

LABOR PRESS

WWW.MILWAUKEELABOR.ORG

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 66, No. 10

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

Thursday, October 26, 2006

(USPS 350-360)



Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton was hailed as activist of the year Sept. 30 at the AFT Local 212 Excellence in Education banquet that also honored state Supreme Court Justice Louis Butler and retired MATC teacher William Koepsel.

Gearing up for Nov. 7



The incumbent proves mighty skittish about public discourse, but challenger Jim Sullivan in state Senate District 5 has been eager to speak issues in active neighborhood campaigning and community forums. See **Page 6**



A mutual admiration society was shared with a large crowd at Serb Hall by US Sen. Herb Kohl and Rep. Gwen Moore – much to the delight of Attorney General candidate Kathleen Falk and Gov. Jim Doyle (center). The rally preceded door-to-door weekend campaigning for the full Democratic slate.

Endorsements

in Contested Races

November 7 Election, 2006

From Wisconsin State AFL-CIO
Milwaukee County Labor Council

* denotes incumbent
STATE OFFICE

Governor: Jim Doyle *

Lt. Governor: Barbara Lawton *

Attorney General: Kathleen Falk See **Page 6**

US SENATE

Herb Kohl *

US CONGRESS

4th District: Gwen Moore *

5th District: Bryan Kennedy

8th District (Green Bay): Steve Kagen

2nd District (Madison): Tammy Baldwin *

STATE SENATE

District 5: Jim Sullivan See **Page 6**

District 7: Jeff Plale*

District 21 (Racine): John Lehman See **Page 6**

STATE ASSEMBLY

District 23: Stan Teplin See **Page 11**

District 62: Cory Mason

District 63: Tim Daley

BALLOT QUESTIONS See **Page 5**

MILWAUKEE COUNTY

District Attorney: John Chisholm

But apathy's the big enemy

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Pundits on both sides agree: Wisconsin's November 7 election is actually a simple thing.

If it produces a heavier turnout than usual in midterm races – in other words, a genuine expression of the will of the people – Jim Doyle and Barbara Lawton will be swept back into office.

If the Republicans have created sufficient apathy and indifference, leaving the field clear for their last-minute computerized blitz of the faithful, Mark Green will be the new governor.

To Democrats long concerned about this election, that would be a nightmare. To the GOP it would be proof that a strategy of relentless character assassination worked.

Both sides have indulged in negative TV advertising, though Doyle supporters argue he had to respond forcefully to attacks. (The memory lingers of John Kerry's failure to ram the Swift boat nonsense head-on.)

But the ads from the GOP and their outside groups were craftily designed to paint sleaze on Doyle's every action, ignoring his effectiveness as the Midwest governor who led the bounce-back from President Bush's devastating economic policies.

For sleaze to be effective, it must be a constant TV drum-

Analysis

beat. So it turns out there was a reason Green desperately needed the half million dollars in outside contributions that the legal system ordered him to give up.

The polluted money gave the GOP enough for a nonstop TV game show called "Who's the Bigger Thief?" Relentless repetition is how you sell charges you can't confirm.

Pontificating innuendo is how you cast doubt on Doyle's ethics and avoid discussing his considerable successes (including eliminating the \$3.2 billion deficit the GOP made sure he inherited).

Doyle responded in kind, though in the last month his commercials focused on his actual programs helping actual people with thoughtful policies (ads in my view long overdue, to which Green had no direct answers).

But what most voters will remember is a distasteful seesaw of attack-denial, what Doyle may have done vs. what Green did.

This seemed a race between two crooks. It encouraged people

to stay home in disgust or maybe prefer the crook they don't know, the one from faraway D.C.

Souring the electorate serves multiple purposes for the GOP. It depresses turnout. It allows Green to side-step scrutiny of his own proposals. The media became too busy chasing "he said he said" to actually look under the hood – and find no engine. Almost every concept Green advanced was absent of detail, hollow on facts, misdirected in value (health savings accounts for the well-to-do while health costs cripple the middle class?) or clones of the White House approach.

Where was care for the environment, for struggling families, for the elderly? You had to look to the later Doyle ads for that, but they were usually followed by a Green ad that offered a Republican like Richard Nixon as the governor's evil twin.

In the debates, Green let the ads do the negatives while trying to act like the nice guy by offering simplicities directly to the camera: "If you like property

Politics continued **Page 8**

How about some news that's a century old but still very timely? Read all about it on **Page 10**.

ALSO INSIDE

Blunt talk seeks to revitalize union advantage in construction trades. **Page 4.**



Fair trade locks in a retail outlet

A successful three-week holiday experiment last year has led to a permanent new fair-trade store at 5205 W. North Ave.

The nonprofit Four Corners of the World, featuring a direct outlet for artisans from around the globe, plus responsible coffee, chocolate and other goods, represents a major step forward for the Milwaukee fair trade campaign

and the coalition formed in 2005 as SWIFT (Southeastern Wisconsin Initiative for Fair Trade).

Cutting out rapacious middlemen and the unsavory practices that cripple the global ecology and demean the US reputation for fair dealing, the store directly rewards families in developing countries while providing another outlet to educate Milwaukeeans about fair trade goals.

But mainly, as every browser will find, it provides nifty goods, gifts, linens, toys, décor and other items far more attractive than found on a typical shopping trip.

Last year, with minimal publicity and then a makeshift facility, the fair trade outlet generated thousands of dollars in sales that convinced sponsors to establish regular hours Tuesdays through Saturdays and continue to drive awareness of fair trade among conscientious shoppers.

Initially, its main vendor is Ten Thousand Villages, which has worked nationally for 60 years to establish just working conditions and vital income to goods creators in more than 30 developing countries. By working with artisans, Ten Thousand Villages creates income for food, education, health care and housing for workers and their families. Its research indicates that purchases of \$1,000 provide a family enough income in these countries for a year.

Yet Four Corners also works like a typical retail outlet. Ten Thousand Villages pays the artisans and warehouses their goods based on what the organization believes will sell.

Four Corners shops that warehouse and buys along the same lines. Some of this is a learning curve — what will go over big in Milwaukee, because it isn't the same across the board as Seattle.



Musical instruments from Bangladesh and a stand-up creche from Peru (right) are among many items at the new fair-trade store.



The Four Corners buyers, however, seem to have a good eye. The products themselves mix traditional skills with modern design and allow survival of cultural uniqueness. Shoppers — and not just for the holidays — will find jewelry and clothing from Peru; ornaments from Bangladesh; baskets and vases from Haiti; tableware from Vietnam; art and frames from The Philippines; sculptures from Tanzania; gifts from Chile; stationery from Thailand; items from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal — and that's just a partial list.

SWIFT's mission is global worker justice through fair trade for original items. It has already added Just Coffee from Catholic Relief Services and chocolate from A Greater Gift. Contemporary clothing from sweatshop-free manufacturers will be added next year, say the organizers. On side tables, shoppers can also learn more about the goals of the fair trade movement.

The Four Corners store is an active way to oppose child labor, directly reward craft experts, provide unique reasonably priced items to consumers and further ecological as well as economic gains.

The organizers are also pursuing the talents of the community to serve on its boards, committees and as in-store volunteers. Their activities are supported by several unions and union members and dovetail with other fair trade initiatives, including the clean clothes campaign.

Just one store opens solutions that uplift talented workers around the world who otherwise would be unemployed, underemployed, or unfairly-employed.

Established hours for the store — located in an easily accessible shopping area at 52nd and North — are Tuesdays to Fridays 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Alice Foley at 414-871-4081, also alicefoley@netzero.net, or Mike Howden at 414-342-5284, also mike.milwccc@sbcglobal.net.

THE ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE OF WISCONSIN

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

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

Immediate Appointments Available

Suite 102
2901 W. Kinnickinnic River Pkwy
Milwaukee, WI 53215
414-384-6700

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



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 *statutory 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

SHEBOYGAN OFFICE
2108 KOHLER MEMORIAL DRIVE
SHEBOYGAN, WI 53081

1-866-888-3620

www.habush.com



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

AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

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

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

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD — Mary Jo Avery, Communications Workers of America Local 4603; Lyle Balistreri, Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council; Carolyn P. Castore, Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 9; William F. Christianson, International Association of Machinists Lodge 1845; Paula Dorsey, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 426; 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; Stambhia Grier, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2150; Brandon W. Jensen, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998; Candice Owsley, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals; Sam Parby, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494; Scott J. Redman, Plumbers and Gas Fitters Local 75; Patrick R. Weyer, Brewery Workers 9, United Auto Workers; Ross M. Winklbauer Sr., Paper, Allied-Industrial, Chemical & Energy Workers (USW, formerly PACE) Local 7-0232.



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



THE MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS (USPS 350-360) is published once a month by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO, 633 S. Hawley Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53214, and is also available by subscription for \$12 a year. 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 necessarily from unionized companies or services of the Milwaukee County Labor Council or any of its affiliates. COPY DEADLINE: Usually by noon 3rd Monday of each month except December (2nd Monday).

27th St. neighbors put stop sign on Wal-Mart

With their PowerPoint show and architectural diagrams of how they would expand the S. 27th St. store into a supercenter, six Wal-Mart specialists (and two plants in the audience) thought they were well-armed for Ald. Joe Dudzik's public talk-out at the Audubon Middle School auditorium.

Bristling with real facts were about 15 WakeUpWalmart supporters, including several from unions, ready to rumble about Wal-Mart's breaking a commitment made seven years ago at a contentious City Hall meeting. Back then, the retailer won by a single vote after promising not to expand the discount store into a combination grocery, pharmacy — and what next, asked one person at the meeting, a service station?

That's sure what a supercenter means across the world, where Wal-Mart has 4,000 stores, 1,900 of them open 24 hours a day.

But the global statistics and organized forces against Wal-Mart were hardly needed at the town hall. Of the remaining 50 attendees, only five seemed in favor of the expansion.

The rest, identified by address as living within blocks of the store, were having none of Wal-Mart's promises. They had already lived with the results, thank you, as they made clear in anecdote after anecdote.

One resident recalled the fancy diagrams presented seven years ago, which also had landscaped parking lots and esthetic buffers — but none of that happened, he said, and he was joined by other residents in identifying how the store had become



After residents blasted Wal-Mart's expansion plans during Ald. Joe Dudzik's meeting, state Rep. Josh Zepnick took his turn, while Ald. Bob Donovan (right) took notes.

rundown, disorganized, messy, rife with security issues and runaway shopping carts and part of the area's increase in traffic and accidents.

When Wal-Mart's manager pointed out how much cleaner and friendlier the store had become in the last six months, one resident said that only happened "once you decided to bring back the supercenter concept" in an area already loaded with pharmacies and grocery stores that pay better wages and also respond to pricing issues.

Another resident, looking at the diagrams of added grocery store and drive-up pharmacy, offered an irrefutable observation — "Your plan is just too darn big for the lot you've got."

When Wal-Mart's traffic engineer, offering preliminary conclusions, said 1,600 more vehicles a day would not trouble the sidestreets but be limited to the "immediate area," another whispered comment (one of several that could be heard throughout the auditorium), asked,

"What? Are they just going to circle forever in the parking lot?" Pressed about changes in stoplights, stop signs and rerouting, the engineer conceded that these were problems "that would have to be worked out with the city."

What many thought had been worked out with the city was to allow Wal-Mart some stores but keep the supercenter concept and rival grocery stores out of an urban area already suffering enormous blows in stagnating and falling wages.

Virtually every supermarket is fighting to keep decent pay and benefits while Wal-Mart encircles with its supercenter theatrics. Organic food growers, part of a new hot market, have also complained about Wal-Mart's "corporate organic" approach clearly designed to cripple the mom and pop farms.

In response to such criticisms, Wal-Mart — which is looking at building another supercenter nearby, in an emerging Cudahy mall project — trotted out its double-pronged argument.

1. "We're for free choice" in the marketplace, where consumers decide on the basis of price, so if we force mom-and-pops or other chains out through volume buying and promotion, isn't that the American way?

2. What have you got against poor people, struggling to get by on tight incomes — would you really take way their Wal-Mart choice?

Buttressing that approach was a Wal-Mart employee who described the "great wages and benefits" and then conceded that she didn't take the company's health plan.

When pressed by the audience, she lashed back in what

many perceived as a rehearsed "don't look down on poor people" response: "I may not make as much money as you do, but I'm just as good as you are."

"Yeah," muttered one audience member, who also worked retail. "But not as smart."

Such Wal-Mart arguments didn't dent this audience. Most of their concerns were residential basic, about daily deterioration of neighborhoods and comfort zones. People who love their communities seem far more aware of the consequences of Wal-Mart incursions and more than ready to resist.

And when Wal-Mart tried to argue pocketbook, the room really got testy.

Admitting she was a bargain hunter, one audience member said, "Once you drive away the choices by your pricing power, what keeps you from setting whatever price you want?"

Added another, "It seems that for you to succeed, you have to make more of us poor."

An ardent opponent of Wal-Mart tactics, state Rep. Josh Zepnick, waited for a break in the citizen complaints to offer an eloquent four-minute rebuttal of Wal-Mart's arguments.

Zepnick reminded the audience that Wal-Mart's pricing and wage policies had already cost state taxpayers millions of dollars, creating employees and families who must turn to government safety nets because they can't afford the company's health plans.

When the Wal-Mart spokesman identified as Roderick Scott was pressed on Wal-Mart's wages for hourly employees, he revealed the average rate at the 27th St. store was \$10.30 an hour, and then described that as "very respectable." That drew hoots, even from the retirees in the audience.

Said one sarcastic resident: "I'd love to see your executives move to the South Side and try to live on that."

-- Dominique Paul Noth

Where are your healthcare dollars?

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

+ AFFORDABILITY

SIMPLY AFFORDABLE COVERAGE

WHF
WISCONSIN HEALTH FUND™

www.whfund.org • 414-479-3634

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

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.

Builder unions absorb tough love, hard facts

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Yell out your favorite brands. Some 800 union contractors, leaders and workers and their spouses -- after enjoying fine dinners at the Marriott Hotel ballroom in Pewaukee two nights in early October -- joined that game and also pretended to be consumer analysts.

You can play along, too. Yell out your favorite brands and what makes them attractive.

The lists received by speaker Mark Breslin were long, sometimes funny and always diverse -- Harley, Miller, Kotex, Dell, Del Monte.

But take note: None were the cheapest products in their fields. (So much for Wal-Mart.) Consumers, just like business people, pay for quality and consistency.

All the brands had earned a following through word of mouth, familiarity and reliability -- "If 10% of the computers Dell shipped didn't work, how long would they be in business?" asked Breslin.

And then Breslin turned to the union brand in construction. When kicking on all cylinders, from the top of the contracting pyramid down to the newly trained apprentices, unions believe they provide the highest quality and safety, smoothest fastest work, best skills, most-reliable ingredients and on-time completion, plus devotion, pride -- in sum, the best brand by far for the customer (who is the developer putting up the dollars).

But what do developers think about the union brand?

Too often, Breslin pointed out, they conjure up the union image of 50 years ago - feath-



In an amusing slide show, speaker Mark Breslin offered the crowd Dennis Rodman, a heck of a basketball rebounder but also a prima donna with destructive attitudes and some pretty strange dress codes. A contrasting slide offered Hall of Famer Cal Ripken, not the best player baseball ever had but someone who came to work everyday and always gave his best. Which, Breslin asked, do you want by your side on a construction job?

erbedding, laziness, lousy or quarrelsome business agents (the adjectives Breslin used were far stronger), job disputes, overruns and on and on.

Some of that is political. Little of it is fair and certainly not accurate today, Breslin noted, but it's real, a lingering hangover that has reduced union construction in the US to 17% of the total. That's a flip in union vs. non-union percentage over the last 45 years.

"In Milwaukee, unions have 50% of business construction -- and you have no idea how that sounds like paradise in the rest of the country," Breslin told the suddenly sober crowds.

"But here you also know that 50% is a crisis. Will that be 40%

next year? Or 60%? That's up to you, and that's the Power of One."

A lifelong participant in union construction, an author and California association leader who has negotiated 160 master contracts, Breslin has also presented his "Power of One" concepts and tools to some 60,000 workers and contractors across North America.

He was brought in by Building Advantage to challenge the Milwaukee region's union construction teams about what is needed to re-establish and grow the union brand.

"Not slogans, which are meaningless, but promises delivered," said Breslin. As with the best brands, even a 10% disappointment will radiate like nuclear waste.

If unions have the best teamwork, the best training, the most envied wages and benefits, it still comes down to every individual on the job, he said.

Reputation and attitude are no longer enough. "Are you the best? Prove it - because the customer doesn't think so," he said. "And the worst thing is a customer who has had one bad experience."

The rank and file members in the ballroom did not know until this point why they had been invited to attend by their unions. The spouses thought they were just there for a nice dinner, but sponsors had specifically requested both.

"You have been identified as the future leaders, but your families also have to know what that involves. And your families have to be talking up the advantage as much as you have to demonstrate it," said Breslin, whose books include "Survival of the Fittest."

deliver. There are no tardies allowed. If you're the best, you still have to prove it every day."

Breslin is a polished speaker whose salty, humorous style reassured listeners that he understood their problems from the ground up.

Sponsors of the event conceded in interviews that he is presenting a tough, even grim message. But the statistics and the comments from the development community confirm that Breslin is addressing a harsh reality.

"We've done a lousy job at selling, about convincing developers that our standards and policies really pay off for them -- and we, workers and contractors, are the best people to do the convincing," said Lyle Balistreri, president of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, which helped arrange the event and the follow-up contacts and information.

In an interview Balistreri posed a rhetorical question: "When they see the unions coming, do they smell trouble or opportunity? We have to make sure they shouldn't see problems but solutions in working with us."

Unions don't have some automatic right to the construction business, Breslin pointed out, noting that around the US only Milwaukee and Kansas City unions and contractors have initiated serious campaigns to not only promote but also prove the union advantage in construction.

There have to be solid reasons why people with money pay a little more for this brand, Breslin said, but it's harder today to make those reasons resonate.

"We don't have the number dominance anymore -- not for a long time -- to just deride the non-union segment or just assume the customer will take our view about their limitations," he said.

"Our model should be more like the Navy Seals, only the best of the best get in, and people who aren't the best remove themselves from consideration."

"We have to attack the myth with results."

About the sponsors

Every year, Milwaukee area construction employs some 33,000 workers in a \$2.8 billion business. The challenge is to prove that sound collective bargaining and continued cooperation are the best roads to diversify the workforce, provide the highest training and skills and reward economic investment with productivity, reliability and quality.

In 2001, this led to the creation of the non-profit Construction Labor Management Council of Southeastern Wisconsin (CLMC), directed by John Topp and comprised of six contractor associations and all 20 constituent unions of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO. These are the groups that sponsor the Building Advantage program and are pushing workers to understand "The Power of One."

- More information on the CLMC's programs and goals are available at www.milwaukeelc.org.

- Building Advantage events and opportunities are outlined at www.buildingadvantage.org.


- The work, mission and training opportunities of the union trades council can be accessed at www.milwbuildingtrades.org.



**ASSOCIATED
SURGICAL
& MEDICAL
SPECIALISTS, INC.**

**Dedicated to putting
the patient first.**

- Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery, Ltd.
- Larynx Ear, Nose and Throat Associates, S.C.
- Anesthesiology Associates of Wisconsin, S.C.
- Greater Milwaukee Surgical Associates, S.C.
- Gastroenterology Consultants, Ltd.
- Orthopedic Surgeons of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Toxicologists, Ltd., S.U.
- Transcend Pain Management
- Southside Surgical, S.C.
- Clinic of Urology, S.C.
- The Surgery Center
- The Imaging Center



*Associated Surgical
and Medical Specialists*

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

No! And oh, no!

Questions on the ballot deserve two thumbs down

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Frankly, social conservatives and the truly religious should feel insulted. Exposed for hypocrisy and faulty thinking nationally, while inflating the size and waste of government, the Republicans have now turned to the basest, most emotional and unkindest angels of our nature to drive their past supporters to the polls with wedge issues.

There is no state where this is more obvious than Wisconsin.

On the November 7 ballot is a marriage question that would instantly change the state constitution. It would have no effect on gay marriage -- which is already prohibited -- but its awkward second sentence has horrible consequences on heterosexuals, from seniors to young people, throwing their legal status in doubt on civil unions.

Should this amendment pass, and right now it's 50-50, it will flood the courts with a cacophony of cases involving civil and domestic rights.

Wisconsin did become a semantic poster child here -- about how not to write an amendment. But we are not alone. The headline of a recent national wire story, surveying the movement in a dozen states, said it all: "Gay Marriage Losing Punch as Ballot Issue."

There is also an "advisory referendum" -- a "how do you feel" question to push future constitutional change -- about bringing back the death penalty in cases of "vicious" crimes where conviction is corroborated by DNA evidence. It is more pandering.

More than 150 years ago, Wisconsin was a civilized beacon when it abolished the death penalty. Today, with executions in disarray across the country, with physicians refusing to participate, with no proof it is a deterrent, with a built-in imbalance that seeks 45% of the time to execute people of color who are only 25% of the population, with conservative Republicans leading the effort in several states to set the death penalty aside, why would Wisconsin turn back the clock?

The backers of this amendment are hoping that some particularly heinous murder case will be in the news and send voters to the polls with an "eye for an eye" gleam, not with a "vengeance is mine, sayeth the Lord" memory.

Leaving religion aside, this advisory question also panders to the great TV god Nielsen, hoping that TV viewers will confuse fiction with reality.

On crime shows, DNA brings instant justice. In the less simple realm of life, DNA decides few murder cases.

Unlike TV, DNA requests for everything from burglaries to muggings have overwhelmed labs across the nation, take weeks not minutes to process in the best of circumstances, have produced sloppy results and are prone to courtroom manipulation and confusion.

Care with DNA has produced wonderful results, but more prisoners in the last 15 years have been exonerated through other means than DNA.

Ironically both questions on the ballot have created a backlash, likely to bring more opponents of such measures to the polling places than proponents.

Their consequences -- indeed,

their mere presence on the ballot -- deeply trouble many conservatives. Religious leaders from all faiths are speaking out in opposition, citing overwhelming evidence of no positive effect on either behavior or crime. Trial lawyers, who would clearly make a lot of money in new court cases should these amendments succeed, are also adamantly opposed.

The AFL-CIO -- in fact, virtually all labor unions -- are urging a "no" vote on both questions.

Hard facts from both the left and the right have been gathered to support no votes on both issues.

For the death penalty you'll find them from a broad coalition at www.nodeathpenaltywi.org.

The Fair Wisconsin campaign has assembled an eloquent barrage of opposition as well as poignant human case studies at www.fairwisconsin.com.

Bowling

SEPTEMBER 2006 RESULTS		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
GUTTER RATS	15	6
8 BALLS	12	9
SLAMMERS	12	9
ONE BOARD OVER	9	12
LABORERS 113	9	12
CRAZY 8's	6	15
IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 485		
DAN LAACK	646	
SAM SAMUELSON	579	
BOB WAGNER	574	
WAYNE FRANZEN	568	
DON WIEDMANN	500	
HANK ZEISSE	498	
ELMER HELM	488	
GEO. BARAK	487	
IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175		
DAN LAACK	235	

MCLC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175	
BOB WAGNER	222
SAM SAMUELSON	213
WAYNE FRANZEN	211
GEORGE BARAK	190
ELMER HELM	186
DON WIEDMANN	183
TONY SANFELIPO	179
HANK ZEISSE	176
IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 400	
RAE MATOWSKI	472
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	448
MARLENE CRUZ	424
ELAINE KARIER	416
LAVERNE WERNER	404
IND. HIGH GAME OVER 140	
RAE MATOWSKI	188
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	162
MARLENE CRUZ	160
LAVERNE WERNER	152
ELAINE KARIER	146

Headaches ?

Menomonee Falls, WI – I used to have the worst headaches in the world. My doctors gave me pill after pill but nothing seemed to control my headaches. And then I stumbled upon a free report about headaches advertised in my local paper. That was 6 months ago and I haven't had one headache since! To discover my secret headache weapon, call the toll-free, 24 hour recorded message at **1-888-234-1939**.



Thank You.

ULLICO Inc. would like to thank Laborers' International Union of North America General President Terry O'Sullivan for his outstanding service as our Chairman and CEO from May 8, 2003 to August 3, 2006. It is because of Terry's leadership, hard work and commitment that our company is stable, financially strong, and poised for a new era of growth.

We also warmly welcome our new Chairman Joseph J. Hunt. As General President of the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Chairman Hunt brings a wealth of experience to his new role. With Joe's vision and leadership, ULLICO will continue to set the standard for quality, value and expertise.

And, we thank you, our labor movement customers, unions, organized contractors, Taft-Hartley Trust Funds and working men and women. You are the heart and soul of America and of ULLICO.

Thank you for making ULLICO a reflection of our customers – strong, proud and dependable.

Labor's Own Insurance and Investment Services Company offering:

- Group Life, Disability and Medical Stop-loss Insurance
- Fiduciary Liability, Union Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance
- Investment Services and Portfolio Management
- Directly Marketed Supplemental Insurance



1625 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
202.682.0900 tel
800.431.5425 toll free

The ULLICO Family of Companies

- The Union Labor Life Insurance Company
- Ullico Casualty Company
- Trust Fund Advisors, Inc.
and the J for Jobs Program

State senate set for change

It looked for a long time like labor's endorsed candidate in the 5th district of the state Senate, Jim Sullivan, would always be talking to an empty chair. The quirky Republican incumbent, Tom Reynolds, kept dodging and ducking, refusing to explain in public his voting record and the curious statements and behavior that have served as humorous fodder for so many newspaper columns.

When Reynolds finally showed up for a debate -- in his own church, with two pages of ground rules that banned video cameras and limited questions and responses -- the reasons for ducking became clear. Reynolds has good reason to fear the consequences of the stuff that comes out of his own mouth.

Pressed to explain his opposition to alternative energy sources, Reynolds said he did support one -- nuclear power -- and then opined that researchers

Tough important races also roll through Racine

Reynolds is not the only key to returning the state Senate to sanity. The Racine area also has a real chance as seasoned sensible Assembly veteran John Lehman steps up to the 21st Senate seat vacated by Republican Cathy Stepp.

Lehman is in a tight race with Republican Williams McReynolds, the Racine county executive.

Another hard race in that area is for the 62nd Assembly seat that Lehman is leaving to run for the Senate. Charging door to door is progressive Cory Mason, a former staff organizer for the American Federation of Teachers. Unions have endorsed Lehman and Mason.

are "coming up with (nuclear) waste that is less and less detrimental."

Sullivan did not oppose nuclear power but succinctly laid out the real facts, that waste disposal remained "a critical limit to that particular technology."

Reynolds then bounced from bad science to worse social psy-

chology. Despite rules that the audience couldn't react to what the candidates said, there were audible gasps of disbelief when Reynolds blamed social ills on the domestic disintegration "on the north side of the city of Milwaukee" (read black) where "we find that families barely don't even exist."

Personal attacks were outlawed at this debate, but Sullivan was able to touch Reynolds' stranger proposals -- like an autobahn between Milwaukee and Madison after he got a speeding ticket.

Sullivan urged the district to return to "responsible moderation" and end Reynolds' focus on "a handful of divisive issues."

A strong door-door-campaign is delivering Sullivan's message throughout the district.



Kathleen Falk at the recent Serb Hall rally

Falk lets facts talk

J.B. Van Hollen seems to be getting a bit desperate. Attacking Kathleen Falk for not having enough courtroom experience as a prosecutor has simply turned attention to his low rate of cases as a US attorney.

Stretching the truth and history of how she would turn dangerous criminals loose on the streets as Attorney General has not only proven laughable to anyone who knows her career but angered some good citizens who were careless targets of his ad visuals.

Harping on the backlog at the crime lab simply reminded voters of what his own party hadn't funded in the legislature, and foolishly set the table for Falk and Gov. Doyle to outline a sensible plan.

Trying to make a federal case out of how she handled the resignation of one Dane County employee was not just a petty stretch. It exposed his lack of administrative experience and knowledge of the steps toward resolution of issues required in government service, an understanding essential to running an effective Department of Justice.

All this has left Van Hollen posturing with "top cop" rhetoric while Falk has run rings around him by discussing the deep functions of civil, environmental, constitutional, criminal and consumer law necessary in the daily operation and philosophical independence of the DOJ.

Falk can do that articulately because of inside knowledge from 14 years in the department before being elected Dane County executive. She's on-target in debates and actually tougher on the real issues.

Both issues and believability will decide this race. But it sure seems that all Falk has to accomplish to do well is keep Van Hollen talking.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

UWM honors Bucyrus, steelworkers

Every year in its Melvin Lurie prizes, two University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculties combine to honor labor-management cooperation.

On Oct. 9, the prize was presented to United Steel Workers Local 1343 and Bucyrus-Erie for the settling of a contract that led to retaining jobs in Wisconsin and a considerable expansion in production and new hires.

Since the contract was reached, Bucyrus-Erie has built a new plant here and is in the process of adding 300 family-supporting jobs.

The Lurie prizes are named in honor of the UWM professor who founded the Masters in Human Resources and Labor Relations program at the university. Lurie also organized Wisconsin's first state conference on labor management relations in 1987.

The master's program, the only one of its kind in Wisconsin, is jointly taught and administered by the College of Letters and Science and by the Sheldon B. Lubar School of Business.

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

AFL The 100% Union Label Company **AFL**

WISCONSIN VISION
 "Eye Care Done Right"

Fall Sell-A-Bration!

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

<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>25% to 50% OFF!</p> <p>Designer Frames</p> <p>25% OFF First Designer Frame</p> <p>50% OFF Second Designer Frame*</p> <p>When you purchase both frame and lenses. Choose from 1000's of styles. *Same day, same prescription of equal or lesser value. Some Restrictions May Apply. Get a backup pair or pair of prescription sunglasses. Offer Expires 12/31/06.</p>	<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>\$99 Disposable Contact Lens Package</p> <p>Price includes: 1. Comprehensive Eye Exam 2. Three Month Supply (6 pr.) of Soft, Visible, Spherical Disposable Contacts 3. Instruction Class 4. Starter Kit of Solutions 5. Follow-up Care with the Spherical Disposable Contacts</p> <p>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 12/31/06.</p>	<p>Wisconsin Vision</p> <p>\$37 Comprehensive Eye Exam</p> <p>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 12/31/06.</p>	<p>MILWAUKEE 1920 W. Layton Ave. 414-325-8600</p> <p>MILWAUKEE 7528 W. Burleigh St. 414-873-9090</p> <p>ELM GROVE 12876 W. Bluemound Rd. 262-432-0052</p> <p>GREENFIELD 4818 S. 76th St. 414-431-0385</p> <p>WEST ALLIS 1401 S. 108th St. 414-476-0200</p> <p>KENOSHA 5725 75th St. 262-694-5553</p> <p>WAUKESHA 203A E. Sunset Dr. 262-524-1130</p> <p>FRANKLIN 8225 S. 27th St. 414-761-2269</p> <p>RACINE 3905 Douglas Ave. 262-639-5360</p> <p>GRAFTON 1260 N. Port Washington Rd. 262-546-0234</p> <p>MENOMONEE FALLS N85 W16033 Appleton Ave. 262-251-1900</p> <p>UFCW</p> <p>www.wisconsinvision.com</p>
---	--	--	--

ALLIED PRINTING
 TRADES UNION COUNCIL
 MILWAUKEE • MADISON WI

Accept No Substitutes!

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

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

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

Making sure prevailing wage prevails

By Jerry Knapp

Special to Labor Press

It happens every winter, as sure as the snowflakes will fly. Laid-off workers thump through paycheck stubs from the previous construction season and discovers their employer shorted them while they were working on a public construction project.

Perhaps they were shorted on overtime pay. Perhaps they were shorted on straight time hours. If the employer was particularly adept at wage fraud, then perhaps they were shorted by being "misclassified" -- that is, paid a lower hourly rate. After investigating, a worker may discover that, in not paying the correct amount on public projects, the contractor violated local, state, and even federal law.

Frequently, at that point, the Construction Business Group is notified. Our organization is a non-profit cooperative organized by leaders from both the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139 and various Wisconsin contractor associations.

The CBG's main objective is to protect the rights of workers on public construction projects and in so doing protect honest contractors to successfully compete in the public arena.

In some 14 years of existence, CBG has led to the recovery of hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid prevailing wages.

For those not in the construction industry, prevailing wage might be a bit of mystery. Basically, these laws were designed to ensure that construction workers on public projects are paid the standard market rate for their craft in the geographic area of their projects.

In Wisconsin, an annual survey of all private construction work is conducted by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to determine what the correct market rate is for each craft in each county.

An annually adjusted "project cost threshold" is applied to all public construction projects to determine whether prevailing wages applied to them. If a project meets that threshold (currently \$209,000 for a multi-trade project) then DWD issues a wage

The author is standards & training manager for the Construction Business Group, which helps several unions investigate suspected violations of the Davis-Bacon Act. He can be reached at (414) 940-0205 or jknapp@constructionbusinessgroup.com

determination for the project that all workers on that project must be paid.

Why would employers violate the law?

First, there is only a miniscule chance of being caught. There are only three prevailing wage investigators employed by the DWD to cover the entire state.

By paying lower than market wages, these contractors underbid their competition and undercut local wage standards. Numerous studies have documented the deleterious effects on project quality, site safety and worker training that stem from paying low wages.

Unfortunately, there are contractors just out for the quick buck with no thought of long-term damage to the industry and to the public that ultimately employs them.

It is a constant struggle to enforce and improve Wisconsin's prevailing wage law and to make the public understand and demand enforcement.

Since prevailing wages are

required on the majority of public construction projects in Wisconsin, the benefits realized include:

- Wages are earned and spent locally.
- Apprenticeship training is encouraged, ensuring a future workforce.
- Projects are performed by skilled craftspeople.
- Bona fide health and retirement contributions by employers are encouraged.

The good news is that there are contractor associations, labor unions, and various non-profit groups out there trying to change the status quo.

There is also legal protection and recourse offered by the Equal Rights Division of DWD, which will investigate and help prosecute violations on behalf of any affected worker.

At the end of the day, the prevailing wage issue is not just about workers' rights, contractors' rights or industry integrity. It's also about maintaining the integrity of an entire community - the Wisconsin community.

For this reason, citizens throughout our state owe it to themselves to know the facts about prevailing wages. And construction workers, on the front line of this struggle, owe it to themselves to do the same.

Or come this winter, they could once again find themselves out in the cold.

Labor Press earns national honors

The judges in the most prestigious North American contest for labor media have bestowed four awards on the AFL-CIO Milwaukee Labor Press for its 2005 monthly newspapers. The prizes will be presented Nov. 17 in Washington, D.C. by the International Labor Communications Association, AFL-CIO.

The Labor Press received a second or third place award in every one of the three Saul Miller categories, named for a pioneer of the labor newspaper movement. It also received the third place general excellence award among all the nation's state and local central council publications.

ILCA, as the group is known, conducts an annual media competition for all sizes and categories of print and new media. The Labor Press has won major awards three years running.

This year represented quite a range. Aside from general excellence, prizes were given for collective bargaining story (the AFT nurses turning into brides in a protest), election story (headlined "Small Election, Mighty Issue"), and a story about organizing ("When Shadows Speak").

Moving Up or Down the Ladder?



With 16 years of experience as a Realtor®, I have what it takes to put your dream home within reach!

Ask me to e-mail you about home values in your neighborhood!

Ask me to find the value of your home!

Call me. Why? Because I am ready to help you!

LAURA CURZON
262-366-3835
 curzon@firstweber.com
 www.firstweber.com



**Live the now.
Plan the later.**

RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Sure, living is easy when you have a paycheck coming in. But after you retire, it can be pretty good, too. If you have a plan. So come to our retirement seminar and learn about possibilities from mutual funds to annuities. Sign up today. It's never too late to start thinking about later.

Date: Tuesday, November 14th
Time: 5:30p - 7:30p
Place: Yatchak Hall
Milwaukee County Labor Council
633 S. Hawley Road

SEATING BY RESERVATION ONLY
(414) 615-4892

RSVP by Friday, November 10th
Seats fill quickly, call today!

Each member may bring one guest.
 Food & Prizes Will Be Provided
 Hosted by: Bob Johnston & Jim Baker of MetLife

have you met life today?



LD92489/10/1201/MLC LD Milwaukee Life Insurance Co Mutual Funds are provided through MetLife Securities, Inc. 200 Park Avenue, NY, NY 10022

This informative seminar is proudly sponsored by:



UCAN*
 * UNION COMMUNITY
 ACTIVIST NETWORK



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

Politics

From Page 1

taxes, I'm not your guy."

(The implication is always clear: If you like embryonic research, I'm not your guy. If you like immigrants, I'm not your guy. If you like gays, I'm not your guy. The campaign will be mercifully over before Green completes a litany of all the citizens whose guy he is definitely not.)

The greatest impediment to Green's strategy turned out to be — his own party!

It's his GOP buddies, as voters must realize, guilty of the sort of fraud and corruption that couldn't be proved against Doyle. A nonstop parade of convictions and resignations — Jack Abramoff, Tom Delay, Randy (Duke) Cunningham, Bob Ney, Mark Foley — kept Green endlessly returning campaign contributions.

And while Green's forces were busy concocting apathy among Democrats, they faced genuine rebellion among religious conservatives, who are looking at the continuing GOP corruption, rethinking their Pavlovian votes of the past and deciding to switch sides or maybe just stay home.

Still, Green so far has escaped a more direct association with the issues that are roiling the nation and activating Democrats in other states.

It seems strange to describe Wisconsin as only peripherally involved in the war in Iraq, the failures on national security, the endless tax cuts for the most wealthy, the Medicare prescription bill, the GOP corruption, and what the Foley scandal says about hiding bad behavior to hold onto power.

Don't such issues bother and affect everyone? Indeed they do, but particularly when you can do something about them. In other states, both Senate and multiple House races give voters a clear path to change. That's created a highly-charged movement largely absent in Wisconsin — to turn control of one or both Houses of Congress to the Democrats and provide some real oversight, hard questions, and accountability for the executive branch.

Had Green stayed in the House, he was sure to be a target of this anger. In fact, this national campaign is playing out mainly in Green's abandoned Green Bay district.

There, a well-heeled Democrat, allergist Steve Kagen, is on the verge of derailing John Gard's bid to take over Green's



Nationally, surveys indicate, the largest unregistered minority of US citizens are the Latinos. This year, they hit the US streets in record numbers to support their undocumented neighbors and challenge a warped immigration system. Now they intend to hit the ballot boxes as well. As part of that effort, Voces de la Frontera gathered its volunteers, registrars and union mentors Sept. 30 to meet with their new lead political organizer, Marilyn Figueroa-Brito (center with flag), a veteran mobilizer in Milwaukee's Latino community. Lower left is Voces leader Christine Neumann-Ortiz, who pledges a massive sign-up effort for Nov. 7 so that Latino citizens can "vote for all those who cannot vote."

House seat. Everyone knows Gard is another genuflection to Bush (who has rushed to Gard fund-raisers as has VP Dick Cheney). But since Gard did his mischief in the state Assembly he's a less direct target.

Green hopes to be no target at all. Moving to a statewide race allows him to pretend non-involvement in the D.C. disaster (though he was a virtually automatic vote for Bush and DeLay). He'd like to create an atmosphere where the "throw the rascals out" fever nails the incumbent Democratic governor.

Any working person who thinks Green's policies would benefit Wisconsin has been eating E. coli-laced spinach. As bad as Green would be, however, in Milwaukee there is a feeling that Doyle has not moved fast enough in dealing with crime, poverty and job growth.

Even conceding that Doyle had huge problems in putting Wisconsin's fiscal house in order, and that he has been pushing in the right direction for Milwaukee, there are voters here disenchanted about the pace. That could translate into apathy at the polls, at a time when



At a crowded breakfast Oct. 12 at Plumbers Local 75 Union Hall, trades leaders — such as Jim Jorgensen (right) of Iron Workers Local 8 — pledged a massive get out the vote effort for Doyle.

Doyle is relying on Milwaukee to take him over the top.

That scares Democrats and unions, particularly in a year when they also stand a good chance of taking back the state Senate and finally moving forward with Doyle on what the GOP has frustrated — a working family agenda.

What an unhappy scenario it would be to win the Senate in Madison and not keep the governor's office.

The specter of that has put labor unions and community

groups hard at work in door-to-door campaigns and phone calls. Facts give them a winning strategy — just look at who is backing Green, and why. Just look at how empty and jingoistic his proposals are for education, health, jobs, fiscal balance.

Such realities should make the average citizen desperate to re-elect Doyle.

All that has to be done is get the neighbors to the polls.

It is that simple. But simple is not the same as easy.

Back Pain?

Menomonee Falls, WI — According to a recently released back pain relief report, most back pain sufferers have no idea how to eliminate their pain. Some use heat, others ice. From sleeping on the floor, to pillows underneath the legs, back pain relief techniques vary. But thanks to a free report, local back pain sufferers finally know exactly what to do. To get a copy of the free "Back Pain Relief Report", call toll-free, 1-888-302-1889. (Toll-free, 24 hour recorded message)

Plan Your Next Function at
The Pfister Hotel

424 E. Wisconsin Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203
414-273-8222

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

EMPLOYEES ARE REPRESENTED BY:
UNITE HERE 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

Choose the terrible word – amnesty or hypocrisy?

I do understand that Republicans to this day are mad at Ronald Reagan and the bipartisan immigration bill of 1986, though its main failure was not enforcing sanctions on the US businesses that continued to hire undocumented workers.

I also understand how, 20 years later, the very concept of amnesty seems to make US citizens boil in their skin. It's a reaction to an event that had nothing to do with the immigration prob-

lem (or Saddam Hussein, for that matter) — 9/11. But it was an ideal opportunity for political misdirection, to insist on a nearly psychopathic fear of strangers.

As a result the nation that has most benefited from the fresh pulse of immigration seems entrenched in slamming the door shut, particularly on the immigrants already here.

Perhaps on Nov. 7 we will dump many of those fear-mongers and try to re-establish toler-

Comment

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

ance. But even so, I suspect amnesty will remain a dirty word.

At least at home. Abroad, we encourage Israel, Palestine, Cuba, Iraq, Lebanon and other countries to employ amnesty for political reconciliation.

This homeland view of amnesty may mystify philosophers and theologians in a nation that robotically hails its roots in Christian values yet seems to so vehemently reject mercy and forgiveness (dictionary synonyms for amnesty). Still, no elected official I know seems willing to point out how deeply the term has been both narrowed and perverted.

It's gotten so bad that politicians even lie about what amnesty means. None of the immigration bills in the Senate are amnesty, since they impose such deep conditions of time and money as a road to legalization. They're a far cry from historical legal definitions, such as "an act of the sovereign power granting

oblivion for a past offense."

Yet GOP hard-noses call the bills amnesty to demonize them. The master proponent of classifying underground immigrants as criminals, our own grouchy Rep. James Sensenbrenner, even went on "Meet the Press" to declare all these bills amnesty and claim the definitive Black's Law as proof.

Too bad the media, much less the public, didn't actually read the definition, nor point out the root word was "amnesia" and how nothing in the current Senate bills proclaimed such sweeping forgetfulness.

Still, let's go along for a moment with the idea that amnesty is a horrible wrongheaded thing.

Then why did Congress recently enshrine it?

No, not for immigrants but for our highest leaders in the new military tribunal bill.

There's a lot in that bill to trouble the public – it certainly would trouble Thomas Jefferson, who once commented that "habeas corpus secures every man here, alien or citizen, against everything which is not law, whatever shape it may assume."

Yet the basic right is suspended before these military

commissions. Investigators can deem someone a supporter of terrorism to be held without habeas corpus, without presenting evidence of any offense to a court.

Citizens may also be surprised that evidence derived from torture can be accepted.

But, even more unnoticed, the bill assures CIA agents and their superiors that they will not be prosecuted for torture or human rights violations that occurred before the law passed. Not just agents, but their superiors all the way up the ladder.

That's amnesty – official amnesia, a blanket pardon for any such accusations.

Apparently it's still terrible to even contemplate for undocumented workers but a wonderful thing if it gets the president and his cabinet off the hook.

So do ask -- and have your friends ask -- their friendly neighborhood congressman what they think about amnesty. And then ask them how they voted on this bill.

And then watch them claim amnesia. Or ask your mercy at the polls.

Just don't expect them to own up to hypocrisy.

Calendar

For updated master list of our rapidly changing events, visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org

Saturday, October 28

Labor 2006 Walk

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

To participate, call Sue Ledbetter at (414) 476-2896.

Sunday, October 29

Voting Rights Musical Drama

One-woman touring show by noted actress-singer Mzuri re-creating the life of Fannie Lou Hamer.

Tickets \$10 adult, \$5 child

3:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Wednesday, November 1

Delegate Meeting

Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO

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

Tuesday, November 7

General Election

Vote Your Choices But VOTE!

Friday, November 10

WisCOSH Annual Dinner

Fish Fry (\$12 advance, \$15 at door, \$9 children)

Speakers and General Meeting

5 p.m., ATU Local 998 Hall, 734 N. 26th St.

Reservations encouraged. Call (414) 933-2338.

DRUNK DRIVING MYTHS™

A Service of Attorney D. Byron Goltz, J.D.

"EVERY DWI CASE SHOULD GO TO TRIAL"

Because every case has different facts, and every client has different needs, every case should be evaluated separately. A lawyer who wants what is best for his client will look at three factors: How badly does his client need to win? Is there enough evidence to convince the jury? What is the best possible result through formal motions and negotiations? When these questions have been answered, the client should make his own decision, without any high pressure or fast talk.

At the Law Offices of D. Byron Goltz, you pay only for the services you need. We think that, if we deliver professional services at a fair price, you will tell your friends and family when they need a lawyer. That kind of advertising is priceless.

Attorney D. Byron Goltz, J.D.

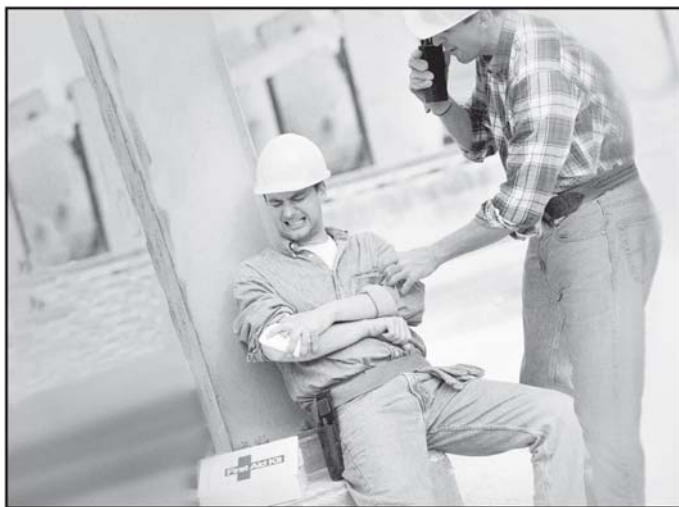
6525 W. Bluemound Rd.

Milwaukee, WI 53213

414.258.5989

DRUNK DRIVING, OAR, ALL SERIOUS TRAFFIC CASES

Copyright 2006, All Rights Reserved



Workers Comp Advice from Prevlant Goldberg

Unfortunately, work injuries happen. Protect yourself if you are injured by following these steps.

1. Report the injury immediately to a supervisor.
2. Get the names of any witnesses.
3. Seek medical attention if needed and be sure to tell the doctor what happened as accurately as possible. If it's not in the doctor's notes, the worker's compensation carrier may take the position that nothing happened.

If you have questions, call Prevlant Goldberg for a free consultation at 414-271-4500. We have represented injured workers for nearly 100 years.



Prevlant, 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.prevlant.com

It took a century to work up to this party

Guests inside the Wisconsin Expo Center on Oct. 14 were greeted by waiters with appetizer trays and by newsboys (and girls) hawking a mock 1906 "Extra! Extra!" full of vintage ads for coils, fuses, batteries, lighting fixtures and electrical appliances.

They were escorted to turn-of-the-century store facades to have their photos taken while more newsmen in knickers juggled or danced to the ompah swing of a roaming band in lederhosen.

The barkeeps kept busy. A half-dozen tables staffed with chefs and frying pans served sausages, sandwiches, miniature Reuben's and even potato pan-fries.

And then came dinner. No kidding. This was an "intimate" sit-down affair for some 1,300 guests under spotlight logos proclaiming the 100th anniversary of the founding of the local, celebrated further with a night of dancing and mingling.

Without a doubt, Local 494 knows how to throw a party. Of course, 100th birthdays don't come along often, for people or unions.

But the reasons to celebrate were even clearer as the invited walked past a collection of classic American cars inside the entrance and came across a chronological series of historical photo posters. Here, and in a later slideshow,

were chronicled by decades a remarkable journey.

This local started 100 years ago with a mere 12 workers. It has increased, spawned and splintered off other IBEW locals, outgrowing its first building and developing intense apprentice training. Today it is nearly 300 fold larger than when it started.

The National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (as the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers was first known) actually held its first convention of 10 workers in 1891 determined to organize skilled electrical workers around the nation to stand together for decent wages and conditions in an era of multiple companies and services.

The first efforts did not shake the world. Workers encountered resistance, failed strikes and breaks from the ranks. It is a history that many unions today can empathize with, but they also need to understand their roots better and to appreciate the struggles of today's workers seeking to establish base wages and respect.

Failure didn't deter the electrical workers.

In 1906 the Milwaukee members, all 12 of them, were reorganized into Local 494, and that organization stuck. It stuck hard through a volatile cycle of war, depressions, booms, internal tensions and changing economy.

The union's founding fathers are now justified by 100 years of persistence.

Yes, it all makes for quite a story.

It also made for quite a party.



Posters greeted 1,300 arrivals with the local's long story . . .



. . . while bands, jugglers and chef-tended brats awaited them inside the Wisconsin Exposition Center.



WE'LL GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANYBODY

Milwaukee's only exclusive Red Wing Shoe Stores

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

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

10% Discount with Ad
Expires 11/25/06

202

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

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

Red Wing Shoe Store

Health Care That Fits Your Busy Life

"One Stop Shop"

Call for an Appointment Today - Major Insurances Accepted

Dental Cleanings

- Routine Exams
- Oral Surgery
- Crowns
- Bridges
- Dentures
- Extractions
- Root Canals
- Emergency Dental Care
- Cosmetic Dentistry

Internal Medicine

- Family Practice
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- Orthopedic Surgery
- Neurology
- Endocrinology
- ENT
- Cardiology
- General Surgery
- Podiatry
- Gastroenterology
- Urology
- Dermatology
- Laboratory
- Radiology
- Physical Therapy
- Dietician
- Diabetic Educator
- Chiropractic
- Massage Therapy

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

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

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

Wisconsin Health Fund
6200 West Bluemound Road
Milwaukee WI 53213
(414)771-5600
www.whfund.org

WHE
WISCONSIN HEALTH FUND

Serving Organized Labor for 50 years!

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
Historic Hotels of America

PLAN YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US

- Negotiations
- Conferences
- Meetings
- Parties
- Weddings

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



Community leaders became deeply engaged in helping Superior Linen workers last summer when (from left) MCLC Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran, WISDOM's David Liners, state Rep. Christine Sinicki and state Sen. Jeff Pale presented a nursing home client of the company with government audit results.

Superior Linen backs off

In late September on its plant bulletin boards in Madison and Cudahy, Superior Health Linens assured its 180 workers that it would not interfere with unionizing efforts, or tell workers that having a union would be futile, or promise a pay increase if they didn't support a union, or say they would close the plants if the workers supported Unite Here.

The company promised not to interrogate, surveil or punish workers for union activity and swore it would not threaten to call an immigration raid if the workers backed Unite Here.

The offenses the company pledged not to commit are pretty pertinent to anyone following the ongoing story at this industrial laundry company, which has been in the news since the spring. But the company also insisted it had not done any of those things.

The posting was part of a settlement admitting no guilt but resolving charges brought by Unite Here to Region 30 (Milwaukee) of the National Labor Relations Board. It came after NLRB investigators warned the company that there was merit in some of the assertions and told the union that there was not enough testimony to pursue claims that two workers had been fired because of union support.

Another backdrop to the settlement was that Dane County and other elected officials were also looking hard at charges that Superior Linen had failed its clients and workers in hygiene safety and standards. The company serves several nursing homes and hospitals, many supported by governmental units. It was on notice that it had to prove it had cleaned up its act — pun intended — or have government contracts pulled.

For the workers the agreement was good news — and reassuring. Many had testified that they faced a virulently hostile atmosphere in seeking better working conditions and standards at Superior.

For Unite Here organizers, as for the workers, the agreement meant they were free to organize, also without intimidation. They doubted the company would now open its arms wide to them, but part of the settlement was that the company could not tell workers to stop wearing Unite Here stickers and bracelets in the plant or demand a show of hands at the plant on which workers supported a union.

Company spokesmen still insist that workers will turn down the union. All Unite Here says is "let's wait and see."

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

Forecasting an Assembly race

You don't have to be a weatherman to know which way the wind is blowing.

Then again, Bob Dylan didn't live in the 23rd Assembly District (Brown Deer, Mequon, northern snip of Milwaukee).

Up there it's the weatherman who's kicking up the dust.

Jim Ott, a definitely nice and low-key guy (who could argue?), showed up on Milwaukee's premier news station for 30 years, speaking of cloud patterns in the serious Paul Joseph mode of meteorology.

His non-renewal by Channel 4 became part of a parade of dumped or just disillusioned veterans leaving WTMJ for low-cost replacements.

Combine Ott's recognizability and some public angst over the way his career was terminated and you'll understand how the weatherman ran away with the Republican primary and is given the edge in the Nov. 7 election.

But look at his opponent. Stan Teplin is equally affable, equally a nice guy in image, even fatherly in his understanding of the community he has been a part of for more than 30 years.

He just didn't show up in people's living rooms for three



Stan Teplin

decades.

But Teplin is a widely known dentist who also served as an alderman, so this is public service experience as opposed to public announcement experience.

Ott wants to limit stem cell research; Teplin does not. Ott is

a fan of health savings account. Teplin wants wellness programs and larger pools of insured to bring down costs. Ott buys in to a legislative-induced property tax freeze. Teplin understands this chill better and wants local officials to keep control.

Both candidates have tried to keep this campaign gentlemanly and pleasant, but it's Teplin who has the good ideas and the support of organized labor in a community that, alas, doesn't have union mass.

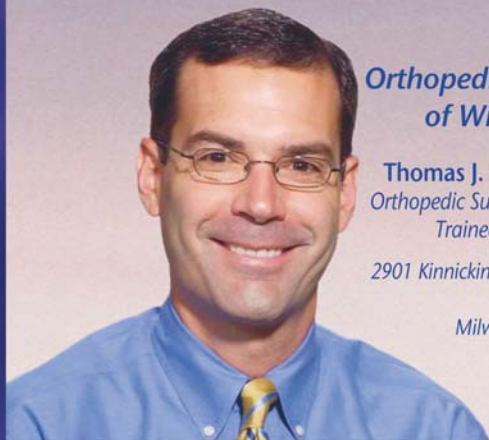
It would take a serious storm of common sense to rain on the weather guy's parade, even though it would so obviously be healthier for Wisconsin's climate.

What both sides do agree on, though, is however it turns out, a nice guy will finish last.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

Carpal Tunnel ?

Menomonee Falls, WI — A free report has just been released which reveals the hidden dangers of using prescription drugs, wrist splints, and even surgery to treat carpal tunnel symptoms. Did you know that splints may scar tissue to form in your wrist? For a free report that unleashes the shocking truth about carpal tunnel symptom treatment, call toll-free 1-888-251-9342. (24 hr. recorded message)



**Orthopedic Surgeons
of Wisconsin, SC**

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

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

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

Specialty Procedures and Professional Achievements

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

Medical Education

Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Fellowship — Orthopedic Spine Surgery

Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

Residency

Medical College of Wisconsin
Milwaukee, WI

Board Eligible

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

Sick... who has time?



Aurora Quick Care

Get results today

Aurora Quick Care's advanced practice nurses, for a fee of \$30, will assess your symptoms, conduct a simple test and, within 15 minutes, provide you with either a prescription for your illness or information about how to manage your symptoms and/or receive additional care.

Tests Offered:

Severe Sore Throat	Insect Sting
Pregnancy	Mononucleosis
Ear Infection	Minor Rashes
Seasonal Allergies	Ringworm
Sinus Infection	Poison Ivy
Swimmer's Ear	Bladder Infection
Pink Eye	Bronchitis

We also offer:

Vaccines:

Well Tetanus, Meningitis, Pneumonia (seasonal), Flu (seasonal)

Screenings:

TB Testing, Diabetes, Lipid Profile (cholesterol)

Prices of vaccines and screenings may vary. Patients must be 6 months or older, and 9 years or older to receive vaccines.

Open days, evenings and weekends.

Appleton

*INSIDE Fox River Mall
above Northwoods Café
4301 W. Wisconsin Ave.
(920) 739-0289*

Brookfield

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
17280 W. North Ave.
(262) 784-4902*

INSIDE Brookfield Square

*near JC Penny
95 N. Moorland Rd.
(262) 786-9037*

Butler

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
12601 W. Hampton Ave.
(262) 373-1869*

Greendale

*INSIDE Southridge Mall
near Old Navy
5300 S. 76th St.
(414) 423-5538*

Kenosha

*INSIDE Piggly Wiggly
2801 14th Pl.
(262) 553-9325*

Menasha

*INSIDE Piggly Wiggly
1151 Midway Rd.
(920) 722-7275*

Mequon

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
10928 N. Port
Washington Rd.
(262) 240-0169*

Milwaukee

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
5928 W. Vliet St.
(414) 771-0212*

Sheboygan

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
2927 N. 15th St.
(920) 458-2373*

Sturtevant

*INSIDE PETRO Travel Plaza
I-94 and Hwy 20
(262) 884-6868*

Sussex

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
N65 W24838 Main St.
(262) 820-1210*

Waukesha

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
304 Delafield St.
(262) 446-0891*

Opening Soon

Racine

*INSIDE Aurora Pharmacy
3900 Erie St.
Racine, WI 53402
(262) 639-6409*



Aurora Health Care®

Finding Better Ways

www.aurora.org/quickcare