



Milwaukeeans crowd outside the federal courthouse to speak up for voter rights. See Pages 10-11.

## Riding out the hurricane

Debra Watson's livelihood in New Orleans was washed away, but thanks to her fellow union workers she's in the driver's seat on Milwaukee County routes. Story on Page 8.



## A bad idea put on ice

That's the crystal-clear truth from Colorado, though the GOP in Wisconsin prefers to ignore the evidence and continues to plug for TABOR. Story on Page 3.



# AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 65, No. 11



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Thursday, November 17, 2005



(USPS 350-360)

## Dec. 7 is D-Day for worker rights

Around the nation and around the world Dec. 5-10, there will be a massive effort to wake us up and restore rights that underlie the US Constitution, were codified in our laws 70 years ago and are emblazoned in international law.

Milwaukee will join with more than 75 other US cities plus dozens of nations to push back against those who have diluted worker rights to near extinction.

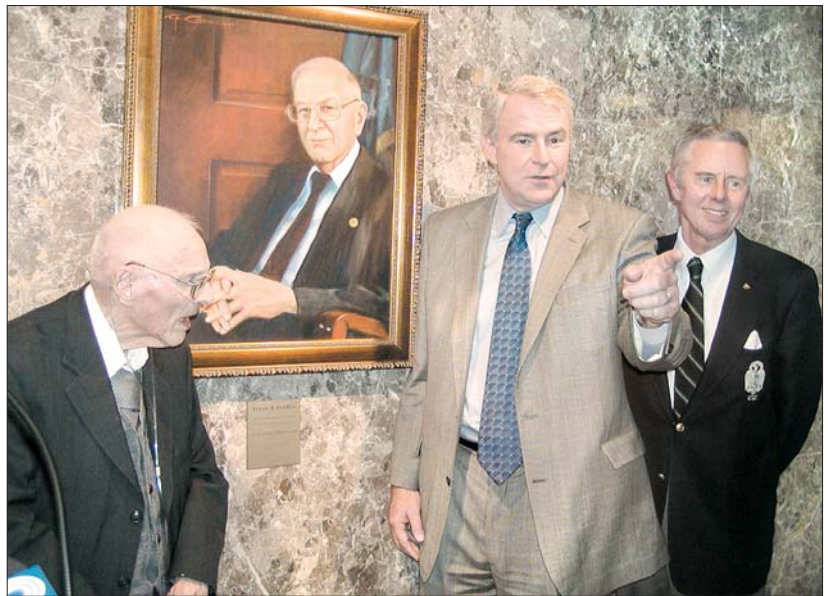
THE CENTERPIECE WILL BE A FREE TOWN HALL OPEN TO ALL WITH SKITS, INFORMATION, FRONT-LINE WITNESSES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS JOINING THE CALL TO ACTION WITH THE DELEGATES OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL.

All working families, union and non, are encouraged to attend the free event, with refreshments, at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 7, at Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

The main voices will be fellow workers who can testify personally to the unsavory and illegal tactics they have encountered. (If you have a story to tell, call the MCLC office at 414-771-7070).

Stewart Acuff, the AFL-CIO's national director of organizing, flew into Milwaukee in October to help union leaders brainstorm what is shaping up into a diverse presentation. In his long activist career,

**Town Hall** continued Page 4



A legendary mayor, his newly honored portrait, current Mayor Tom Barrett and artist Thomas Pelham Curtis impressed an overflow crowd at the Frank Zeidler Municipal Building Nov. 1. See Page 5.

## When Bush cries fowl, how bird-brained will we be?

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Editor, Labor Press

So let me get this straight. Now President Bush wants \$7 billion. It's for a gun that isn't even smoking but might turn into a mushroom cloud.

To sell us, he cites the most trustworthy and historically accurate monitors in the world. These are the United Nations inspectors.

To sell us further, he praises the science community whose conclusions for problems that are already here (global warming, pollution, endangered species, drug safety) have been debunked, twisted or suppressed by his administration.

Forgive the sense of cynicism. Avian flu has long been a serious issue. Virulent new strains have frightening economic consequences as they move from wild birds to domestic fowls. Occasionally in the past, the bird flu has morphed into a

person-to-person pandemic for which the world was unprepared in knowledge, vaccines and antibiotics.

Hasn't happened yet, but we should be ready. The president had a compelling book on his beststand that spells out the past failures. He has advisers who understand how, when mired in your own failures, to change the subject.

So now he is ramping us up. Forget what he said about Saddam's WMDs or Social Security. This is the real imminent disaster. Right now for humans, it requires drinking the blood of an infected chicken. But who knows what evil lurks down the road?

Scientists are certainly grateful for the belated attention from the leader of the free world, so grateful that they're not questioning the money or the methods. Bush isn't sending billions into the pipeline just for better advance word and rapid creation

### Comment

of vaccines at the possible point in time when bird flu jumps into a human-infecting strain. He insists that the plan must include liability protection (no lawsuits) for vaccine developers and drug companies, some of his biggest political contributors.

He doesn't spell out that vaccines are low-profit and even loss leaders compared to cholesterol-lowering and erection-inducing drugs, so much so that the only veteran vaccine plants are located overseas. Billions in US underwriting and legal protection, however, might get big business attention.

Bush's plan also interprets states rights to mean "you'd better prepare and pay." The 50 state governments are designated first responders, on their own with emergency plans — and also in paying for antibiotics.

(Secretary of Defense

Donald Rumsfeld must be happy. The past chairman of Gilead Sciences, the California biotech company that owns the rights to the most-sought influenza remedy in the world, Tamiflu, had to recuse himself from pandemic decisions because he still owns as much as \$25 million in company stock.)

Bush's speech Nov. 1 came years after the first UN warnings but just on the heels of White House scandals and setbacks. Just what Dr. Rove ordered — a new strain of the fear flu that Bush has spread for the last four years.

But it hits a nation growingly skeptical of doomsday scenarios that mainly create enormous

deficits and social deconstruction.

The president failed to dwell on what experts in avian flu admit is their biggest worry — immediate honesty and reporting by companies and world governments. Fears of economic collapse, embargoes, damage to self-image — all tempt governments to not report infected birds or suspicious human deaths.

Guess we'd better avoid trusting governments with a track record of excess secrecy, evasion and cover-ups.

Oh, yes, the problem is real and the need for global preparation necessary.

But the chickens of deception also come home to roost.

# Mayor, unions dine on candor

BELOW: Tom Barrett's lunch with labor leaders November 7 featured cold cuts rather than Brown Bags – and servings of straight talk as 30 guests joined him and some top aides in the Assembly Room of the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO. The questions and answers ranged from the mayor's recent trip to China to better monitoring of city money and prevailing wage in construction contracts. Barrett told MCLC Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran that he shared her "overwhelming concern for jobs" and he encouraged a return luncheon for the top city development aides he brought along. RIGHT: Listening were (front table from left) Patrick Weyer of Brewery Workers Local 9 (UAW) and Forrest Ceel of IBEW Local 2150. At the table in back are two key figures in city development, Joel Brennan (left) and Rocky Marcoux. Visible at their table is Lynnda Guyton of the Labor Press. Seated and taking notes at the far back is Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council.



## Trades unions work to mend turnkey DPW rift with city

Mayor Tom Barrett and Milwaukee's construction unions have been mutually supportive, but a tear in the fabric developed this past summer over a big new Department of Public Works facility at the Tower Automotive site.

It was financed and constructed through a turnkey deal. In effect a private developer bought the land, financed and constructed the DPW site and will sell it to the city with a profit. The arrangement bypassed the customary open-bidding process on city projects. Not surprisingly, the first news from the project was that subcontractors were paying under prevailing wage.

A major investigative story by Labor Press confirmed that such dangers were built into the initial deal created by RACM (Redevelopment Authority City of Milwaukee) and slipped by a new mayor and his aides, and some aldermen.

Barrett was visibly distressed when he learned of the prevailing wage failures from Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council. The mayor moved quickly to have the state confirm that prevailing wage was required on the project and he also sent a letter to RACM requesting prevailing wage be assured on all taxpayer funded projects.

But real damage had been done, not just in wages but in contracting process. It prompted a lawsuit against the city by the trades council, a union contractor and two workers.

The unions still feel Barrett has to press harder to control how the city does its construction business but their leaders are also convinced there was no deliberate intent to duck the rules by the mayor. (About RACM, they are not convinced at all, since they've been stung by other city projects in the Norquist years.)

But there was also realism. The work on the DPW project was so far along (it should be done by March) that successful pursuit of the lawsuit might just delay things, which was not good for anybody.

So, said Matt Robbins, attorney for the trades council, "The Building Trades chose a forward-looking settlement. Pending compliance with the settlement, proceedings in the court case are suspended."


Commented Balistreri, "We just need some assurances from the mayor, with teeth, and that will bring things back to normal."

-- Dominique Paul Noth

**Orthopedic Surgeons  
of Wisconsin, SC**

**Eric B. Pifel, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeon

3111 W. Rawson Avenue  
Suite 200  
Franklin, WI 53132  
414-325-4320



*"I offer compassionate, comprehensive care to the athlete and other active patients. My goal is to return my patients to their previous activities using the latest educational, non-operative and operative techniques."*

**Specialty Procedures and Professional Achievements**

- ◆ Individualized care for the athlete from age 8 to 80
- ◆ Specialized sports medicine training in orthopedics from a Big Ten university
- ◆ Multiple sports medicine and orthopedic presentations internationally, nationally and locally
- ◆ Chief Resident in orthopedic surgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin

**Medical Education**  
Medical College of Ohio  
Toledo, OH

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

**Fellowship- Orthopedic Sports Medicine**  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

**Board Eligible**  
American Board of Orthopedic Surgery

**For more information or scheduling, please call 414-325-4320.**

**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**


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

EXECUTIVE BOARD - Mary Jo Avery, Communications Workers of America Local 4603; Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council; William F. Christianson, International Association of Machinists Lodge 1845; Douglas Drake, (USW, formerly United Steelworkers of America Local 1527); Nacarci 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 Dwyer, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals; Scott J. Redman, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 75; Annie Wacker, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 1954; Patrick R. Weyer, Brewery Workers 9, United Auto Workers; Ross M. Winkbauer Sr., Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers (USW, formerly PACE) Local 7-0252.



**ILCA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
LABOR COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION

**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



**MLPA**  
Midwest Labor  
Press Association

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. Non-profit periodical postage paid at Milwaukee, WI.  
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the 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 available from unionized companies or services of the Milwaukee County Labor Council or any of its affiliates.  
 COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Thursday of each month except December (2nd Thursday).

# Waking up after 13 years, Colorado rips down TABOR

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Editor, Labor Press

## Analysis

By a margin that at the White House would be termed a mandate — 52% — Colorado voters did a brave and selfless thing Nov. 1. They agreed to give up tax rebates over the next five years and instead hand the state government some \$3.7 billion to invest in health care, transportation, education and other public services.

In effect they ended for the foreseeable future the nation's only experiment in TABOR — the so-called Taxpayer Bill of Rights — and halted Colorado's plummet

from the peaks of good public service.

It turned out — are you listening, Wisconsin? — that amending a state constitution to impose tax and spending limits on all governmental units was unwieldy and unrealistic, no matter that TABOR was carefully written and discussed before it became part of the Colorado constitution in 1992.

What right-wing rousers such as Grover Norquist called the "holy grail" of state fiscal

policy proved instead a tin cup with a hole in the bottom. Colorado TABOR proved unable to adjust between booming times and hard times.

It squeezed local citizens out of effective voice in decisions. Even with built-in adjustments for inflation and population, it could not meet changing needs or even basic maintenance, much less innovative suggestions to improve communities. It also cost the GOP control of both legislative houses.

After watching citizens without health insurance arise by 20%, after seeing K-12 spending fall hundreds of dollars per student below the national average, after swooning at 23% jumps in college tuition, after dealing with bad roads, fading infrastructure and unaddressed pollutants, Coloradans had enough.

But then they learned that, as hard as it is to amend a state constitution (in Wisconsin it would be a two-year two-session legislative process and a statewide vote) undoing the disaster is harder still.

Just to stop the madness for five years took what Colorado newspapers call the largest bipartisan coalition in state history. Republican Gov. Bill Owens joined with state Democrats and community groups to push through the referendum in the face of \$6 million in negative ads

and pronouncements by the right-wing that Owens, a conservative with national credentials, was now political roadkill.

But Owens and company won, and the vote included some regulatory wrinkles that make TABOR a zombie — not buried, but dead.

From Madison and on knee-jerk talk radio, you will find a feeble positive spin wildly out of touch with even the nation's conservative think tanks, which concede that the TABOR movement has been dealt a body blow.

The GOP here, which has

not yet written a final version of its own TABOR hemlock, shrugs off the Colorado referendum as proof that TABOR works, since it allows citizen referendums to override the caps.

But if you read back to the original Colorado plan, that was always in local referendums, to build a new school or sewer plant. A statewide referendum that dumped TABOR was never envisioned, on the theory that voters would never give up getting money back when tax revenue exceeded spending limits.

They did. But it took 13 years of harsh reality.



For the last few years, lobbying and protesting hard in Madison, AFSCME workers have led the way trying to prevent Wisconsin from the TABOR implosion that crushed Colorado.

## Calendar

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**  
Thursday-Friday, November 24-25  
Milwaukee County Labor Council  
Office Closed

**Wednesday, December 7**  
**OPEN SYMPOSIUM**  
**ON WORKER RIGHTS**  
Free event for public  
built into monthly meeting,  
Milwaukee County  
Labor Council AFL-CIO Delegates  
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma

**Friday, December 16**  
**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**  
Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO  
Food, drink, noted guests  
noon-4 p.m., Assembly Hall  
633 S. Hawley Rd.

# 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



**Habush Habush & Rottier s.c.**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**WHY CHOOSE ANYONE ELSE?®**  
**1-800-2-HABUSH**

OUR REPUTATION, EXPERIENCE & HONESTY RESULT  
IN MOST OF OUR CASES SETTLING WITHOUT A LAWSUIT OR TRIAL.  
**More Nationally Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyers  
Than Any Other Law Firm In Wisconsin**  
*See the statuary Teamwork at Miller Park-  
donated by the Habush, Habush & Rottier Foundation*

## INJURIES FROM ACCIDENTS

Automobile & Truck Accidents  
Motorcycle Accidents  
Product Defects  
Fires & Explosions  
Farm Accidents

Boat & Air Accidents  
Medical Malpractice  
Workplace Injury  
Construction Accidents  
Machinery Accidents

**CONTINGENT FEE AVAILABLE**

**No Fees Or Costs Unless We Are Successful**

**MILWAUKEE OFFICE - US BANK CENTER**  
777 E. WISCONSIN AVE., SUITE 2300,  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202

**1-800-242-7205**

RACINE OFFICE  
5439 DURAND AVE., SUITE 220,  
RACINE, WI 53406

**1-800-682-3434**



**WAUKESHA OFFICE**  
HWY J & I-94  
WAUKESHA, WI 53188

**1-800-559-5599**

KENOSHA OFFICE  
6905 S. GREEN BAY RD., SUITE 103,  
GREEN BAY, WI 53142

**1-800-388-8222**

SHEBOYGAN OFFICE  
2108 KOHLER MEMORIAL DRIVE  
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

**1-866-888-3620**

www.habush.com

# Town Hall

From Page 1

he has witnessed the abuse from coal mines to technology offices, from textile plants to hospitals. He warned that those who have thwarted and shackled those rights still try to shrug this all off as some sort of union-management sideshow. But it's not. Acuff has seen up close how workers are stalled, bullied and even fired for simply wanting a fair share and a fair voice.

"It takes a brave worker to survive all that," Acuff said. "But it's past time to be brave."

Acuff also joked that, given past experience in Milwaukee, this is one council that didn't need his help in brainstorming. Sure enough, within days the planners had pounced on their own novel but pointed theme: 42 Days Is Too Long.

That, most people don't know, is the time before an NLRB election that a company gets to work over its own workforce through private and mandatory meetings against the union effort and often through intimidation and (supposedly illegal) firings..

"42 Days Is Too Long" will be branded into the free tickets that will be distributed in advance for guaranteed seating at the event. Contact the labor council office at 771-7070 to make ticket arrangements for individuals or groups.

There's an essential failure in our country to understand that "human rights are worker rights," as NAACP Chairman Julian Bond points out in radio spots now being heard around the country supporting the Dec. 5-10 mobilization.

This failure has hurt the vast majority of Americans seeking to make their lives better through

sweat and brain power. It has created a major new industry of union-busting consultants and lawyers who are rushed in by 75% of the companies facing organizing efforts. "This is the only group of people I wouldn't mind putting out of work," laughed Acuff.

The attitude of "union avoidance" has deeply damaged US industry and services, prevented companies from making workforces better as well as decently paid and has put our economic future at risk. That's becoming evident on all sides of the political spectrum.

The time for such coordinated wreckage is past. In fact, while there are social issues we should still argue about, who can argue with these laws?

"Employees shall have the right to form labor organizations to bargain collectively. Employers may not interfere with the exercise of this right." - **Basic principle, National Labor Relations Act, 1935.**

"Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of interests." - **Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations, 1948.**

Moreover, who can argue with the results of collective voice in a workplace? The next time you hear that all unions are interested in is dues, consider:

- Latinos in unions earn wages 59% higher than their peers without unions.
- For African Americans it's 29%.
- For women it's 34%.
- For everyone, it averages 28%.

• Despite the often shameful attempts by corporations to dump health care costs back on workers and dump pension obli-

gations on taxpayers, union workers still have much better health and pension protection as well as wages than their non-union peers.

Yet the efforts to stiff-arm unions, and the snail pace allowed in current laws, have created a pattern of cruelty and selfishness that would shock most Americans.

Even conservative polls concede that, if the laws changed tomorrow, the current percentage of union members in the US (12.5% of the workforce) would almost instantly double.

Other polls suggest that 57 million workers would join a union except for these realities:

- In organizing drives, 25% of employers illegally fire at least one worker for union activity.

(That means about 23,000 workers a year are fired, and yet in 2003, usually years after the illegal dismissal, 23,000 workers had their back pay restored in employer discrimination cases brought to court. Apparently, you can't just be brave. You also have to be exceptionally patient.)

- In an organizing campaign, 78% of employers force employees to attend anti-union meetings one-on-one with managers.
- 98% of such employers force workers into mandatory closed-door meetings against the union.

• Half the companies threaten to close up shop if the union wins (only 1% actually do shutter) and nearly half do not agree to a first contract in collective bargaining.

*Note: These figures are not just from the AFL-CIO but from university and government studies.*

This mobilization week is built around International Human Rights Day Dec. 10. But in the US a legal solution is close at hand and gaining.

The Employee Free Choice Act is just 13 sponsors short of a majority in the House and 10 shy in the Senate.



Flying into Milwaukee to help plan the event was the AFL-CIO's director of organizing, Stewart Acuff.

These are no longer impossible odds even in a GOP controlled Congress. Republicans have become skittish about the direction of their extreme right wing and many will find it hard in 2006 elections to explain opposition to some basic common-sense protections:

- Government-authenticated card-check so that a simple majority of a workforce can decide for or against union representation.
- Mediation, and if necessary swift arbitration, after 90 days if a new union and employer can't reach a first contract. Either side can ask for the federal mediation.
- Parity in injunctions, so that employers can be taken to court for violations just as easily as a union can.
- Stiff penalties for violating these new National Labor Relations Board guidelines.

The law's refinements create a level-playing field in a world of legal shenanigans and delays. It also prevents activist judges (this time from the right) who have added some weird hurdles to thwart worker efforts at collective voice. It restores the reality that human rights are civil rights are labor rights.

The unions and many non-partisan supporters want this US law, and believe that the stories of average workers who have tried and failed to organize will drive the point home.

The town hall, or symposium, will also clearly aim at Sen. Herb Kohl, one of only four Senate Democrats who has not yet announced support for the bill. It's high time, the organizers say, for him to get on board.

As part of the national campaign, dozens of colleges will hold teach-ins for future workers about what they face if the laws don't change.

There is also pressure being placed on state legislatures around the nation to pass a companion bill called the Worker Freedom Bill.

This model legislation, pioneered in Connecticut but now radiating out to efforts in states around the nation, would prohibit employers from forcing workers to listen to or meet about the management's religious and political views. That would include their views pro or con on unions, in effect ending those mandatory closed-door diatribes that the great majority of employers subject their workers to.

"It affects us all and will take all of us to stand up," said MCLC Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran as she announced to delegates that the Dec. 7 meeting in Serb Hall's largest assembly room will be open to everyone.

"Bring not just your union brothers and sisters but your family and friends," she said. "I want this place to roar."

**Outgrowing Your Home?**

Get into a new home with NO money out of your pocket!

**GSP**  
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

15430 W. Capitol Dr. Suite 300 Brookfield, WI 53005

Call John Hanson at  
**1-800-PRE-APPROVED**

Equal Housing Opportunity. Each office is independently owned and operated. Wisconsin Residential Mortgage Licensee.

**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**

**Robert C. Angermeier Attorney**

**Social Security Disability**

- 20 years experience
- no attorney fees unless the case is successful
- call now for a no obligation consultation

**Law Offices of  
Angermeier & Rogers  
414-289-9200**

## Election will go on during Town Hall

MCLC delegates can step into a separate room where computer programs and election monitors await them throughout the Dec. 7 open town hall at Serb Hall. There they will cast their representative votes (based on per-capita membership) to choose the top three among the four persons nominated in November for vacancies on the MCLC executive board.

There was another office open at the November meeting but only one nomination. That takes the Acting from in front of President as the new title for **Willie D. Ellis**, who stepped into the president's seat in September when John Goldstein left to lead a national organization working on urban community benefits.

Delegates will elect Ellis by acclamation as the new part-time president of the MCLC. The remaining full-time leader of the council is Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran.

A member of International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139, Ellis served as vice president before Goldstein's departure. His elevation means the vice president seat will be open for nomination at the January meeting.

The top three vote-getters among the following four union members will be added to the executive board in January:

**Carolyn P. Castore**, Office & Professional Employees

International Union (OPEIU) Local 9.

**Stanthia Grier**, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 2150

**Sam Purdy**, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 494

**Richard M. Schriener**, International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT) Local 781.



## Zeidler steals his own show

The municipal building lobby was jammed with accomplished public speakers, none of whom will quarrel with this judgement: All were outdone in wit, memory and pertinence in 10 minutes by a 93 year old legend luging his oxygen tank around because of recent health problems.

In front of family (including Agnes, his spouse and partner), longtime admirers and his heirs in public office from City Hall to the school board, Frank P. Zeidler was at the municipal building named in his honor for the installation of a portrait painted affectionately nine years ago by Thomas Pelham Curtis, once political cartoonist at the newspaper prone to excoriate Zeidler, the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Mayor Tom Barrett (speaking in top photo) and Ald.



Robert Bauman were among the speakers, as were Ken Germanson, head of the Wisconsin Labor History Society, and retired AFT teacher Philip Blank, two of many key players arranging the honor.

Zeidler is also a new author with the publication of "A Liberal in City Government," written back in 1962 as the first

portion of his memories of 12 years as mayor.

His range of abilities was also glimpsed at when another Wisconsin landmark, folksinger Larry Penn (at the mike in photo above, with Blank watching), performed a resurrected song in honor of Eugene Debs, for which Zeidler penned the lyrics eight decades ago.



Peace activist George Martin prepares the flags and candles at Veteran's Park as union members join hundreds asking motorists to support the troops by bringing them home.



NORWEGIAN CRUISE LINE  
Pride of America

Set sail with your union-member savings available through Norwegian Cruise Line and NCL America!

**Cruises** are a favorite vacation choice for people of all ages and they're more affordable than you may think! Use your union-member-only Norwegian Cruise Line discount now!

- A minimum of 5% discount off any published fare for all sailings. You can apply this discount on top of most other discounts.
- Additional promotions with savings up to 30% off selected sailings.

As a member of Local 998 for over 25 years, I'm especially happy to be able to offer this special savings to fellow union brothers & sisters — Rod

**CRUISEONE**  
#1 In Cruising Nationwide

**Call Your Independent Cruise Specialists**  
**Deb & Rod Roberts, Franklin, WI**  
Tel (414) 427-4860  
Toll Free (877) 367-4835  
[www.cruiseone.com/droberts](http://www.cruiseone.com/droberts)

NCL America operates the only deep-sea, US-flagged cruise ships, Pride of America and Pride of Aloha employing unionized workers, represented by Seafarers International (SIU), Marine Engineers (MEBA) and Seafarers Entertainment (SEATU) Unions. Coming in 2006, the third union US-flagged ship, Pride of Hawaii.

# 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.

# Waukesha Engine, union roll past the bad times

The new five-year deal at Waukesha Engine, with 3% annual wage increases and continued protection for retiree health care, actually was triggered last summer, nine months before the current, bitterly concluded contract with the machinists is scheduled to expire.

Dresser CEO John Ryan was up from Texas headquarters, touring the plant after announcing some major new products, including the largest natural-gas powered engine in the company's history. The new gas compression engines Dresser intends to create look to solidify its growing global leadership in the energy-generating market.

Union leaders, wanting to jump-start contract negotiations in January of 2006 (five months before the current deal ends), casually asked Ryan a question. Was he still interested in early talks?

He was not only interested but also said in effect, "Let's start talking now."

Unlike the previous "take it or leave it" atmosphere of 2003, both sides agreed to open rules — to bargain on mutual interest, sharing the pluses and minuses of competing offers as they went along.

They met regularly for six weeks into October, concluding in a daylong marathon to lock down a multitude of complicated details.

On Halloween, the results were put before the members of Local 1377 of District 10 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW). The machinists leaders — including the local president, Mike Kluth; the District 10 business representative, Scott Parr; shop steward Don Griffin, and the entire bargaining committee — had taken



Two and a half years ago, District 10's Scott Parr was directing pickets in a strike. Today he is part of the machinists' team that concluded a strong five-year contract at Waukesha Engine.

pains to keep the workers informed during the talks.

Such careful communication and preparation brought out 75% of the workers for the ratification vote. They approved the new contract by a two to one margin.

The machinists have about 430 members at Waukesha Engine, but that could grow. The IAMAW has a letter of commitment from CEO Ryan pledging a \$7.5 million investment in the Waukesha facility and two new engine lines coming into the plant, which is currently running on three full production shifts.

The new contract, which picks up in May when the old one ends, is described as competitive in benefits as well as locking in 3% annual wage increases into 2011.

It was accompanied by management promises to pursue employee participation in operations and decisions.

Dresser, once owned by

Halliburton, clearly hopes to restore the sort of labor-management teamwork that before 2003 was hailed as a model of cooperation by government and labor experts on all sides of the nation's political divide. It was an example of how an organized workforce can actually improve production and cost-savings.

Mutual good feelings and any sense of management understanding from far-away Texas fractured in 2003 as the machinists fought to protect retiree health care even more than wages.

The workers went on strike for nearly three months, while the company deeply angered them and supportive unions by trying to operate with imported freelance labor.

The confrontations of union supporters with the scabs from Minnesota, Texas and points south roiled even the conservative community of Waukesha, where the machinist families have been a vital part of the social fabric since the 1930s.

2003 was a major bleeding time throughout American manufacturing, with managers seeing nothing but the lure of cheaper production possibilities from Latin America to Asia.

In 2005, realities have intruded. Many American manufacturers had not gained anything but temporary relief by shedding

workers. There are sectors of American manufacturing that will never recover from the narrow bottom-line lure of cheap foreign labor. One result is that wages for everyone except the top 1% have stagnated, union and non-union alike.

But there are pockets where the global hunger for minerals and power sources has elevated recognition of the skills, efficiency and productivity of US manufacturing. It hasn't been enough recognition — and investment — unfortunately. It hasn't prevented the race toward the bottom in American wages. But it has created glimmers of hope and stability — and maybe a road map for the future.

Talk to both management and labor experts today and they point out that the precision and energy-efficiency of key American products still are the hallmarks of modernization, enterprise and worker skill.

These are abilities hard to emulate and duplicate, even when you can hire five Chinese workers for the cost of one US worker, even given the lack of patent and intellectual property protection that has grown Asian manufacturing at the expense of the US and Europe. There's no guarantee that the foreign competitors won't catch up in time given the violation of fair rules, but it's created a window, for at least a decade out, that investors have begun to recognize.

In the Milwaukee area, a half dozen major manufacturing companies are gaining specifically from the overseas hunger for

raw minerals and sophisticated, efficient energy production. At Waukesha Engine, the situation is pushing sales to a world eager for electricity generation and the precise tooling and endurance built into engines that will soon be as big as 40 tons each.

The world demand is unlikely to go away soon. One result in the union field for these booming companies is that a five-year contract — the longest in Local 1137's long history — is hardly unusual. Longer contracts are being pursued by both sides.

Barring sudden reversals of global economics, management can now project out real labor costs as they create and sell products, and workers can actually plan for family expenses and future needs. New hires have a clear sense of what they can achieve financially by investing in skills.

Even in the horrifying arena of health care costs, there are at least some controls in place. The machinists at Waukesha Engine clearly worry that their 3% annual gain in wages could be eaten alive — not just by general price inflation but most specifically by health care costs that have been rising far above 3% a year in Wisconsin.

The machinists, it should be pointed out, as a union have been screaming about Wisconsin health care costs for years before the government and business in general were actively talking about it. But now everyone is talking about little else. There are promising efforts underway on many levels that could correct this Wisconsin health cost explosion and make the wage increases real gains in standard of living.

The retirees also got protection in the new contract, not as much as the union philosophicaly thinks they should (that would be a free ride after four decades of hard work) but with low impact on fixed incomes. The contract sets retiree contribution to health care at \$10 a week, rising \$2 each year of the contract. That means in 2011 it is still limited to \$20 a week.

The early contract and the stability it represents at Waukesha Engine may have emerged from a casual talk on the plant floor last summer. But within the decision are lessons that ought to resonate throughout US manufacturing.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

**MILWAUKEE'S  
PREFERRED  
ELEGANCE**

**Hilton**  
Milwaukee City Center  
509 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-271-7250

**The Pfister Hotel**  
424 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-273-8222

Preferred Hotels

**PLAN YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US**

- Negotiations
- Conferences
- Meetings
- Parties
- Weddings

Employees are represented by:  
**UNITE HERE Local 122**  
**Operating Engineers Local 317**

**DERRY  
HEGARTY'S  
-IRISH PUB-**

**Restaurant  
Open Daily  
at 11:00 a.m.**

**FISH  
FRY**  
EVERY  
FRIDAY

**BROASTED  
CHICKEN**  
SERVED  
DAILY

Three Halls Available For  
Weddings, Meetings & Parties

5326 W. Bluemound Rd.,  
**414-453-6088**

**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**

OPERU LOCAL 4777

The 100% Union  
Label Company

# US court can provide gain not intimidation for immigrant workers

Most Americans would agree with the basic rule of law that proper wages should be paid irrespective of the worker's creed, color or national origin.

That means workers should be paid fairly regardless of what country they come from or regardless of questions about how they got here. It took a high-powered Chicago legal team for the Carpenters Union to drive that point home in federal court in Wisconsin in October.

Labor Press readers were actually in on the ground floor of this simmering dispute between

immigrant workers and Builders Insulation (formally known as City Wide Insulation of Madison), because of a major investigative story and photos last spring out at Waukesha's Pabst Farms.

A protest there by an assortment of unions, ministers and worker justice advocates sought to pressure contractors using Builders Insulation to make them pay fairly (and to pay what they promised) as well as correct the agonizing work conditions described by the insulation workers, many of them Latinos from Milwaukee.

The protest put in harsh spotlight some major home developers in Wisconsin, including Miracle Homes, the so-called "Christian-based company" that the assembled ministers accused of not understanding how to read the Bible's edicts about fairness to workers.

The Carpenters had in a federal election won the right to bargain for the workers at Builders Insulation but had been thwarted in winning a first contract. -- so thwarted that some of



Last spring, in a big rally at Waukesha's Pabst Farms in front of model homes, unions and the faith community showed their support for Latino workers fighting for basic rights at Builders Insulation. Many say they have been fired or forced to resign because of their complaints, but now they are advancing in US court to win the compensation they say was due them.

the workers actually quit the company in disgust while others were fired or forced to resign in what their lawyers believe were retaliation for their union backing.

Now 11 plaintiffs, only one still working at Builders Insulation, have sued the company in US Eastern District Court for violating the Fair Labor Standards Act that requires compensation for hours worked beyond 40 a week. This, the workers allege and are eager to document, was a common practice in Builders Insulation's subcontracting work on new homes. The lawsuit claims the company forced workers to sign timesheets that concocted a 40-hour limit, harassed workers when they refused to sign and tried to impose a piece-rate rule of payment regardless of real hours worked.

The plaintiffs are addressing overtime issues extending back three years in some cases.

The company's response was to try to change the subject. It demanded in federal court to know the plaintiffs' immigration status.

The workers, several of whom had emigrated from

Mexico, protested. Their lawyers, Whitefield & McGann of Chicago, pointed out that the information was simply not relevant to the basics of the case (were they paid for work done?) and was clearly sought to chill plaintiffs' determination to pursue the lawsuit.

The case went to Federal Judge Lynn Adelman who totally sided with the workers. Maybe, Adelman quietly pointed out, immigration status would be a factor in determining damages once the company was found liable, but at this point the immigration status was "irrelevant to

whether plaintiffs may recover for their overtime work."

That clears the way for what the workers are eager for -- to argue the facts.

The ability to win such cases in court should be valuable information for other workers caught in similar situations, where companies threaten to question their immigration status rather than pay them for work done at an agreed rate, said Atty. Terrance McGann. The law does protect them, noted McGann, who can now focus on pursuing compensation for the workers from Builders Insulation.



Atty. Terrance McGann

## Big final push for United Way



T-shirts with United Way and labor slogans and logos were given to all the delegates at the November MCLC meeting, a nifty reminder to dig hard to help the community fund-raiser reach its \$39 million goal by the Dec. 1 deadline. Posing with his gift is delegate Frank Nobile, IAMAW Lodge 1061. The gift came from the AFL-CIO field mobilizers, who work both for United Way and for the labor council on worker concerns.

Plan Your Next Function at

**HYATT**  
REGENCY HOTEL

333 W. Kilbourn Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
414-270-6000

- ❖ Weddings
- ❖ Conferences
- ❖ Meetings
- ❖ Parties
- ❖ Negotiations

EMPLOYEES ARE REPRESENTED BY:  
**UNITE HERE**  
**LOCAL 122**  
**(414) 272-0290**

**PORT PUBLICATIONS**

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**

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

www.portpublicationsinc.com

MASTERS AT THE ART OF FINE OFFSET PRINTING

# Union bus skills prove the ticket out of New Orleans

Concern about the people of Louisiana was threaded through the annual dinner and membership meeting of WisCOSH Oct. 21, including the efforts of Milwaukee's bus union to help a veteran driver displaced from New Orleans.

There were other activities at the dinner at the Amalgamated Transit Union Hall — an introductory sing-along with the Faith Community for Worker Justice choir, an election of new officers, and discussion of how Milwaukee union members had headed down South to help in rescue and recovery efforts. (Union helpers and union money, incidentally, will be there long after the media and visiting politicians are gone.)

Also present was Debra Watson, a three-year bus driver on New Orleans routes who was flooded out of home and job by Hurricane Katrina.

At the dinner, cheered by her new union buddies and even put up for election to the WisCOSH slate of officers, she reported that she is completing the mandatory probation training for the Milwaukee County Transit System, and is only a few months away from getting her own routes..

ATU Local 998 spent no



ATU leaders Rick Bassler and Gloria Dobbs pose with Debra Watson (center) as she heads out from the north side depot for one of her final Milwaukee County training runs.

money but a lot of time and lobbying to help Watson. The local actually started general inquiries before Labor Day — would the Milwaukee Transit system be open to hiring at least

one evacuee?

As ATU leaders recall, there was expected reluctance at the transit system, which knew many candidates did not complete the probation period and were con-

cerned that any worker would have to commit to permanently relocate to Milwaukee.

Watson filled the bill. She was an error-free New Orleans driver who had lived in Milwaukee in the past and wanted to return. After weeks of sleeping on cots, she called the local here to inquire about possibilities. They got the ball rolling.

When she flew into Milwaukee she was met by the local's leaders — Vice President Rick Bassler, Financial Secretary Gloria Dobbs and Recording Secretary Cassandra Cobb — and provided her first night in a long time on a real bed, and more importantly a job.

Watson and fiancée Greg Galloway are now setting up a new life in Milwaukee, a story that proves again, as Dobbs, said,

“that unions are a family.”

Other unions in Milwaukee have been showing the same sense of family. Qualified relocated workers are on the job on the Marquette Interchange and other projects. An estimated 2,000 evacuees were received in Wisconsin and about 700 intend to stay. Those getting union jobs will lift a burden from charity and government assistance.

Much of the discussion at the WisCOSH meeting dealt with the years of safety and environmental hazards facing the flooded hurricane regions and how unions and other experts on hazmat (hazardous materials) could get involved, if the big business interests locking up the government contracts let them.

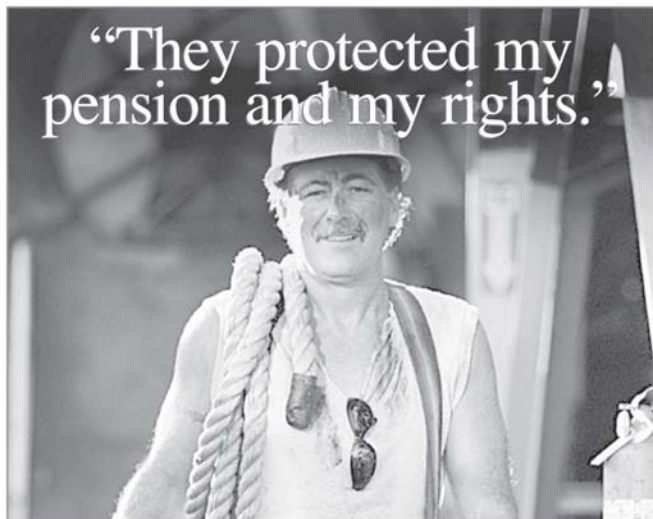
WisCOSH (Wisconsin Committee on Occupational Safety and Health) is the non-profit, largely volunteer organization formed by unions, lawyers and health professionals in 1978 to focus on workplace problems and training. It was organized shortly after the Occupational Safety and Health Act was passed in 1970, as the first and long overdue federal legislation aimed at addressing health problems associated with work.

Many in the business community — aided by legislators dependent on big business money to get elected — have worked for 35 years to limit OSHA's impact on a safe workplace. The number of OSHA inspectors has shrunk from the levels created in the administration of President Carter.

That has put more pressure on those concerned about workplace safety to work as volunteers and activists for groups such as WisCOSH. The group can be contacted through ATU Hall at 734 N. 26th St.

Or call (414) 933-2338 or email [wiscoshm@execpc.com](mailto:wiscoshm@execpc.com)

“They protected my pension and my rights.”



## Divorce Representation At Previat Goldberg

Divorce is never easy. But with Previat Goldberg's unique knowledge of pension plans we can help clients reach their objectives while maintaining their assets. We also provide skillful assistance in all areas of property division, child support and post judgments. For a free consultation, call Previat Goldberg Attorney and Partner Lisa Bangert at 414-271-4500.

Ask about reduced rates for union members.



Previat, Goldberg, Uelmen,  
Gratz, Miller & Brueggeman, s.c.

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

17800 W. Bluemound Rd., Brookfield, WI 53045 Phone 262-789-5000

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

## Exclusive Home Loan Benefits for AFL-CIO Affiliated Members.

Introducing HIT HOME. Countrywide Home Loans and the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust (HIT) have teamed up to make home financing easier and more affordable for hard-working families. Choose from the widest selection of competitively priced home loans to fit your needs, including little or no down payment options. Plus take advantage of money-saving benefits, exclusively for AFL-CIO affiliated members:

- Save hundreds of dollars when your loan to purchase or refinance a home closes.\*
- Flexible payment schedules through the *Working Family Mortgage* to reduce the length of your loan and save thousands of dollars in interest. There are no set-up or draft fees for union members.
- Homebuyer education, including information for first-time homebuyers.

To start your application, simply call or stop by to see me today.

**David Blaguski**  
Countrywide Home Loans (262) 780-7106 Direct  
Home Loan Consultant (262) 641-0244 Fax  
16620 W. Bluemound Rd., #700 (262) 751-1225 Cell  
Brookfield, WI 53005



Countrywide Financial Corporation is America's #1 residential lender and a member of the prestigious Standard & Poor's 500 and Fortune 500.®

Equal Housing Lender ©2005 Countrywide Home Loans, Inc., 4500 Park Granada, Calabasas, CA 91302. Trade/service marks are the property of Countrywide Financial Corporation and/or its subsidiaries. HIT HOME is a registered trademark owned by the AFL-CIO Housing Investment Trust. Some products may not be available in all states. This is not a commitment to lend. Restrictions apply. All rights reserved. Credit offer is for new transactions only, not HELOCs or fixed seconds and cannot be combined with any other discount or offer. \*\$250 credited at the closing of your Countrywide home loan. (\$500 for loans in high cost markets, as determined by Countrywide.) No mortgage broker, correspondent or other third party loans are eligible. The Working Family Mortgage is not available on HELOCs, ARMs and fixed seconds. Program guidelines are subject to change without notice. Ask your home loan expert for details. Inside Mortgage Finance (Jan. 26, 2005), Copyright 2005, 50345



# Bush's mountain bike must have quite a backpedal

By Dominique Paul Noth  
Editor, Labor Press

An incredible month of reversals has revealed as never before that President Bush acts not out of conviction or philosophy but out of pressure points.

Working families and Democrats, of course, have been trying to put pressure for quite some time.

If they're making inroads now it's because far more Americans are realizing the difference between posture and competence.

And when the right-wing base became rabidly frustrated about not getting even more of its own way with the president, that opened the eyes of the majority of Americans in the middle.

Agree with Bush or not, you have to concede that his appearance of conviction has been his main strength. Which makes the reversals and the reasons for them all the more revealing. They're all about politics, not about conviction.

**Reversed:** Bush's instant removal of prevailing-wage standards in the four Southern states hit by Hurricane Katrina. He lifted the Davis-Bacon rules on federal projects as a political bone to big business interests, a way to loosen the purse strings held by conservatives in Congress. But in November, the president restored Davis Bacon rules -- and blistered FEMA said it would back away from no-bid contracts.

**Cause:** This is one of the rare cases where union outrage made a difference, joined by regional pressure to keep unscrupulous contractors out and by complaints from moderate Republicans. The anger in Congress put in jeopardy the other economic agendas of the president. So while the end result was more economically moral, the motive was political cover.

**Reversed:** The commitment to develop nuclear "bunker-buster" bombs.

**Cause:** It dawned on many Congress members that the nuclear idea not only risked

## Comment

global treaties they had approved but also looked foolish when the US was trying to prevent nuclear arms proliferation by countries like Iran. So the White House capitulated.

**Reversed or Certainly Dumped:** Social Security privatization as the centerpiece of Bush's domestic agenda.

**Cause:** Unions found the great majority of Americans agreeing that this was a dumb idea, and the recent effort of major corporations to foist promised pension benefits back onto taxpayers has only solidified near-universal resistance.

**Reversed:** The effort to appoint Bush's personal lawyer, Harriet Miers, to the Supreme Court, exposing that few people anymore will accept the president's word without evidence of "most qualified candidate."

**Cause:** This one is most revealing. First, trust and political capital are in short supply after Iraq, Scooter Libby, FEMA -- the list goes on and on. Exposed as well was the division in conservative ranks. Many were offended by Bush's pandering by wink and nod to evangelical Christians.

They wanted a fight on an intellectual plane over constitutional philosophy, leaving religion out of it.

Bush had never considered the intellectual component, just the political equation. The Democrats didn't have to do much more than watch amused from the sidelines at the self-

destruction.

But now they are forced to act. Rather than telling the right-wing extremists to jump in the lake, Bush has placed politics over progress once again by nominating a judge so far to the right that he has been on the losing end of many conservative court decisions, Sam Alito of the 3<sup>rd</sup> US Court of Appeals, known in the trade as Scalito because of the similarities of his positions to Justice Antonin Scalia.

The backpedaling at the White House is evident on other fronts -- including picking former academic and centrist Ben Bernanke despite pressure from the right-wing to appoint one of their own to replace Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Another probable reversal: White House support of torture, a policy that flies in the face of American values. Many Republicans now expect Bush to back off his threat to veto a \$440 billion military spending bill simply because it restates America's longstanding legal opposition to enemy torture, or torture by others at our instigation.

The reversal is not assured since Vice President Dick Cheney has, tragically, been strong-arming behind the scenes, seeking to exempt CIA agents from the torture ban. His motives became clearer with news reports of how the agency, under pressure from the Bush administration after 9/11, set up terrorist prisons around the world.

But the revolt in Congress leaves the weakened president

with a politically indefensible position -- to veto a military bill simply because of a bipartisan statement against torture supported by 90 senators!

The pundits and late-night comics are having fun with all this. When former oilman Bush reversed course and urged his countrymen to car-pool and cut down on recreational driving after the hurricanes, his sudden conversion to conservation produced laughter.

When he appointed Bernanke, economist and Op-Ed columnist Paul Krugman, long a thorn in the White House's side, facetiously asked: "Has President Bush been so damaged by scandals and public disapproval that he has no choice but to appoint qualified, principled people to important positions?"

But as Krugman then warned, it's really not funny and this is no time to relax, or think real sanity had been restored.

The famous Bush stubbornness seems unshaken on even more destructive policies: Iraq, a tax policy that is trickling down more middle class debt, a record national deficit mainly in the hand of foreign companies, confusion on immigration reform, and cutbacks in environmental protection despite that one-time request for fuel caution.

As deaths mount in Iraq, as debts pile up on our grandchildren, as politicians realize how insulated and isolated the White House is from the voters they have to face in 2006, what's left?

A recognition that pressure points do work -- and an invitation to pile them on.

## Bowling

### MCLC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING

#### OCTOBER 2005 RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
8 BALLS	30	19
SLAMMERS	28	21
LABORERS 113	25	24
ONE BOARD OVER	24	25
CRAZY 8's	22	27
GUTTER RATS	18	31

#### IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 525

DON BOOTON	668
BOB WAGNER	627
SAM SAMUELSON	615
WAYNE FRANZEN	615
DON WIEDMANN	588
HANK ZEISSE	582
DEL GROSS	569
DAN LAACK	563
ELMER HELM	561
WALLY GEISE	535
JOHN PADRON	527

#### IND. HIGH GAME OVER 195

BOB WAGNER	258
DON BOOTON	237
HANK ZEISSE	236
WAYNE FRANZEN	223
SAM SAMUELSON	216
DON WIEDMANN	214
DAN LAACK	214
JOHN PADRON	214
DEL GROSS	210
ELMER HELM	199

#### IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 430

ELAINE KARIER	474
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	466
LAVERNE WERNER	434

#### IND. HIGH GAME OVER 165

ELAINE KARIER	194
LAVERNE WERNER	169
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	168

## ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS OF WISCONSIN S.C.

Jeffrey Butler MD	Steven Trinkl MD
Eric Pifel MD	William Pennington MD
James Stone MD	Joel Wallskog MD
Daniel Guehlstorf MD	Jamie Edwards MD

Thomas Perlewitz MD

Board Certified / Eligible  
Fellowship Trained  
Orthopedic Surgeons

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

414-384-6700

414-325-4320

# Don't Let Your Voice Be Silenced.

## WE ORGANIZE.

- **Unsafe Working Conditions?**
- **Short Staffing?**
- **Mandatory Overtime?**

Call Us, We Can Help



1-800-828-2256



# America goes crashing from poll to poll

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

With no evidence to rely on, the state GOP and conservative talk radio have pounded away on a phone poll done by a Madison public relations firm that reported more

than 60% of state citizens strongly supported photo IDs at the polls.

That's the same percentage in polls that disapprove of President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq.

It is also the same percentage

that still believes Saddam Hussein had "strong ties" to Al Qaeda, and the same percent saying we should bring US troops home within the next year.

Contradictory? That's not the half of it.

In polls within the last month, 51% of Americans believe the solution to the immigration problem is to build a 2,000-mile-long security fence along the US-Mexico border.

In another poll, you heard that 50% of the country doesn't believe in evolution. (But you have to look deeper. That's 50% in terms of whether mankind was created through evolution, not whether plants were. And while half of evangelical Christians don't think you can believe in both God and evolution, 70% of all polled think the concepts can co-exist.)

The same week came another poll in which 58% of US citizens believe embryonic stem cell research is justified. And despite every statistical report showing serious crime has fallen remarkably in the last decade, 67% of Americans think crime in the US is worse today than a year ago.

It's all so confusing, and some of it so anti-progressive, that thinking citizens may want to pack their bags and move to New Zealand.

But polls are conditioned by the way the questions are phrased, the timing of when they're asked and the sometimes suspect "randomness" of participants.

Even at their best, and there are some good ones, polls are generally just a snapshot in time. Take Saddam (please). Though strong ties to Al Qaeda is a ludicrous conclusion, there has also been a significant drop in belief that he was directly involved in 9/11 (from 80% two years ago to 47% today). So something is sinking in.

Still, the impulses in the polled public bring weird bedfellows. Some 64% believe history will credit the US for bringing peace and democracy to Iraq, but in the same poll nearly 50% think the Iraqi conflict has weakened us in the war on terrorism.

Only in polls can you have it both ways.

Polls sometimes seem the lazy way of people making up their own minds, like taking the comments in the checkout lane as your own opinion of the latest movie. Polls make grabber headlines and are far cheaper than actual legwork for the nation's media.

The important thing to remember is that most poll

results change - too slowly for some, but change they do. Run away rapidly from any talk show host that suggests a politician is toast because he is on the wrong side of polling numbers, whether the politician is George Bush or Jim Doyle.

Shrewd politicians use polls merely as a tool to focus their corrective efforts, working to change the opinions on the ground. By facts or by hook.

Consider how foes of Tom DeLay took false comfort from a poll suggesting that nearly half the responders think he did something naughty with money in Texas. But the poll also revealed that nearly 30% of the country never heard of the guy. The number of people who know who he is and what he did should rise quickly over the next year. But so could the spin -- in either direction as his trial unfolds. Tom DeLay as O.J. in reverse colors? It could happen.

The most important polls become those that show public consistency over time.

Unfortunately they're boring to read, don't make big headlines and are seldom commissioned.

Beware most of the desperate politician, who may call on poll results long after they're outdated or even twist public perceptions in anticipation of the next poll.

Thus you can frighten people for months with something that never happened (such as blowing up voting glitches in Wisconsin into a Florida firestorm) and only then take a sampling of what citizens think.

These are usually the polls that offer a Pollyanna solution to a complex problem, be it a chain link fence around America or a photo ID at the polls.

## Dr. King should be on all our minds

In an age where we long for everyday figures whose simple acts of character rise to heroic stature, Rosa Parks passed away. Her death brought the entire nation into a period of mourning, recalling how an act of determination on a segregated bus became the beacon that lighted a profound civil rights movement.

Her moment became the moment for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his inspiring commitment to civil disobedience.

All that gives special weight to the 17th annual King celebration being organized by the United Auto Workers Milwaukee Metro Area Civil Right Council.

With "Being a Drum Major for Peace" as the theme, the free celebration with entertainment, refreshments and special speakers will be held starting at 5 p.m. Saturday, January 7, 2006, at the Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St. For more details contact the event's chair, Janie Jackson, at (414) 764-6650.



MCLC delegates took a moment of silence at the Nov. 2 meeting to mourn for Rosa Parks.



# WISCONSIN VISION

*"Eye Care Done Right"*

## Fall Savings

**MILWAUKEE**  
1920 W. Layton Ave.  
**414-325-8600**

6310 W. Bluemound Rd.  
**414-453-3926**

7528 W. Burleigh St.  
**414-873-9090**

**FRANKLIN**  
8225 S. 27th St.  
**414-761-2269**

**GREENFIELD**  
4818 S. 76th St.  
**414-431-0385**

**KENOSHA**  
5725 75th St.  
**262-694-5553**

**RACINE**  
3905 Douglas Ave.  
**262-639-5360**

**WEST ALLIS**  
1401 S. 108th St.  
**414-476-0200**

**WAUKESHA**  
203A E. Sunset Dr.  
**262-524-1130**

**MENOMONEE FALLS**  
N85 W16033 Appleton Ave.  
**262-251-1900**

**GRAFTON**  
1260 N. Port Washington Rd.  
**262-546-0234**

**Flex Plans**  
It's never too early to start utilizing your Flex Plans.

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



...COMPARED TO \$6.38 FOR NON-UNION WORKERS.

SO YOU'RE PAYING NON-UNION DUES OF OVER SIX BUCKS AN HOUR!

I'M GETTIN' SCREWED.

WANNA SIGN A UNION CARD?

*Ken O'Rocki ©2005*

MIKE KONDRA/CHI LABOR CARTOONS  
WWW.COLLECTIVE.COM/ILLEGITIMATE-1001

<p><b>Wisconsin Vision</b></p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">25% to 50% OFF</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Designer Frames</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;">25% OFF First Designer Frame 50% OFF Second Designer Frame*</p> <p style="margin: 0;">When you purchase both frame and lenses. Choose from 1000's of styles.</p> <p style="margin: 0;"><small>*Same day, same prescription of equal or lesser value. Some Restrictions May Apply. Get a back-up pair or pair of prescription sunglasses. Offer Expires 12/31/05.</small></p>	<p><b>Wisconsin Vision</b></p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">\$99</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Disposable Contact Lens Package</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><small>Price includes:</small></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comprehensive Eye Exam</li> <li>2. Three Month Supply (6 pr.) of Soft, Visiint, Spherical Disposable Contacts</li> <li>3. Instruction Class</li> <li>4. Starter Kit of Solutions</li> <li>5. Follow-up Care with the Doctors</li> </ol> <p style="margin: 0;"><small>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 12/31/05.</small></p>	<p><b>Wisconsin Vision</b></p> <h2 style="margin: 0;">\$35</h2> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Comprehensive Eye Exam</b></p> <p style="margin: 0;"><small>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 12/31/05.</small></p>
---	---	--



## UNION COPY CENTERS, INC.

3060 S. 43rd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53219  
(414) 329-2054 Fax (414) 329-8582

Web: [www.unioncopycenters.com](http://www.unioncopycenters.com) Email: [unioncopies@aol.com](mailto:unioncopies@aol.com)

### Price Guarantee

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

**FREE** Pick-up & Delivery We Accept Visa & MasterCard

The Only Full Service UNION COPY CENTER in the USA



# House hearing inadvertently IDs the real voter conspiracy here

"The Republicans are outnumbered," said one observer at Milwaukee's federal courthouse during a manufactured hearing by the House Administration Committee on Wisconsin's election problems.

Which was amusing, because only two of the nine committee members made the trip to Milwaukee Oct. 24 and they were both Republican.

And they came largely to help another GOP representative, Mark Green, who is pushing the concept of photo IDs at the polls in his pursuit of the GOP candidacy for the Wisconsin governor's race in 2006.

The initial hearing witness list was also dominated by GOP supporters of Green's position, not of the rounded election reform package put together by Jim Doyle, the Democratic governor Green wants to face.

Yet still they were outnumbered because, in congressional courtesy, they had to let Milwaukee's House member join the panel. And Democrat Gwen Moore was the Wisconsin Senate's walking guru of election and voting rules before being elected to the US House.

One Moore was all that was needed. Crisply she cited actual history, figures and surveys, pointing out that photo IDs would at this point leave a quarter of a million Wisconsin voters out of participation. She honed in on the real issues -- insufficient poll workers, inaccurate databases, non-uniform standards and vague enforcement of guidelines.

The GOP visitors may have also become a little ticked off when Green ducked out after



Two Milwaukee state senators, Lena Taylor and Spencer Coggs, explored the hypocrisy of the voter ID bill at the rally on the outside steps while, inside the federal courthouse, the Republican visitors for the House hearing got a double-barrel of common sense from Democratic Rep. Gwen Moore (below).

making his political pitch, leaving them holding the bag as Moore and the added election officials and voter rights witnesses itemized the realities.

The facts, figures and anecdotes offered by these experts confirmed the general conclusion -- it was confusion not conspiracy that had caused the mismatch of names vs. actual votes, affecting the count in Wisconsin's Bush enclaves as well as in Milwaukee. And the miscuts were probably only a few hundred off on both sides.

It all caused one visitor, GOP Rep. Vernon Ehlers of Michigan, to suggest that a lot of things had to be fixed in Wisconsin ahead of pushing for photo IDs. Committee Chairman



Bob Ney (R-Ohio) hastily stepped in, because his colleague had inadvertently supported Doyle's position.

Miffed at being left out, Green's opponent for the GOP nomination, County Executive Scott Walker, chose the morning of the hearing to release his own election proposal, including not just photo ID but an end to same-day registration and deep restrictions on absentee balloting

Amid this blitz of posturing and press releases, the GOP visitors insisted that they were conducting a real hearing, not a sideshow in a political circus. The quality of some witnesses confirmed that, though others invited by the GOP kept falling back on hearsay -- this official or that poll worker "heard" of election fraud or "thought" they knew of a case of double voting.

The panel was further confused by the election investigation led by US Atty. Steve Biskupic and Milwaukee DA E. Michael McCann, at one point being told the prosecutors had found genuine evidence of fraud but at another being reminded that the prosecutors had found no organized fraud, mainly mistakes in data-entry, eligibility tracking and record-keeping.

Technical fraud and convictable fraud are obviously

## Time Flies When You're Having Fun!



PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc. LOS959EQ1 (exp1/207)MLC/LD Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY, 10166

**RETIREMENT PLANNING** Whether you're having fun, a career, a family or your gums scraped, when it comes to planning for retirement, time flies. Our financial services representatives are here to help you prepare for financial freedom. Wherever you want to go with your retirement, fishing off Maui or teaching at PS 21 -- we'll help make sure you arrive on time.

For additional information, please contact:

**Bob Johnston or Jim Baker**  
(414) 615-4912 or (414) 615-4862

have you met life today? **MetLife**

## Voter blockade mischief bores on in Madison

The partisan attack on voter rights continued in Madison, with a Senate bill, 396, that would eliminate same-day registration for voters and create confusing barriers for those who thought they had indeed registered.

The bill, echoing the attitudes of both Scott Walker and Mark Green and seemingly conditioned to reduce turnout ahead of the race for governor, sought to divert attention from the rounded election reform package -- joint Assembly Bill 542 and Senate Bill 294 -- supported by Gov. Doyle, 50 legislators and the diverse Wisconsin Voting Rights Coalition.

Speaking for the coalition, the Milwaukee labor council's full-time leader, Sheila Cochran, reminded the legislature that the real purpose of election reform should be to "lessen impediments, not add to them."

"We do not support any proposals that restrict voters' access to the polls," Cochran said. "We want more people involved in the democratic process, not fewer."

Along with the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO and the state AFL-CIO, the coalition members include Citizen Action of Wisconsin, the League of Women Voters, AFSCME, SEIU, the NAACP, the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups, Peace Action Coalition, Wisconsin Coalition for Advocacy, MICA, Wisdom, the American Civil Liberties Union, UWM Student Association, Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, League of United Latin American Citizens, Wisconsin Education Association Council, the Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin, the UAW, Voces de la Frontera, People For the American Way, American Jewish Committee and No Stolen Elections.

quite different. The track record of a Milwaukee cases brought before juries has so far been spotty (one conviction, one "not guilty" and one mistrial).

The House visitors also learned how the state GOP -- which has papered the media with 28 press release supporting photo ID in the last six months -- had smeared innocent citizens, in one strange incident staging a press conference in front of the Milwaukee home of a Chicago-based candidate for the priest-hood.

The visitors' obvious perplexity over Wisconsin's felon rules further confirmed the reform position taken by opponents of photo ID.

(A spokesman for the Advancement Project pointed out that felons who have completed parole or probation are eligible to vote in Wisconsin, and most of the 200 cases investigated by prosecutors were judged misunderstandings over confusing regulations, something corrected in Doyle's reform package.)

Meanwhile, the League of Women Voters and senior citizen groups offered chapter and verse of how photo IDs would not change current lackadaisical poll worker habits in uncrowded rural and outstate (read GOP) election sites but would create longer lines and delays in crowded urban (read Democratic) poll centers.

Even Green's sops to the disabled (no photo IDs for those in

wheelchairs) were found insulting. Tobie Tyler, an advocate for the Disability Rights Access Investigation Network, pointed out that many disabled are not as obvious as he was in his wheelchair -- and besides, "there are honest people and dishonest people in wheelchairs."

Well-meaning supporters of a national commission on election reform noted that its recommendations were interlaced, so its proposal for a national (not state) photo ID required a totally free and consistently applied national agreement, not a local imposition.

A broad array of community groups had rapidly mobilized after Green concocted this hearing. With home-made signs and local news cameras heavily present, they gathered for a press conference on the steps of the courthouse.

It was here that State Sen. Spencer Coggs labeled the photo ID push for what it is -- an attempt to dissuade and suppress urban turnout ahead of the 2006 race for governor.

It was here that State Sen. Lena Taylor reminded the crowd that a photo ID bill less restrictive than the one offered in Wisconsin had just been declared unconstitutional in Georgia, likened to the "poll taxes" that had thwarted black turnout for decades in the South.

-- D.P.N.



Michael J. Jaeger, M.D.  
Aurora Senior Medical Officer,  
Care Management

Patrick D. Falvey, Ph.D.  
Vice President, Aurora Care  
Management Administration

## These men are Aurora's harshest critics.

No one is more critical of Aurora Health Care's progress on Quality than our Care Management team, led by Michael Jaeger and Patrick Falvey. Every month, they issue to each doctor and hospital a report on their quality performance. The Care Management team tests how we're improving patient health, reducing hospital admissions, shortening hospital stays and helping patients manage chronic diseases. They work strategically across disciplines to eliminate waste and streamline processes. And they are helping us meet and surpass national quality goals.

Aurora's Care Management philosophy is rooted in the Baldrige, Approach-Deployment-Results structure to create performance excellence. This process helps Aurora improve patient health while reducing costs. Aurora Care Management applies Statistical Process Control, Six Sigma, Production Management, and other quality tactics to help them analyze data, procedures and results.

Care management is so important to Aurora's nearly 24,000 employees, it has become a cornerstone of our organization's culture.

Aurora has made a commitment to keep price increases below the national Medical Consumer Price Index. Aurora is keeping that promise. To view our 2004 price changes, visit [www.AuroraHealthCare.org](http://www.AuroraHealthCare.org).



[www.AuroraHealthCare.org](http://www.AuroraHealthCare.org)

©2004 Aurora Health Care