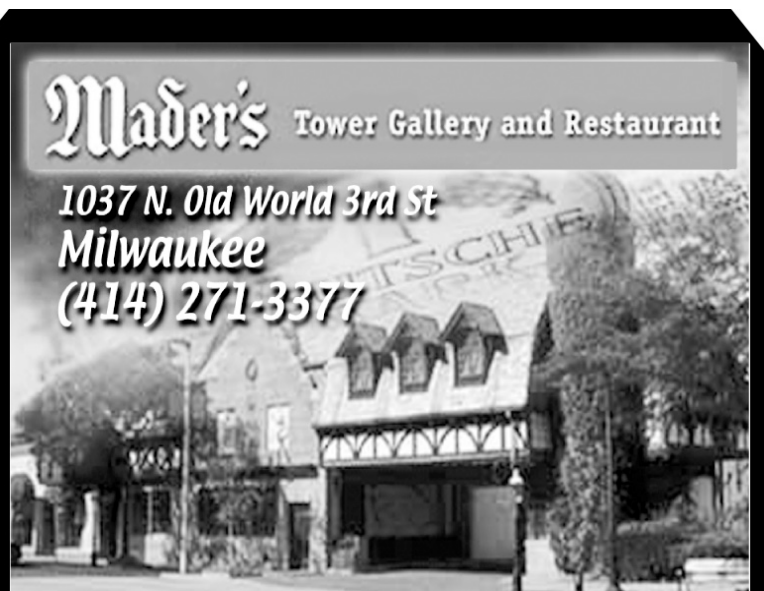
Without much money or time, few believe that Sullivan, though personable, can make an impact by Feb. 15. But the way the field lines up, the voters could split a number of ways to let the final two move on.

Sullivan is the likely inheritor of those who hate what the extreme right is doing. Stone will have the solid backing of Walker die-hards, who credit him with influence on the new governor.

Holloway has an edge in countywide recognition, for good and ill. His experience and his personal image are still at war in this contest.

Abele is the unknown but potentially dynamic factor - worth drawing out, worth pinning down.

He still has to clearly define himself beyond his money for the primary. If he does, that financial clout and a veteran campaign team could make quite a difference for April 5.



**Mader's** Tower Gallery and Restaurant

1037 N. Old World 3rd St  
Milwaukee  
(414) 271-3377

Plan Your Next  
Function at  
Mader's

EMPLOYEES ARE REPRESENTED BY:

**WORKERS UNITED  
LOCAL 122  
(414) 271-0290**



125 E. Main Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262.284.3494 f262.284.0067

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 AT THE ART OF FINE OFFSET PRINTING



# Meeting the county exec candidates



**Union members** had ample chances at holiday parties to meet most of the candidates for county executive (and will hear more from them at forums). Union delegates and leaders had a chance to interview all – except **Jeff Stone** (left). He actively hit the holiday party circuit but declined to sit down for COPE interviews Jan. 11. That was the same time frame he was introducing Walker's voter ID concept in the Madison legislature.

**Lee Holloway** (above right) and **Chris Abele** (above left) actually bumped into each other at those COPE interviews, a perfectly cordial hallway encounter though Abele has criticized Holloway's staff appointment of Renee Booker and Holloway has derided Abele's novice status as office holder. Also bumping into those candidates was another, **Jim Sullivan**, also seen top right chatting up union members who supported him in the past. Observers at that MALC open house may have also seen an interesting impromptu between Holloway and Mayor Tom Barrett about the city's practice of fining housing code violators, one of whom has been property owner Holloway.. – All candidate photos in this issue by Labor Press.



## Complete care for every one of your smiles.



At Dental Associates, we have all the expertise you need to ensure your dental health. From regular check-ups to periodontal surgery, braces to implants, our caring professionals will treat your family's dental health needs throughout your lives.

**Schedule your exam and dental cleaning appointment today** – for expert, personalized care that will keep you smiling!

**Fond du Lac**  
545 E. Johnson St.  
(920) 924 9090  
(800) 398 0672

**Wauwatosa**  
11711 W. Burleigh St.  
(414) 771 2345  
(800) 398 0687

**Milwaukee**  
1135 S. Cesar Chavez Dr.  
(414) 645 4540  
(866) 346 8098

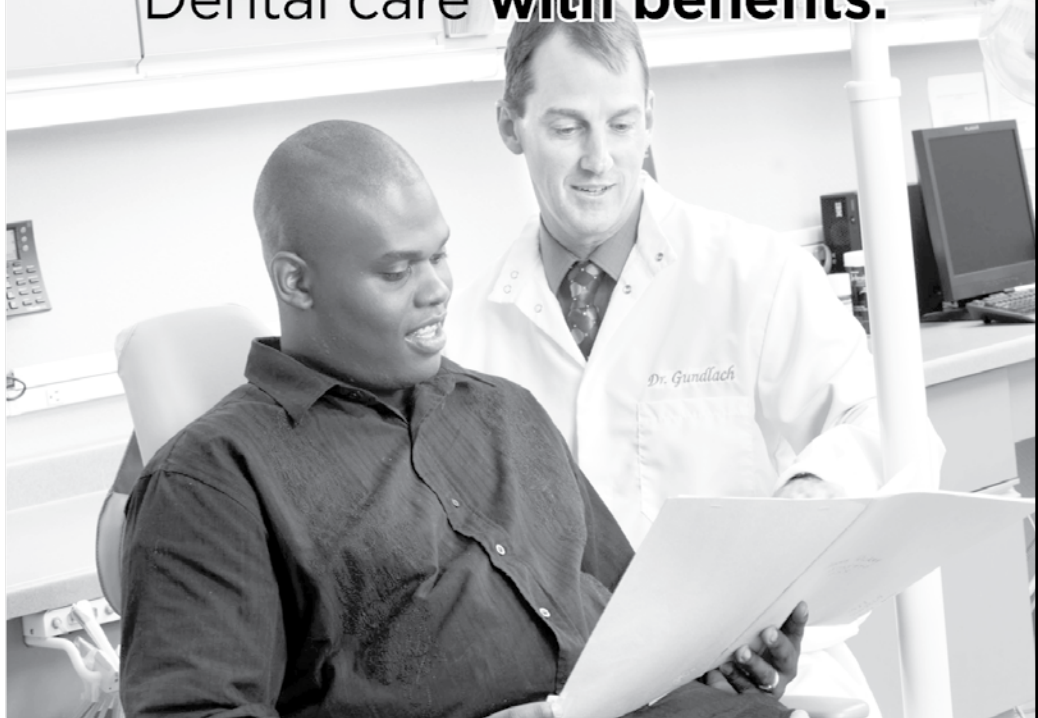
**Kenosha**  
7117 Green Bay Rd.  
(262) 942 7000  
(866) 811 4619

**Dental Associates**



[dentalassociates.com/lp](http://dentalassociates.com/lp)

## Dental care with benefits.



We understand how hard it is to pay out-of-pocket costs for a dental visit.

**CARE+PLUS** dental insurance makes **high quality dental care both accessible and affordable for you and your family.** Available at any of the convenient Dental Associates centers.

**Call 800 318 7007** to learn how you can save on dental expenses with **CARE+PLUS.**

CARE+PLUS Dental Plans, Inc. is a non-profit Limited Service Health Organization licensed and regulated by the State of Wisconsin Office of the Commissioner of Insurance.

Dental Associates is the exclusive provider to CARE+PLUS Dental Plans Inc.

**CarePlus**  
Dental Insurance Plans



[careplusdentalplans.com/lp](http://careplusdentalplans.com/lp)

# Lucy's truths about Dr. King

Bill Lucy was a young AFSCME representative called to Memphis in 1968 to help with the strike of sanitation workers. The circumstance made him a first place witness to history, featured in documentaries of the time, emerging as an eloquent speaker about public workers and union-

ism and a leader whose life was changed by the power of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and the impact of his assassination. Lucy became not just the longtime secretary-treasurer of AFSCME International until his recent retirement (he remains on the AFL-CIO executive council), but a major force in changing the

AFL-CIO. A few years after King's assassination, which he still does not think was the work of only a lone gunman, he reacted forcibly to the AFL-CIO support of Richard Nixon by founding what today is the largest and most effective organization for the principles of trade unionism, the Congress for Black Trade Unionists. He remains its president and visionary, honored by the CBTU conference in Milwaukee in November.

So it was a coup to get him to return so soon and a notable event for a two-decade old union ceremony to land him as keynote speaker. Lucy drew a full crowd January 8 after the UAW announced him as the feature of its annual King tribute, held at the Laborers Local 113 Hall and ending with a full meal for the assembled

Familiar and little known sayings by King dotted the walls. Patrick Weyer, president of UAW Brewery Workers Local 9, and Marie Britt-Sharpe of the local and the UAW civil rights committee, handled the spoken words tribute to King's sayings. The Riverside Choir and singer Penny Smith provided spiritual musical support.

A central award named for the late Janie Jackson, an inspirational UAW member whose example brought many activists into the fold, was given to two other inspirational figures. One was CWA retiree and former leader Mary Jo Avery, who bounced in time to the gospel music as if retirement could not slow her spirit (she remains chair of the Milwaukee chapter of APRI). The other was UAW International representative Tony Rainey. Both have served actively for the Milwaukee Area Labor Council.

But the centerpiece was still



Bill Lucy chatted with crowds of guests, such as UW Regent and UAW leader John Drew below, while waiting his turn to speak.

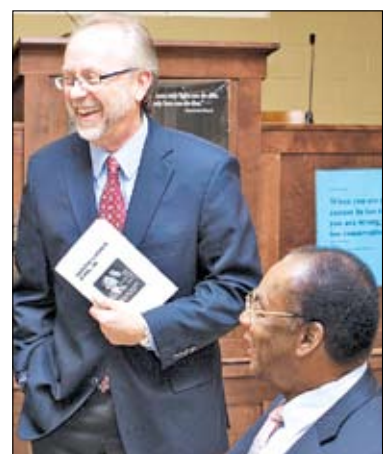
Lucy's speech.

Not just his memories, which he shared, but the philosophy that has driven his life, informed the CBTU and which he still believes will carry America to greatness, and even back to reality despite the recent elections and the current disdain for the public service workers he has spent his life supporting.

"To me," Lucy told the crowd, "There is no difference between civil rights, workers rights and human rights. All are part of the same fabric, the moral guide of a democratic society. Isn't it amazing that you can't find the laws of the land built around elevating these?"

So much of the attention of the nation, he suggested, is spent trying to curb these rights, bring workers down and create laws to push not just wages and benefits down but "simple human dignity."

Lucy's vision enfolded together what US residents sometimes forget and certainly



forget their part in -- the suffering of workers rights around the world as well as among immigrants here and in other countries, the tendency to treat the desire for better more human life and dignity as something to be opposed and sent to the back of our minds.

What most struck the crowd was his constant insistence that to remember Dr. King as "only a great civil rights leader" was to diminish his insight and message, his constant climb to the other side of the mountain, his constant truth that civil, workers and human rights work hand in hand. They serve as the "core of what the human journey should be about."

Looking at today's efforts to demean that vision, he echoed the evening's theme and reminded the crowd, "That's nothing new. It's the same attitude that King faced. It's the same old battle."



Mary Jo Avery (above) and Tony Rainey (below) received the coveted Janie Jackson Award from the UAW civil rights committee.



## 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

### Orthopedic Institute of Wisconsin

General Orthopedics/Joint Replacement  
Joint Reconstruction/Arthroscopic Surgery  
Hip Resurfacing and Fracture Repair  
Sports Medicine/Work Related Injuries  
Back and Neck Surgery  
Foot, Ankle, Hand & Wrist Repair

Jeffrey Butler, MD	Thomas Perlewitz, MD
James Stone, MD	Eric Pifel, MD
Daniel Guehlstorf, MD	Joshua Neubauer, MD
Steven Trinkl, MD	Christopher Evanich, MD
William Pennington, MD	Brian McCarty, MD
Jamie Edwards, MD	Bindu Bamrah, MD
	Brian Law, MD

**Immediate Appointments Available**  
**414-384-6700**

*Mention This Ad*

Suite 102 2901 W. KK River Pkwy. Milwaukee, WI 53215	Suite 310 2323 N. Mayfair Rd. Milwaukee, WI 53226	Suite 200 3111 W. Rawson Ave. Franklin, WI 53132
--	---	--

Now Accepting Appointments at  
our Brown Deer Location!  
9252 N. Green Bay Rd  
Brown Deer, WI 53209

Suite 201 East  
17000 West North Avenue  
Brookfield, WI 53005

www.TheOrthoInstitute.com

**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**





# Primary

From Page 1

and strongly endorsing the incumbent, **Pedro Colon**, a member of the Madison legislature elevated to the bench when Jim Doyle was governor.

COPE decided to hold off on final recommendations in the Milwaukee County race for county executive (see accompanying story) and also held off for now on recommending a 14th District county supervisor to replace Chris Larson, who in November was elected to the state Senate.

But it found a strong choice in the other supervisor race in the primary, District 10, opened by Beth Coggs' departure to join the state Assembly. The choice was the first candidate for the seat, the best prepared and the one who put quality of life issues and a track record of supporting parks and transit on the line -- **Eyon Biddle**, currently executive director of the SEIU State Council.

Biddle has also been endorsed by several county supervisors and other elected officials and community leaders.

There is also one crowded Milwaukee School Board contest that will force a primary. It is the South Side District 8 seat recently occupied by Terrence Falk. COPE endorsed a candidate with an active campaign strategy, the backing of other local leaders and strong experience with the business, non-profit and public school communities -- **Meagan Holmon**, daughter of a union nurse, mother of four, MPS activist committed to opposing growth in voucher schools that rob MPS of taxpayer funding (a viewpoint likely to bring her opposition from the MMAC).

The other school board races that COPE made choices in are not on the ballot until April 5. But COPE's several recommendations included a newcomer for the board, retired firefighter (28 years with the city of Milwaukee, ending as assistant chief) **Mark Sain**, who is running for District 1, the first contest for that seat in years.

The other endorsements were for **Falk**, who is moving up to challenge for the at-large School Board seat (for voters citywide), and board chairman **Michael Bonds**, who is running unopposed for District 3.



From Congress through keynote Gwen Moore, from the city through Mayor Barrett (center) and Ald. Michael Murphy, citations flowed at the 100th birthday party of the building trades council, accepted by current President Lyle Balistreri while past leader Jim Elliott (chatting at right with new state AFL-CIO leader Stephanie Bloomingdale) supplied the memories. Drinks, fancy outfits and good talk abounded.



# Thank You

## for helping to raise \$46,539,696 for our community.



Thank you, Local Labor Unions that gave 2010 Union Treasury gifts and Community Campaign endorsements. A special thanks to the Milwaukee Area Labor Council for its strong leadership and tireless commitment to the health of our community.

Together, we are changing lives.

Anthony Rainey  
UAW Local 469, AFL-CIO



225 West Vine Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-263.8100  
UnitedWayMilwaukee.org



United Way  
of Greater Milwaukee



## Drive safely. But if you are in an accident, put years of legal experience on your side.

Accidents can happen to even the best drivers. Fortunately, the Previant Law Firm has a well-earned reputation for assisting people involved in auto accidents. Receive the settlement you deserve. If you have been in a car, motorcycle or truck accident, call for a free consultation.

Car, truck & motorcycle accidents. Call 414-271-4500.



Previant, Goldberg, Uelmen,  
Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, s.c.  
1555 N. RiverCenter Drive, Suite 202, Milwaukee, WI  
414-271-4500 • 800-841-5232 • www.previant.com

# US' fresh big enemy -- the newborn

By Raul A. Reyes for OtherWords

I'd like to welcome America's first baby of 2011 to the world. Eighteen seconds into New Year's Day, Peter Gabriel Imson was delivered on the US territory of Guam. Named for the former lead singer in the band Genesis, little Peter Gabriel weighed in at 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Congratulations, kid! Now, after your next diaper change, some politicians from Arizona, Georgia, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina would like to check your papers.

Unfortunately, I'm serious. Republican state legislators just announced plans to address what they see as a pressing problem facing the nation: newborn babies. The GOP lawmakers floated ideas like issuing distinct varieties of birth certificates, or passing "state citizenship" laws to curb the rights of the US born children of undocumented migrants. "We want to bring an end to the illegal alien invasion that is having such a negative impact on our states," says Daryl Metcalfe, a Republican from Pennsylvania.

It saddens me that the kids of undocumented immigrants are being scapegoated. The children in question are as American as you and I. The debate over their citizenship is nothing but a misguided, mean-spirited sideshow.

Metcalfe and his colleagues acknowledge that their plans might be unconstitutional. After all, birthright citizenship is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment, which states: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." In other words, if you're born here, you're an American.

There's over a century of settled case law supporting it. As far back as 1898, in *U.S. vs. Kim Wong Ark*, the Supreme Court ruled that a US baby

born to Chinese nationals was a citizen. At the time, the Chinese-American community was the object of widespread xenophobic furor.

GOP lawmakers, determined to gut this long-standing constitutional right, believe that guaranteeing citizenship to all children born on US soil leads to "anchor babies." This term is rooted in the false idea that an American-born baby can "anchor" an undocumented family in this country. In truth, having an American-born child is no protection from deportation.

Immigration authorities removed more than 108,000 parents of American children between 1998 and 2007. The actual numbers are much higher.

Arguing against birthright citizenship, Arizona State Senator John Kavanagh notes, "Only a handful of countries in the world grant citizenship based on the GPS location of the birth." I find his viewpoint startling.

America's greatness lies in the unparalleled rights and privileges we enjoy. We set the standard for the rest of the world, not the other way around.

Undocumented immigration is a huge challenge, but stripping kids of their citizenship won't solve anything. Ironically, ending birthright citizenship would only increase our undocumented population by creating a permanent caste of second-class citizens.

I'm disappointed in the lawmakers. Punishing kids for their parents' actions is simply inhumane and unfair. And it flies in the face of one of the core values of our society: Whether from Guam or Arizona, all Americans are born equal.



Columnist Reyes

# Seniors attack bill rewarding negligence

In an alert to thousands of members of the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans, President Leon Burzynski outlined both ongoing actions and called on all seniors to protest and stop Senate Bill 1 and Assembly Bill 1, the first strange salvo in the Republican controlled state legislature.

This bill will limit the rights of nursing home residents' families to protect their loved ones from negligent care. The bill changes legal standards for nursing homes making it significantly harder to hold institutions accountable.

"In addition to the shocking proposed changes for nursing home residents, protections that we take for granted are now at risk," Burzynski warned. "We all remember the tragic accident at Miller Park where workers lost their lives. With this bill, families' right to sue would be gone. Families of children who are injured by a faulty toy would have limited rights to sue. Workers would have to prove their employer intended to injure them. All of this is being proposed under the guise of a 'jobs' bill. Taking away the protections of seniors, workers and children doesn't create jobs."



Burzynski

On January 11th, labor and community groups gathered at the State Capitol to express opposition to this special sessions bill. After the press conference, the legislature heard almost 10 hours of testimony, much of it critical of the intent and consequences of the proposal.

One of the most moving stories came from Dawn Kellner, whose 15 year-old son Jared was crushed when a chunk of concrete fell from a poorly maintained parking garage at O'Donnell Park in Milwaukee last summer. Under the proposed law, it will be almost impossible for Kellner to hold negligent contractors responsible for her son's death.

Kellner recalled how then county exec Walker had promised to "work with her" for seeking appropriate legal remedies for her family's loss. Now, she asked the legislators, "I want to know why Governor Walker wants to protect the worst of the worst."

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO has also detailed its opposition to this bill because it:

- Changes punitive damages criteria for those injured on the job. Victims of at work accidents will now have the burden of proving that the injury was "intended" by the employer in order to be awarded punitive damages. This heightened standard effectively closes the courthouse door to most victims of egregious conduct resulting in serious injury or death.
- Changes to product liability law that encourage the export of jobs. The bill requires that victims harmed by faulty products seek compensation from the manufacturer first. Since it is near impossible to track down manufacturers and pursue legal remedies in countries such as China, this bill creates a perverse incentive to shift more manufacturing jobs out of Wisconsin.
- Eliminates retailer responsibility for harmful products sold in sealed packages. This means that if a child is injured by a faulty toy the family has limited rights and options.

**Orthopedic Institute of Wisconsin**  
**Thomas J. Perlewitz, MD**  
*Orthopedic Surgeon*  
*Spine Specialist*  
*Fellowship Trained*

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

2323 N. Mayfair Road  
 Suite 310  
 Milwaukee, WI 53226  
 414-771-5080

*"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 non-operative 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

**Residency**  
 Medical College of Wisconsin  
 Milwaukee, WI

**Fellowship – Orthopedic Spine Surgery**  
 Harvard Medical School  
 Boston, MA

**Board Certified**  
 American Board of Orthopedic Surgery

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

www.TheOrthoInstitute.com

## HAWKS QUINDEL, S.C.

### ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

Labor and Employment Law

Workers Compensation

Wage and Overtime Claims

Family Law - Divorce, Custody, Support

Social Security Disability Law

**414-271-8650**  
**or**  
**800-236-3348**

# Walker's useless agenda

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

The Shepherd Express is the Milwaukee area's abundantly available free weekly, a busy mix of progressive insights and outrageous personal ads. Feisty Publisher Louis Fortis sometimes carries into these pages private feuds the public doesn't understand (including a recent one with Chris Abele over the Milwaukee Film Festival), but sometimes the covers just hit it out of the park with graphic punch and accuracy.

That occurred Jan. 13-19 with a "What About the Jobs?" cover that didn't have to exaggerate to outline the fallacy of "Governor Walker's Special Session Agenda."

While many would have expected Walker to call the legislature together to simply address the job crisis and the economic emergency, the bills instead were a reward to big business backers of Walker -- and curiously enough, a number of fiscally useless measures (sham jobs bills) that even the big money bags are not so eager to see put in place.

Walker offered an ideological wish list, not a path to conservative paradise. The big money backers are getting the wish list but not the paradise. It's hard to make a case that you are strengthening the climate for business and setting the tone to add 250,000 jobs, a Walker campaign promise, when the first round of bills don't create revenue or jobs - and actually add millions to the deficit.

And the Shepherd cover nailed it. Actually it is

dumfounding how little the bills do for Wisconsin, either the business community or the workers, or the revenue or the possibility of new jobs. What the bills do, to copy the Shepherd litany, is:

- Add Redundant Corporate Tax Breaks
- Weaken District Attorneys' Ability to Prosecute.
- Protect Negligent Health Care Providers
- Reduce Nursing Home Residents' Safety
- Weaken Environmental Protections

And on and on.

**G**OP lawmakers are already trying to dilute or divide the legislation to make it sound about job creation, but hard numbers from both government and neutral sources find costs not savings. As GOP lawmakers now concede, many of the ideas will cost the taxpayers far more without any chance of improvement.

Incidentally, don't blame the Democrats for this one, and don't say they haven't tried to find accommodation now that they are in the minority. They've done everything but back-flips, but some concepts were just too ugly or unformed.

In bipartisan committee votes, they actually backed the idea of exempting companies that relocate to Wisconsin from paying income or franchise taxes for two years (minimal cost of \$280,000).

But fearing lack of accountability and cronies getting what are now civil service jobs, the Democrats are opposing a bill moving at warp speed to replace the Commerce Department with a public-

private hybrid composed of private workers -- run by a private 12-member board appointed by the governor.

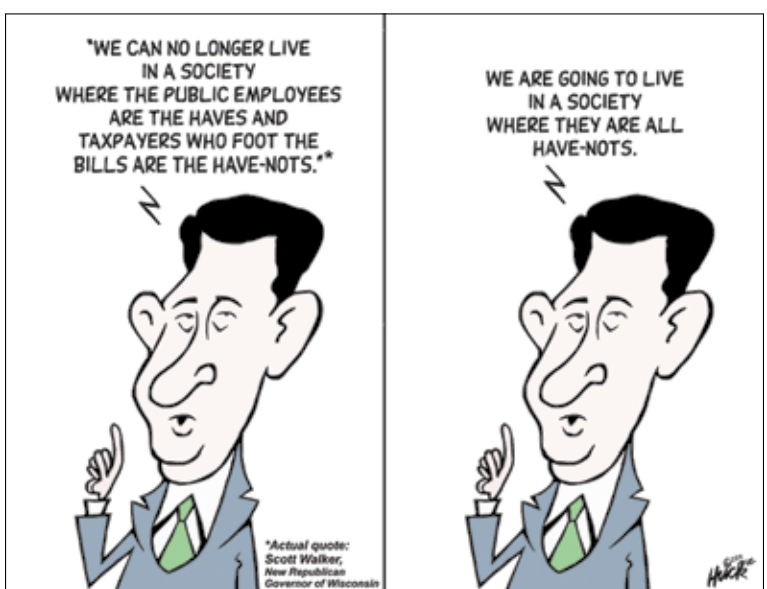
New doubts have also been raised within the Republican Party about the actual cost and impact on their own voters of the voter ID bill. No one questions it would make it harder for traditional low-income Democratic voters at the polls, but it also may make life tough for a number of the GOP traditionalists.

In interviews, backers of the voter ID law (including a candidate for county executive, Jeff Stone) now admit that they would have to increase budgets to almost double the number of Department of Motor Vehicle offices and staff. The bill is based on another state far more active in state workers and outlets than Wisconsin.

The weakening of environmental standards in yet another bill has already put the hex on growth in green technology. In fact, Wisconsin under Walker has already cooled the jets of the biotech and green technology entrepreneurs, an amazing accomplishment in so short a time. Despite Illinois' tax increases, this chill atmosphere could send many ideas flying from this fine and needy state to more inviting and welcoming pastures.



In politics it's called the Big Lie and Scott Walker is emerging as master, Common sense tells the public that the lowly public service worker, is not the root of fiscal deficit. That's the "biggest concentration of income and wealth at the top since 1928, combined with stagnant incomes for most of the rest of us," as one economist neatly summarized. But Walker made an attack on public workers the centerpiece of his inaugural.



## Bowling

### MALC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING LEAGUE

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
CRAZY 8'S	50	34
GUTTER RATS	46	39
SLAMMERS	44	40
ONE BOARD OVER	41	43
PIN PALS	38	46
8 BALLS	33	51

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175	
ROGER BARANOWSKI	245
DEL GROSS	224
DAN LAACK	220
DON WIEDMANN	216
BOB WAGNER	207
RAY ZETTEL	188
WALLY GEISE	182
JOHN PADRON	181

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 420	
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	582
JOYCE KNIPPEL	520
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	471
RAE MATOWSKI	424

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 165	
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	254
JOYCE KNIPPEL	197
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	184
RAE MATOWSKI	169

# GLOVES

Union Made in the U.S.A.

For Information:  
**Knoxville Glove Co.**  
P.O. Box 138  
Knoxville, TN 37901  
1-800-251-9738

Styles Available for most Trades

For quality, durability and comfort, the Knox-Fit #679S series gloves are the gloves of choice for America's Pipe Fitters

- 5" Gauntlet Cuff
- 2" Safety Cuff
- Knit Wrist

Most Styles Less Than **\$2.50**

Direct sales to Companies & Individuals

# WisconsinVision

YOU WON'T BELIEVE YOUR EYES.™

Don't forget to use your **DOLLARS**

Optical goods are the number one use for Flex Dollars.

*Danny Gokey*

Go to [askforacuvue.com](http://askforacuvue.com) to get a **FREE\* TRIAL PAIR** CERTIFICATE FOR ACUVUE® BRAND CONTACT LENSES.

**NEW 90-Pack ACUVUE® 1-DAY ACUVUE® MOIST®**

Comfort, that won't blink away.

\*Professional exam and fitting fees not included. Valid only with participating eye care professionals while supplies last. Important information for contact lens wearers: ACUVUE® Brand Contact Lenses are available by prescription only. An eye care professional will determine whether contact lenses are right for you. Although rare, serious eye problems can develop while wearing contact lenses. To help avoid these problems, follow the wear and replacement schedule and the lens care instructions provided by your doctor. Do not wear contact lenses if you have an eye infection, or experience eye discomfort, excessive tearing, vision changes, redness or other eye problems. If one of these conditions occurs, contact your eye doctor immediately. For more information on proper wear, care and safety, talk to your eye care professional and ask for a Patient Instruction Guide, call 1-800-843-2020 or visit acuvue.com. †Helps protect against transmission of harmful UV radiation to the cornea and into the eye. WARNING: UV-absorbing contact lenses are NOT substitutes for protective UV-absorbing eyewear such as UV-absorbing goggles or sunglasses because they do not completely cover the eye and surrounding area. You should continue to use UV-absorbing eyewear as directed. NOTE: Long-term exposure to UV radiation is one of the risk factors associated with cataracts. Exposure is based on a number of factors such as environmental conditions (altitude, geography, cloud cover) and personal factors (extent and nature of outdoor activities). UV-blocking contact lenses help provide protection against harmful UV radiation. However, clinical studies have not been done to demonstrate that wearing UV-blocking contact lenses reduces the risk of developing cataracts or other eye disorders. Consult your eye care practitioner for more information. ACUVUE®, 1-DAY ACUVUE® MOIST® and SEE WHAT COULD BE™ are trademarks of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. ©Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. 2010.

**\$100 Off**

**Complete Package Frame and Lenses**

Save \$100 When You Purchase a Designer Frame with a Minimum Retail Value of \$149.00 and Lenses.

Offer Not Valid With Other Discounts or Promotions. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 1/31/11.

**WisconsinVision**

**\$37**

**Comprehensive Eye Exam**

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 1/31/11.

**WisconsinVision**

**\$99**

**Disposable Contact Lens Package**

Price includes:

1. Comprehensive Eye Exam
2. Three-Month Supply (6 pr.) of Select Soft, Spherical Disposable Contacts
3. Instruction Class
4. Starter Kit of Solutions
5. Follow-up Care with the Doctors

or **10% Off Yearly Supply and \$10 Instant Rebate**

Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 1/31/11.

**WisconsinVision**

Now ACCEPTING VSP INSURANCE

**MILWAUKEE** 1920 W. Layton Ave 414-325-8600  
**MILWAUKEE** 7528 W. Burleigh St. 414-873-9090  
**ELM GROVE** 12876 W. Bluemound Rd. 262-432-0052  
**FRANKLIN** 8225 S. 27th St. 414-761-2269  
**GLENDALE** 5530 N. Pt. Washington Rd., Unit C 414-897-0152  
**GRAFTON** 1260 N. Port Washington Rd. 262-546-0234  
**GREENFIELD** 4818 S. 76th St., Suite 1 414-431-0385  
**KENOSHA** 5725 75th St. 262-694-5553

**MEN. FALLS** N85 W16033 Appleton Ave. 262-251-1900  
**RACINE** 3905 Douglas Ave. 262-639-5360  
**RACINE** 6035 Durand Ave. 262-554-8600  
**WAUKESHA** 203 A East Sunset 262-524-1130  
**WAUKESHA** 1921 Silvernail Rd., Suite D 262-436-0884  
**WEST ALLIS** 1401 S. 108th St. 414-476-0200

[www.wisconsinvision.com](http://www.wisconsinvision.com)



**Below,** Shirley Ellis from Rep. Moore's office met recent sheriff candidate Chris Moews and family.



**Yatchak Hall packed for holiday open house**  
 Table upon table of union members caught up or made new friends as dozens of elected officials, staff and candidates circulated the Milwaukee labor council holiday open house. Assembly leaders Sandy Pasch and Tamara Grigsby (center) shared a laugh with Sheila Cochran while newcomer JoCasta Zamarippa shared a table with council VP Annie Wacker. Office secretary Robin Lundgren talked with Betty Knutson (top left) while Delores Bauza (right) and state AFL-CIO retiree Beverly Ayers (bottom) met up with old friends.



# SPECIAL OFFER FOR LABOR PRESS SUBSCRIBERS!



**DENVER NUGGETS**

**WED, FEB 16 • 8:00PM**

BUCKS 1971 NBA CHAMPIONSHIP BANNER NIGHT



**MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES**

**TUE, FEB 22 • 7:00PM**



**NEW YORK KNICKS**

**SUN, MAR 20 • 2:00PM**



**CLEVELAND CAVALIERS**

**SAT, APR 9 • 7:30PM**

**ONLY \$45:**

**\$90 Bucks Ticket + 1 Bucks Mini Ball!**

**ONLY \$30:**

**\$63 Bucks Ticket + 1 Bucks Mini Ball!**

**ONLY \$15:**

**\$24 Bucks Ticket + 1 Bucks Mini Ball!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ORDER TICKETS: **414-227-2735 • rcook@bucks.com**

MAIL TO: MILWAUKEE BUCKS Attn: Labor Press Offer - RC 1001 N 4th Street Milwaukee, WI 53203

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

VISA  MC  AMEX  DC  CHECK: Payable to Milwaukee Bucks

ACCOUNT # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

2/16 - DEN  2/22 - MIN

3/20 - NY  4/9 - CLE

Total # of Tickets Price

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15.00= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DUE= \_\_\_\_\_



**INTERESTED IN BRINGING A GROUP TO A BUCKS GAME?**

**Contact Rory Cook**

414-227-2735 or rcook@bucks.com

