




In labor's embrace

US Rep. Gwen Moore comes home from D.C. every chance she has, and shared more than hugs with such longtime admirers as CWA's Ann Crump when she partook of a big breakfast meeting arranged March 27 by the MCLC. The always candid Moore shared tales from the dark side of being a first-term member of the US House and showed undaunted humor discussing battles she'll need help to win. A Democratic controlled House, Moore said, would be a start. More photos Page 2.

SPECIAL SALUTE BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION TRADES



Work on the medical office building at the old Heiser Ford site near St. Mary's Hospital slowed traffic at North and Prospect but will employ hundreds. See stories below and on Page 8.



Neglected father?
No more. Thomas Paine is storming back. See Page 6

AFL-CIO MILWAUKEE LABOR PRESS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

MILWAUKEE COUNTY LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO

Vol. 66, No. 4



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN



Thursday, April 27, 2006



(USPS 350-360)

Unions press minority gains in construction

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

The paper promise of a construction boom has turned into thriving reality.

It's taken five years of economic uncertainty and also years of negotiations between unions, corporations, developers, contractors and state and local officials -- sometimes conducted in an atmosphere of negativity and doubt.

Everything heated up in 2005 and has swung into full-blown action in 2006, with even harder promises looming in the next two years.

Milwaukeeans don't need the statistics to prove it. They can just use their eyes and ears as they traverse the ever-changing Marquette Interchange, peek at the scaffolding around City Hall and check out the activity in downtown's Park East corridor, the WE Energies plant in Oak Creek and



Contractors, the NAACP, UWM and labor reps (such as Willie D. Ellis, front) meet April 11 to push more minority hiring.

the East Side's St. Mary's hospital area, to name just a few sites of activity.

Project Labor Agreements negotiated through the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO -- hereafter known as the MBCTC -- along with public and behind-the-scenes

campaigns by organized labor have maintained a commitment to prevailing wage for much of this construction.

When government money is involved it's mandatory that pay and benefits match what 51% of the state's workers in a skill are getting, but the MBCTC has also pressed this level on much of the private sector construction, to keep it from undercutting living standards.

The MBCTC has also pushed hard for minority and female residents to be employed. It's put its money where its diversity mouth is, with most of its unions agreeing to earmark two cents of every wage hour for such training efforts.

It's on target with a five-year plan to double the number of minorities and women working on these construction projects. It continues to work with companies and officials to put even more projects

in the pipeline -- in fact, several more projects and deals will be announced in the next few months.

The four-county minority population is estimated at 23%. What the MBCTC wants to do at the very least in the next years is reach parity with this population, by making sure as many minorities are represented in the union construction workforce as the area percentage. If they do, business and community leaders concede, that would be an amazing achievement.

But actually, many in the unions want to do better than that. They will need support from the development and contractor sectors and a better understanding of construction demands from community groups.

Right now it is indisputable that construction unions have taken the lead in diversifying the workforce and serving as a

Boom continued Page 9

A march for all time

A familiar Lady Liberty at right (Laborfest stiltwalking favorite Debra Davis) was surrounded by more American flags than foreign ones in a March 23 rally that was the largest crowd the union's own Zeidler Square Park had ever seen, actually the largest street rally Milwaukee had ever seen, easily 25,000. When this photo was taken, marchers were still turning onto Michigan St. from the 6th St. bridge. But that was only the start of a campaign of compassion and common sense around immigration reform. See Pages 14-15.



— Photos by Dominique Paul Noth



Bagels with Gwen, now lunch with Tom

The candid "everything on the table" breakfast March 27 with US Rep. Gwen Moore will be followed by a similar hairdown with Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, open to all union members May 17. ABOVE: Moore, like Barrett responding to an invitation from the AFL-CIO, took time afterward to chat with longtime supporters and friends (from left) Paula Dorsey, MCLC executive board member and president of AFSCME DC 48; Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran, Vice-President Annie Wacker and President Willie D. Ellis.

RIGHT: Barrett is shown center right joining the marchers and fellow elected officials crossing the 6th St. Viaduct in support of immigrant workers. Milwaukee's problems and well as its gains have heightened the complexity of his



duties. So he has invited union members as well as leaders to chew issues over at a special "Brown Bag" lunch event at noon Wednesday, May 17, in Yatchak Hall (formerly Assembly Hall), 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Names, candor to mark Summit

Major names from Milwaukee's media, religious, cultural and advocacy communities are putting the spotlight on poverty by sharing the spotlight May 6 at the fourth annual African American Labor & Community Summit sponsored by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO.

Eric Von, Joel McNally and Robert Miranda are only some of the noted writers and radio personalities who have already agreed to join a midday panel about "poverty pimping" (the tendency of individuals and groups to profit from unemployment and broken families).

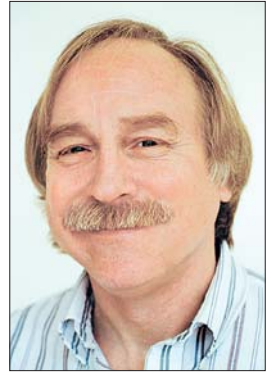
The Rev. Rolan Womack Jr., an active and progressive pastor, will moderate the morning discussions at the event provocatively (some would say perceptively) named **Milwaukee: The Hidden Katrina**.

Social poets Muhibb Dyer and Kwabena Nixon will contribute a compelling view from the street at the daylong Saturday event being held at the Laborers Local 113 Hall, 6310 W. Appleton Ave.

Von returned to Milwaukee to help Tom Barrett's campaign to become mayor and then moved even more prominently into his familiar role as talk

host. He runs the popular afternoon show on AM-radio WMCS 1290.

McNally, after long experience as a reporter, became The Milwaukee Journal's popular and controversial satirical columnist until the newspaper merged with the Sentinel in 1995. Now he is the Shepherd-Express' political columnist plus regular commentator on Channels 10/36 "Interchange" as well as enduring the host's derision to offer progressive viewpoints on conservative Mark Belling's Channel 58 talk show.



Joel McNally

Recently he became co-host with Cassandra on the WMCS morning show.

Also on the panel is Faithe Colos, longtime editor and now publisher of the Milwaukee Courier, an inner city newspaper voice for more than four decades. Colos has been honored of her active participation on central city cultural and scholarship boards and NAACP committees.

Miranda, a noted columnist and editor in both English and Spanish publications, has also been a political advocate and candidate speaking out for the Latino community.



Robert Miranda

The \$15 fee includes breakfast, lunch and all supporting material for the 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. event.

Early signups are encouraged. Call the MCLC office at (414) 771-7070 or contact Annie Wacker at (414) 771-9830 (she's also annieaflcio@sbcglobal.net).

WISCONSIN VISION

"Eye Care Done Right"

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

7528 W. Barleigh St.
414-873-9090

ELM GROVE
12876 W. Bluemound Rd.
262-432-0052

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

Get a new look for Spring

www.wisconsinvision.com

<p>WISCONSIN VISION</p> <h2>FREE LENSES</h2> <p>Free single vision standard lenses with the purchase of any frame with a minimum retail value of \$109. Discount can be applied to the upgrade of multi-focal lenses.</p> <p><small>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 7/31/06.</small></p>	<p>WISCONSIN VISION</p> <h2>\$50 OFF Disposable Contact Lens Package</h2> <p><small>Price Includes:</small></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive Eye Exam 2. Three Month Supply (6 pr.) of Soft, VisiSoft, Spherical Disposable Contacts 3. Instruction Class 4. Starter Kit of Solutions 5. Follow-up Care with the Doctors <p><small>Offer Not Valid With Other Offers or Discounts. Some Restrictions May Apply. Offer Expires 7/31/06.</small></p>	<p>WISCONSIN VISION</p> <h2>\$37 Comprehensive Eye Exam</h2> <p><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 7/31/06.</small></p>
---	--	---

Would you like to RETIRE your HOME MORTGAGE early?

With NMB's bi-weekly mortgage service and universal life insurance policy, you could do just that!

This special benefit plan offers you the opportunity to reduce the term of your mortgage by several years, potentially saving you thousands of dollars in future interest payments. It can be initiated on your current mortgage without refinancing or credit approval and is transferable if you refinance or purchase a new home.

Call me today to find out how NMB's unique Bi-Weekly Mortgage Life Insurance Benefit Plan could benefit you and your family.

Brad Bistan, FIC
Brookfield, WI
(262) 789-9580 or
1-866-789-9581

NATIONAL MUTUAL BENEFIT
A Fraternal Life Insurance Society
P.O. Box 1527 • Madison, WI 53701-1527
(608) 832-7036 or 1-800-779-1836
www.nmblife.org

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

Crisis in tech skills exposed as family affair

Mayor Tom Barrett, scheduled to make the opening remarks, says the need for training and re-training has "never been greater." The keynote speaker for the event agrees but Kenneth C. Gray intends to open participants' eyes much wider and chal-

lenge families as well as the business and training community. Gray, a professor in workforce education and development at Pennsylvania State University who used to run Connecticut's entire vocational technical high school system, will urge focus and harsh reality upon the major

Voices for Progress

coalition of business, academia, union groups and politicians — and particularly parents and high school students — at a major morning-long symposium on "Addressing Technical Talent and Skill Shortages" on Tuesday, May 9, at the Carpenters Hall at N25W23055 Paul Rd. in Pewaukee.

Everyone understands that the good-paying jobs as well as the low-pay ones are dribbling overseas, when not heading there in a torrent. Long-term replacements aren't on our shores. To top that off, in the next decade, millions of baby boomers are retiring, creating a demand Americans could fill. But we don't have in the pipeline the specifically trained technical expertise to match openings in construction, tech fields and a variety of vocations.

It need not be, said Gray, if businesses and schools form aggressive partnerships now. He calls it "America's quiet dilemma" — quiet because people aren't yet screaming about it and changing their behavior.

Families, wanting the best for their kids, are pushing four-year college degrees while one and two-year tech programs are actually answering the problem and providing the good pay. Gray also blames businesses that preach the need for math and science without specifying that technical and vocational training is what they're really after — which doesn't preclude and even can advance baccalaureate degrees.

"Opportunity is the greatest

when the labor market demand exceeds supply," Gray wrote in a warning article last year. "In the case of demand for baccalaureate graduates, the opposite is the case: Supply exceeds demand by 43%. Demand exceeds supply, however, for the vast majority of jobs that require a one to two year postsecondary technical degree and/or industry certification."

Gray's analysis looks deeper at studies and US labor statistics. For instance the second fastest-growing career in the US involved computer support technicians, typically requiring certifications from postsecondary technical education. Almost half of recent four-year college graduates (47%) are under-employed in their chosen careers, in effect overeducated for the jobs they wind up holding. Among arts and science graduates, the percent is 67%.

Here, writes Gray, is the irony: "The nation's economic engine is hindered by a shortage of individuals trained at the one and two year post-high-school level. As a result these high-wage technician jobs are either going unfilled, filled by non-native born workers, or being sent overseas.



Kenneth Gray

Meanwhile the country spends billions on baccalaureate education, which results in many graduates, but few who also have skills in demand" for the high skills/high wage jobs.

If the US can't compete in cost with the low-skill needs in all these fields, it can reverse the trend in the high-wage jobs that rely on technical and vocational specialties. But only when parents, teachers and students see the offering of technical credits as important as offering college credits in high schools.

Gray will focus on this aspect of how the US can elevate the bond between business needs and school training. But other special speakers will fill in other concerns at this symposium, which is remarkable for the range of business, labor and academia that have put it together.

The Milwaukee Area Technical College and the related 21st Century Urban Technical Education Project joined to sponsor the event, but endorsing participants include the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO and a host of individual unions and locals, plus the Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee's Associated General Contractors and its Auto Dealers Association, universities and government entities.

Portfolios of MPS and MATC student work will be on display during the meeting.

The full agenda for the 8 a.m. to noon event can be seen at www.matc.edu/21cutep. Admission is \$30 (\$35 if you plan to stay for lunch). For more information, call Dale Dulberger at (414) 297-6711.



Published Monthly by the Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO

Secretary-Treasurer Sheila D. Cochran
 President Willie D. Ellis
 Vice-President Annie Wacker
 Communications Director
 and Editor Dominique Paul North
 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; Stanthia Grier, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2150; Brandon W. Jensen, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998; Candice Oswley, Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals; Sam Parody, 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).

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 \$2.50
 Less Than

Direct sales to Companies & Individuals

Outgrowing Your Home?

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



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 Licensure

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.

Author tutors on privatization, labor law

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

Ellen Dannin did double duty dispensing labor strategies on her visit to Milwaukee.

The professor of law at Michigan's Wayne State University gave a talk for the unions at the Milwaukee Area Technical College about the pros and growing cons of privatization, detailing some horror stories and offering some realities that would be wise for public officials from both major parties to absorb.

Then, as author as well as legal expert, she was the featured speaker at a lunch for management, labor and lawyers. There she offered insights that might surprise those who think the US labor law is inadequate.

It's something that, as editor of the Labor Press, I have heard frequently from union members — the US law is "weak", it's "tilted in management's favor," it's "justice so delayed that it's denied."

(All of which has been sadly true, and may require a new law to correct the balance and procedures intended in the old law. That bill is here and, amazingly, a few votes short of majority in the House and about seven short in the Senate. It is called the Employee Free Choice Act and reinforces the idea of card-check.)

But Dannin is also offering a daring view in her just published (Cornell University Press) **"Taking Back the Workers' Law: How to Fight the Assault on Labor Rights."**

Labor leaders, Dannin agrees, have good reason to rail against the National Labor Relations Act and its operative Board. But she analyzes why this has happened. The original law of the 1930s, she argues, actually balanced quite carefully the power and rights of both labor and management.

It has been a series of judicial decisions — those activist conservative judges! — that have rewritten the original intent, to the workers' detriment., Dannin argues. The courts far more than the statute have thrown any sense of balance out of whack.

Dannin does more than con-

Voices for Progress



AFT Local 212 President Michael Rosen helps field questions for law professor Ellen Dannin during a packed MATC meeting.

vincingly define the problem. She suggests a solution, modeled on the efforts back in the 1930s of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. It took time for the NAACP to empower civil rights into law, and it will take time to follow her strategy, but it's a lot better than unions screaming to the heavens and spinning their wheels.

At the MATC, in an event arranged by AFT Local 212 but drawing a big audience from all the facilities' unions, Dannin focused not just on privatization in general but information technology (IT) in particular. IT has become very familiar and manageable for everyone — Local 212's president, Michael Rosen, noted that virtually everything taught at MATC has both teachers and students using computers.

Yet as Dannin pointed out, with some amusing and scary examples, governments tend to farm information technology out to private companies, pleading lack of knowledge and, far more questionably, financial savings.

It hasn't worked out that way. Bypassing government experts, or refusing to bite the bullet and develop in-house expertise, have led to some disturbing results, Dannin points out

— including that private companies seek to make money, and oversight of their behavior leaves elected officials and government auditors and monitors far removed and often too late to respond to bad results.

(Dannin was unfamiliar with the Wisconsin track record, but heads in the room began nodding in recognition, mentally ticking off the disasters of such privatization here — welfare to work, child welfare, mental health, the museum, and on and on).

Dannin detailed how personal, national and economic security are all put at risk by so much IT outsourcing, largely because elected officials refuses to acknowledge information technology as a "core function" of government.

Once again, Wisconsinites can tick off a litany of decisions to have private companies create the software or oversee the operation of long-term IT needs. Headlines have been many about the cost overruns associated with contracted IT work on unemployment compensation, voter databases, sales tax collecting and on and on.

While Gov. Doyle has been credited with reducing the reliance on outsourced IT work,

state workers still argue that they could provide more expertise for less long-term costs.

Worried about the price of technology, deciding that some projects are short-term when they're not, thinking they can save some money now even though the taxpayers will pay big-time later, governments have moved information technology away from in-house workers. Dannin related stories of the result — some frightening, as when lack of security led to two break-ins at a private company that stole all the information on members of the armed forces.

Nor has the government prevented private companies from subcontracting out this work, further removing not just oversight but security rules about how the information is used. She recounted cases where private compa-

nies have insisted that the priority form they create gives them, not the public, ownership over the information.

Governments, she suggests, have not done enough investigation of when in-house training combined with strict security concerns make it crucial to keep data in the hands of government employees — and also make it less expensive to do so.

Dannin was invited to Milwaukee by LERA, the Labor and Employment Relations Association. The 200-member Milwaukee chapter holds luncheon meetings each month, September through April featuring notable speakers. Dues are \$35, \$10 for students, with reasonable costs to participate in the luncheons. Call (414) 297-3883 for more information.

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



The 100% Union
Label Company



OPEU
LOCAL #277

Time Flies When You're Having Fun!



401(k)
and 457
Rollover
Specialists

PEANUTS © United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
LOS095KQI (expl. 2/07/MALIC-LD Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York, NY, 10166)

WE'LL GO TOE-TO-TOE WITH ANYBODY



202

Expires 5/20/06

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

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

**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

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

Professor, Zeidler anchor labor fete

The author of "Thomas Paine and the Promise of America" (see accompanying review) will serve as keynote speaker May 13 when the Wisconsin Labor History Society returns to the site of its founding convention 25 years ago for its annual conference.

Frank P. Zeidler is also scheduled. He will join Aims McGinniss, assistant professor in the UW History Department, to discuss "Socialism in Milwaukee and America."

The society will hold its 2006 conference, entitled "Unions and Wisconsin's Progressive Vision," at Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., that Saturday. Sessions start at 9 a.m., and end with the annual meeting at 3 p.m.

This year's conference will look at the foundations of the progressive movement, its importance for workers and unions, its growth along with the Wisconsin labor movement and what can be done to further the progressive traditions.

Harvey J. Kaye, who is the Ben and Joyce Rosenberg Professor of Social Change and Development at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, will speak on "Thomas Paine, Labor and America's Unfinished Revolution."

Kaye's book has been hailed by nationally known commentators from Christopher Hitchens to Bill Moyers.

Zeidler, Milwaukee's Socialist mayor from 1948 to

1960 and a onetime Socialist candidate for president, has been an active and honored member of the Labor History Society.

A panel discussion on "Rebuilding the Vision" will conclude the conference. Steve Meyer, professor of history at UWM, will moderate an exploration of how workers, their unions and others can regain the vision of progressivism that is Wisconsin's heritage.

The labor society was founded in 1981 with a purpose of preserving the history of Wisconsin workers and their unions and to foster the teaching of labor history in the schools and colleges of the state. Its first conference was held at Turner's, which was built in 1883.

The conference will also feature presentation of various awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award to an individual who has served the causes of labor, awards to the winners of the society's annual labor history essay contests and the Frank P. Zeidler Scholarship Award for academic studies.

The conference fee of \$20 (\$10 for students and unemployed persons) includes lunch. Send reservation checks to Wisconsin Labor History Society, 6333 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee WI 53213, Attention: Marilinda Johnson. Application forms are at www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org.

For information, contact Ken Germanson, society president, (414) 449-4767 ext. 124.

Voices for Progress

For America, no Paine, no gain

Thomas Paine and the Promise of America. By Harvey J. Kaye. Hill and Wang, \$25

During the all-too-brief entry of the Cinderella team into the NCAA Final Four, sportswriters took to referring to George Mason as the University named after the "forgotten Founding Father."

Move over, Mason. Let's talk in terms of central dynamic influence on the Declaration of Independence, the success of the Revolutionary War and the creation of the nation, all followed by another sadder American tradition - incorruptible heroes felled by animosity, derision, neglect and even hatred.

In that case, the truly forgotten "Founding Father" is Thomas Paine, whose pamphlet "Common Sense" roared through the colonies as a best-read phenomena that "The Da Vinci Code" would envy.



Frank Zeidler

Its impact is almost incalculable, but it was only the start of a number of legendary Paine titles and passionately articulated views on independence, human rights and religious freedom ("The Crisis," "Rights of Man," "The Age of Reason"). The most important polemicist shaping the American Revolution was also an inventor, politician and strategist, a self-proclaimed citizen of the world who also affected the French Revolution.

Paine's ability to stir the masses took him from the heights of acclaim and favoritism for years after 1776 to the depths of vilification and abandonment in the early 19th century -- primarily because he ran afoul of organized religion and what we would today describe as the religious right.

In a stealth sense, however, the United States of America he helped name didn't even know how often it was taking him to heart.

Over the centuries, his ideas from rights to deism helped keep us a nation of radicals (a word that only the current political divisiveness makes suspect) and touched virtually every twist, trend and leap in the political landscape.

Today, an Internet center of progressive thought bears his name (tompaine.com) while his words creep into speeches from Reagan to the second Bush.

An acclaimed new book by Harvey Kaye, a professor at UW-Green Bay, traces the progress and reverberations of Paine's original arguments and thinking. While the book provides a fascinating outline of Paine's life,



Prof. Harvey Kaye

Kaye's primary focus is the sweep of Paine's ideas through time and through an amazing assortment of American movements and leaders.

Kaye's book requires an interest in, even a concern for, true American history and a desire to explore the bounces and jostles of two centuries. Paine was incorporated after his death into virtually every major impulse in US expansion and behavior -- from America's flirtations with Utopian communes to abolition inspiration, from religious fervor to cold and hot war policies.

Some of the movements sought to dilute or pervert Paine's visions to their own purposes. His fire keeps rebounding on them. Something in his passion, sarcasm and honesty keeps calling America back to its original ideals of rebellion and radical movement. He may be particularly valuable now when labels tend to divide us and Americans in all camps cheapen the very intellectual confrontations that Paine feasted on.

To read Kaye is to read the real Paine.

-- Dominique Paul Noth

Only The Best



Can Build a Skyline Like This

Hire Union Contractors and Carpenters



12 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60611-2796 • 312-787-3076 • www.carpentersunion.org

IRONWORKERS LOCAL NO. 8

CHARTERED 1901

Molding men and women to build great cities for 105 years



James "Jimbo" Jorgensen B.M. / F.S.
 Gil Toslek Training Coordinator
 12034 W. Adler Ln. Milwaukee, WI 53214
 414-476-9372

Meet Lawton at Bay View event



Folksinger Larry Penn, captured at a recent memorial service at the Bay View marker.

Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton will be the special speaker, and a salute to historic women of labor will be a special feature, in the brief outdoor ceremony that has become a tradition the first Sunday in May at the site of the Bay View Massacre.



Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton

This is the 20th anniversary of the remembrance sponsored by the Wisconsin Labor History Society. It is also the 120th anniversary of the tragedy

itself at Rolling Mills, then Milwaukee's largest employer and now remembered only for the memorial trees and historical marker the labor community helped install at S. Superior St. and E. Russell Ave. (about a half-mile south of the Hoan Bridge on Milwaukee's lakefront). In 1886, as more than 1,500 workers marched peacefully to support an eight-hour day, the state militia was ordered to open fire. Seven adults and children died in the carnage.

Lawton, who will be on the ballot for re-election in November along with Gov. Jim Doyle, will link the struggles of workers then to workers now.

Jean Haase, president of the Older Women's League, will offer a tribute to two historic champions of labor, Chicago activist Jane Addams and the remarkable Helen Keller, who pushed past her own disabilities to support trade unions.

The event is at 3 p.m. that Sunday, May 7. Those who wish can congregate afterward at Puddlers' Hall, 2731 S. St. Clair St., built in 1873 as a union hall.

Larry Penn, labor's musical helper, to join Utah Phillips on Pabst stage

When Larry Penn shares a song or two for free May 7 at the Bay View event, likely his "Ghosts of Bay View," he will be continuing his contributions to Wisconsin labor and culture.

Poet, folksinger, retired Teamster and songwriter, Penn will be on the Pabst Theater stage a few nights before -- actually May 1, international workers day -- as a special guest of a big legend in folksinging, hoboing, social resistance and American philosophy: Utah Phillips.

Approaching 71 and going strong, Phillips has had a string of successes in songs and CDs for himself and other artists ("Green Rolling Hills," "Enola Gay," "Moose Turd Pie") while continuing his outspoken social views, support of unions and membership in the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World). It will be a special night (\$17.50 general admission) for anyone with a love of good tunes and meaningful folklore.

Penn and his music, meanwhile, continue as a central fund-raiser for the labor history society, which needs even greater support from union members here. The society annually gives high school students and graduate students scholarships for labor-related essays. It has created a labor history curriculum for schools, it regularly holds events (see this page and facing page) and advocates in the community and in the legislature for greater attention and understanding of the state's labor past.

To that end it is selling at its events and on its website "Stickin' With the Union: Songs From Wisconsin Labor History," both a CD and a handsome manual of lyrics and history for \$15. Composers of the songs include Penn and Woody Guthrie. The performers are Penn and Darryl Holter. Mini-essays show the links to Wisconsin history of songs including "Willie the Scab," "Which Side Are You On?" and "Union Maid."

Go to www.wisconsinlaborhistory.org

PORT PUBLICATIONS
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

Associated Surgical & Medical Specialists

Dedicated to putting the patient first.

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

Associated Surgical and Medical Specialists

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

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.

MBCTC takes lead in minority hiring push

Do some in Milwaukee power circles suffer an archaic view of modern construction? Do they think it's some sort of "make work" project like the WPA of the Great Depression?

But you can't fill a worksite with ditch-diggers plucked from the neighborhood corner, even if you're nutty enough to want to.

Luring minority workers and helping the inner city, MBCTC leaders like Lyle Balistreri insist, require family-supporting jobs plus a realization that varied skills and training are essential for quality and safety.

The unions maintain standards through their rules. While non-union companies have tried to flood worksites with apprentices (to lowball costs and save money in hiring), the unions establish a ratio of journeymen as monitors and mentors for every apprentice.

Training programs such as Big Step can put apprentices on the job earning good pay with a month or two of intense classes, but some trades require years of training to move up.

Willie D. Ellis, a business rep and organizer for Operating Engineers Local 139, points out that his union requires six journeymen for every apprentice on a job. Given the machinery and skills involved, said Ellis, "Anything less is inviting trouble



Contractor groups, the NAACP and union leaders heeded the call from Laborers Local 113 on April 11 for even more aggressive ways to make city residents, particularly women and minorities, benefit from the explosion of construction.

and delays."

There are 15 joint apprentice programs offered by unions in the Milwaukee construction arena. About a third have seen gains in minority apprentices and employment.

Hundreds of Big Step graduates have moved into construction. Many went up the ladder quickly to journeyman wages. Three hundred more have moved into trades jobs through Big Step's Center of Excellence.

But potential candidates for all these programs have dropped out or quit because of the demands and uncertainty.

Most construction work is no longer mere manual labor. One contractor on the Marquette Interchange described what he expects -- good math skills, good general science, flexibility in work assignment, knowledge of safety issues and procedure, training in new materials and machines, time efficiency monitoring, the ability to read blueprints and diagrams.

"I hate the term unskilled labor," said one highway worker. "Would you call our soldiers in Iraq 'unskilled'? If you don't know what we go through to do these jobs well, don't lay that on us."

"Teenagers who have dropped out of school are hardly ready for this kind of training and commitment," said one teacher in the Big Step effort. "A few years later, when reality and some maturity take hold, we find more ways to bring them in. But we've got to keep kids in school, because then they can move into good-paying jobs at graduation."

The unions were stung recently by criticism from their allies in such minority employment efforts.

A report by UWM Employment and Training Institute with the NAACP gave low marks to the minority apprentice efforts and lambasted how many white apprentices there were among the 475 surveyed contractors and subcontractors working on construction projects last year in the four-county Milwaukee area.

Both union and committed business leaders had a lot of problems with a report based on an older census database, taken during a slow period and using belated forms from the state's Department of Workforce Development.

Worse in their view, it lumped non-union and union together, disguising that union contractors are doing 60% better than their non-union counterparts in minority apprentices.

More than 40% of the companies in the survey only employ one apprentice, which means they are unable to employ one African American, one Hispanic and one Asian as the report would like.

And yes, whites are the overwhelming majority of the apprentices. Many of the companies are not based in Milwaukee, which further emphasizes that both private sector builders and even state entities such as UWM aren't encouraging minority hiring. In fact, most of the companies are not certified to train apprentices, which means they're borrowing these bodies from somewhere.

The geographical jurisdiction of the union apprentice programs also varies. Some are statewide, some encompass a swath of counties, so any database survey of minorities within the four-county region is skewed.

Ellis, who is also president of the Milwaukee County Labor Council, offered two anecdotal examples. Some minority apprentices who live in Milwaukee actually work in Beloit, so they weren't included in the report.

The reverse problem holds true. Ellis and his colleagues, knowing of an apprentice opening in Wausau, called more than 200 minority applicants in Milwaukee and found no takers for the job.

"In construction, you have to go where the work is -- you head where the contractor sends you," said Ellis.

Yet unions kept their criticism of the NAACP report subdued, because they do believe that everybody can do more.

The unions have also held meetings with the UWM researchers, the NAACP, the MMSD and an assortment of contractor associations to see what everyone can do to open up jobs to women and minorities.

The unions can "fix our own internal problems," said one local's leader. "But there's a larger attitude in the community that needs to be fixed."

Another labor leader, while conceding that several businesses have bought into the minority employment efforts, sees a major problem with the development community and how contractors are hired.

When some companies learn about the pressure to commit to minority workers, he said, "They roll their eyes, they treat it as a hardship."

"What were they doing before?" he asked. "Shouldn't we know? I'd like to see companies coming in and bidding that already have demonstrated they have minority workers -- hell, maybe we should make that a rule."

"Show us that you already recognize the problem or drop out. If companies don't have a commitment to this, they sure aren't helping us."

Milwaukee unions keep the money here. Minority employment builds wealth in the inner city and radiates far beyond the hundreds added to construction.

If more developers, more officials and more unions don't buy into minority employment, and recognize how the rewards multiply, the construction boom will become a local bust.

"We're united on this," said Balistreri. "If people want to kick us for not doing more, I can take that. But it's fair to ask, 'What are they doing?'"

-- Dominique Paul Noth



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



Boom

From Page 1

model for the private sectors. Just consider: Union contractors now represent less than half the work being done in the four-county metropolis -- but they employ 90% of the minority apprentices.

It is also indisputable - and these unions are the first to say so -- that the current efforts are not enough. Some trades have successfully escalated their minority membership. Others lag behind. Some need to show higher commitment. Some showing that commitment have found it hard to sustain.

Poverty and unemployment stick like flypaper to Milwaukee's inner city. Construction careers don't have the lure they once did. Not only have the required skills changed, so have the culture and social recognition, affecting the pride workers take in their connection to new buildings and highways. Nor has construction, until recently, seemed a steady opportunity.

In Milwaukee, some union leaders regard bettering community standards and opening work up to minorities as a moral calling. "It's simply the right thing to do and way past time," said Lyle Balistreri, president of the MBCTC.

But it's also an economic imperative - here and nationally. One million new construction workers will be needed quickly in the US to keep up with projects -- some 240,000 a year.

In metro Milwaukee, fully 10% of the current construction workforce is due for retirement by 2010 and as many as 20% more would age out of jobs in the next decade.

Projects in southeastern Wisconsin have already helped create nearly full employment for the 3,300 members of the northeast region of the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, director Mark Scott told the Daily Reporter. But the carpenters' hall in Pewaukee is also hosting forums on technical training and immigrant workers partly because it sees the problems ahead. See Page 4.

Union construction workers underpin much broader economic growth. Recent surveys of the 30,000 plus such workers in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties show they create more jobs than they possess -- some 32,000 jobs in services and suppliers. They are better paid than the average worker, spend more than \$2.3 billion a year locally and contribute more than \$103 million in income taxes

No wonder many companies and business leaders embrace this union approach to adding minorities and pushing residential employment.

WE Energies construction in Oak Creek will cost more than \$2 billion and require 2,000



High and low, construction work flows through Milwaukee

workers over the next few years.

Its Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the MBCTC doesn't mean that every job will be union or residential hiring. You'll see some of the union specialists who chase major national projects coming in for this one. But the great majority of jobs even through subcontractors will be local as well as committed to prevailing wage.

These families will be WE Energies' long-term customers for electricity and natural gas. So the right thing marries perfectly with self-interest.

The Columbia St. Mary's hospital project, for which a PLA is being developed, will spend \$414 million and require 500 workers. And this project emphasizes not just residential employment and minority openness. It requires every worker to have health coverage. That favors unions, which have worked for years to establish such health benefits.

The project will start in 2006 and peak by late 2007. The hospital says it will mandate local firms, minority subcontractors and Milwaukee labor. It's common sense. "Those are the hospital's customers, and it wants those customers to have the best opportunity to participate," Chris Smocke, president of the firm managing the project, said at a news conference.

"These businesses get it," said Balistreri, but he is well aware there are others that don't.

There are also talk radio folks who don't understand the union commitment to maintaining standards while pushing for minority employment. There are even city development officers and public officials more willing to bend on quality jobs and quality workforce.

Why would they think it is better to offer poor residents \$7 an hour for these jobs rather than the \$15 an hour a starting apprentice can make?

"Well, they keep saying things like 'let the market forces work' knowing full well that many developers are looking to

cut corners on their bids and once again picking on the workforce to find those corners," said Balistreri.

When you start adding in the condo-retail projects, the Manpower building, the Harley-Davidson museum, \$5 billion to \$6 billion has been committed to Milwaukee construction projects over the next few years.

But the labor portion varies from 17% to 40% of the whole, experts say, depending on the nature of the

project. It's a nice chunk of change, but the majority of the costs still reside in materials, commissions, land appropriations, architecture, management fees, profits (some would say kickbacks) and the like.

Developers also benefit

from tax breaks and tax incentives and unions know that city development officials seem to look the other way when a workforce is imported by a subcontractor or the pay scale slips below what the community standards require.

Who's hard at work getting minorities work

In 2001, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership began providing technical and financial assistance to Big Step, a major coalition service that helps union partners in the building industry put women and minorities into apprenticeship programs. This collaboration has developed an array of pre-employment training programs, starting with utility line construction in 2003, road construction in 2004 and carpentry in 2005. Now Big Step and WRTP have launched new training programs for sewer and water, bricklayer and other trades and industries.

Big Step also partners with community organizations such as the Esperanza Unida and the Urban League to provide a central clearing house for contractors to recruit pre-qualified minority candidates. It also works with employers and unions on program curriculums, speaking at schools and promoting trades at career fairs.

In 2005, Big Step and WRTP launched the Center of Excellence, a central clearinghouse for assessing, preparing and placing job-ready candidates for careers in skilled trades and industries.

Along with the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO, other partner names you'll hear in connection with Big Step are the CLMC (Construction Labor Management Council of Southeast Wisconsin Inc.), the Allied Construction Employers Association, Associated General Contractors of Greater Milwaukee, National Electrical Contractors Association and Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning National Association.



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, P.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

Musicians get a little Broadway in Milwaukee contract

If you peeked into the Uihlein Hall orchestra pit during the recent stopover of the "Annie" national tour, you would have seen a dozen local musicians for whom "the sun will come out tomorrow."

The "Annie" engagement was the first fruition of a collective bargaining agreement that in Milwaukee brings under union enforcement the frequent — and frequently heavy — addition of local professional musicians to national touring theater shows. The deal is with a major producing company in this field, Live Nation Entertainment.

Members of Local 8,

American Federation of Musicians, in March ratified the agreement with Live Nation, an independent entity spun off from Clear Channel Entertainment and the power behind the Broadway Across America series.

As Dave Lussier points out, the agreement does more than increase wages for the local musicians and provide a legally binding avenue to enforce those wages. It also does more than provide good union employment and the guarantee of quality music for the touring Broadway series, said Lussier, secretary-treasurer of Local 8 and also a member of the

trombone section at the "Annie" stopover in late March and early April.

It may prove a model for other musicians' locals as Live Nation sends its productions around the country. Some big cities have such contracts, but Milwaukee, Lussier hopes, "can act as a model" for AFM locals that never had this sort of contract.

The national and Milwaukee marketplaces have also changed, bringing down the number of producing companies sending out such tours. Here, high caliber Broadway tours predominantly head to the Marcus Center and its Uihlein stage.

Over the next year and a half, Live Nation has a series of Broadway offerings destined for Uihlein Hall. Some, such as "Mama Mia," travel "self-contained" (no local musical additions needed).

Others (among them "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," "Chita Rivera: The Dancer's Life" and "Sweet Charity") are now a range of opportunities for Milwaukee's professional freelance musicians, the folks who also show up in Milwaukee's ballet, symphony and Skylight Theatre ensembles.

The augmentation by local players can be as little as one or as big as a full orchestra pit. For "Annie," a show never fully dressed without an efficient orchestra, the 12 local musicians were the bulk of the instrumental power, joining a conductor and a skeleton traveling AFM crew (drum-



Union musicians posed for Labor Press in the artists' lounge during the intermission for "Annie." Top row is assistant conductor Kelly Ann Lambert. Middle row: John Babbitt, bass; Steve Johnson, baritone sax; Richard Eliot, guitar; Lou Cucunato, keyboard; Tommy Bradford, drums; John Trombetta, trumpet; Brett Murphy, trumpet; Mark Hoelscher, bass trombone; Dave Lussier, trombone; Tim Bell, clarinet, and Lori Babinec, contractor. Kneeling are Scott Cook, cello, and Eric Segnitz, violin.

mer, trumpet, keyboard). The professionalism also saved money — Local 8 participants mastered the score in one rehearsal.

Lussier recalls that when "The Producers" stopped here, it needed 22 local players.

The three-year contract is retroactive to May of 2005. In September of this year, it boosts wages by 3.8% and requires a 4% increase in corporate pension contributions. In September of 2007 wages go up again, by 4.5%.

The mechanics of traveling theatrical entertainment can get a bit complicated from the unionization perspective. That's just one

reason why the AFL-CIO is actively seeking to form an ICC, Industry Coordination Committee, for Arts, Entertainment and Media, just as it successfully created an ICC last month with eight separate nurses' unions.

In Milwaukee, shows affect several unions but principally the AFM, Actor's Equity and the stagehands (International Association of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 18). The stagehands understandably focus on contracts with buildings and have deals not just with the Marcus Center but also (a partial list) with the Pabst and the Milwaukee Theatre. Actors Equity, like

the AFM, focuses on producing entities.

This has brought to Milwaukee some strange creatures and does affect quality. (Ask anyone who paid top dollar last season for "Miss Saigon.") Obdurately non-union shows are on tour, as are partly-union shows and fully union ones. Among the wacky results of all this: The stagehands, obligated by contract to work "Miss Saigon" at the Milwaukee Theatre, joined other unions outside before each show to leaflet in protest of the non-union aspects of the production.

Live Nation's schedule at Uihlein Hall is dominated by fully union shows.

We Salute our Brothers and Sisters in the Construction Trades



ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTORS LOCAL 15

Kelvin Nord, Business Rep.

We Salute Milwaukee's 41st Annual Construction Week



The Officers and Members of Steamfitters Local 601

Kevin La Mere
(Business Manager)

Doug Edwards
(President)

Joel Zielke
(Financial Sec./Treas.)

James Cox
(Business Agent)

Fran Faber
(Business Agent)

Martin Van Beek
(Vice President)

John McGrath
(Recording Secretary)

Bob Rohleder
Steven Bonaparte

Peter Steckl
Ed Fitzsimmons

Executive Board

CLP/STP/10/06

TEAMSTERS GENERAL LOCAL 200

Salutes Our Brothers & Sisters in the Milwaukee Building Trades

Tim Buban
Secretary - Treasurer

Darryl Connell
President

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Mike Dembiec
Mike Heinen
Dave Kumm
Johnnie Mooror
Carol Simon

6200 W. Bluemound Road • 414-771-6363

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494

If you demand safety, dependability and efficiency

Do it electrically with skilled union electricians

3303 S. 103rd Street
414-327-5202
Michael Mueller, Business Manager

April victories could forecast November election wind

A day after earning a Judge in front of her name, Jane Carroll came to Serb Hall to mingle with the delegates of the Milwaukee County Labor Council. Their recommendation to members in March, she said, "really

was the key, I think, to putting me over the top." On April 4, in Milwaukee's only county-wide contested race, Carroll won by 8%, drawing 4,468 votes more than her much better-heeled opponent, J.D. Watts.

This was a race that no one had polled and was too close to call in advance. Both candidates had endorsements across the political spectrum (though Carroll, an 18-year veteran of the DA's office, had every major judge in the county plus US Rep. Gwen Moore). Watts had the well-known last name, the endorsement of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (sometimes known as "the kiss of death") and paid big for a last-days blitz of TV ads.

But races that rely on what Carroll spoke of -- "grassroots enthusiasm and word-of-mouth" -- are playing in organized labor's ballpark.

As Secretary-Treasurer Sheila Cochran pointed out, "Despite all the talk you hear about splits in labor and such stuff, we are still the only really organized established grassroots movement out there. We do know how to do this." In fact, all the candidates that received notable labor endorsements won on April 4. And Carroll, in a conversation, noted that union members have the habit of going to the polls, even in the low-interest spring. "So I had to come and thank them."

Even in Waukesha, unions scored. That city opted for a veteran school-teacher -- and yes, a Democrat -- as its new mayor. Larry Nelson openly embraced support from unions. He also fervently opposed the proposed (and still being written) Taxpayer Protection amendment to

the constitution (called by some the Bride of TABOR and others the Toilet Paper amendment; it's certainly as long and complicated as a full roll).

His opponent, a Republican veteran of the State Assembly, Ann Nischke, wrapped herself in TP, outspent Nelson three-to-one and was embraced by the state GOP.

The political makeup of the city is more socially progressive than Waukesha as a whole, to be sure. Nelson pointed out that a nonpartisan collection of individuals and groups helped him survive the state GOP machine and deliver a needed stiff-arm to the TABOR advocates. But "I just have to say, for those people who think organized labor is dead -- apparently not in the city of Waukesha," he told reporters.

Carroll was in the only Milwaukee County Circuit Court race that was contested (Branch 39 incumbent Michael Malmstadt had retired). But in Milwaukee suburbia, AFSCME District Council 48 recorded victory for all its recommendations.

In the Village of Greendale, in what was clearly a slapdown of the Citizens for Responsible Government, John Hermes was elected president and the two incumbents AFSCME supported, Judith Fons and Tom Slota, were returned to the Greendale School Board.

An upset also occurred in Glendale, where Jerome Tepper beat out a former mayor trying to regain that position.

It was a good start for labor in what Cochran warned delegates will be

an intense, focused political year. Looking ahead to November, she said, "You're going to hear this a lot -- I'm voting for the veto" -- referring to Gov. Jim Doyle.

She was also picking up a theme sounded by AFSCME 48 Executive Director Richard Abelson at an earlier delegate meeting, discussing the union-busting bills that keep being introduced by Republicans in the Madison legislature.

"Make no mistake," Abelson said. "Only Gov. Doyle's vetoes have kept collective bargaining alive in Wisconsin."

--Dominique Paul Noth

Early choices for fall

The delegates also accepted with applause the recommendation of the Committee on Political Education to back Democrat **Jim Sullivan**, the personable

Wauwatosa alderman, in his November race against one of the Madison legislature's most extreme, anti-union and anti-minimum wage Republicans, Tom Reynolds, in the 5th District Senate race.

Sullivan, a UW-Madison grad and US Navy Reservist, went through personal interviews with COPE to draw out his views on privatization, affordable health care, frugal spending, support of local government and fully funded public schools. It's an intense process that more local candidates for legislative office will be going through.

The recommendation of Sullivan is sure to carry the day when the Wisconsin AFL-CIO issues new rounds of official endorsements over the next few months. The Milwaukee labor council handles the interviews and recommendations in such state office races but feeds those up the line to the state AFL-CIO and its geographically broader COPE for final determinations.

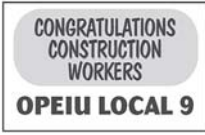
This process has already led to a series of endorsements by the state AFL-CIO. The full list of those backed: US Senate: **Herb Kohl** (incumbent)

US House: **Tammy Baldwin** (incumbent), 2nd District
Ron Kind (incumbent), 3rd District
Gwen Moore (incumbent), 4th District
Bryan Kennedy, challenging Jim Sensenbrenner in the 5th District
David Obey (incumbent), 7th District

Governor: **Jim Doyle** (incumbent)
Lieutenant Governor: **Barbara Lawton** (incumbent)
Attorney General: **Peg Lautenschlager** (incumbent)



Jim Sullivan



Union Craftsmen Sheet Metal Workers State of Wisconsin

This ad paid for by the members represented by:

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

**5425 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53208-2118
1-800-242-5822 FAX (414) 778-0987**

RECOGNITION TO ALL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

FROM THE FIELD REPRESENTATIVES, EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF LOCAL 8

Chuck Hutchins - President
Ben Gutkowski - Vice President
Stanley J. Mackai - Financial Secretary
Phil Dupor - Recording Secretary
Denise Dostalek - Trustee
Dustin Hines - Trustee
Al Brazzoni - Sergeant at Arms

FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL 8
Fred Hultquist and Ray Wersel

GET IT RIGHT

Professional Plumbers & Contractors

Check us out on-line at www.ppcplumbers.com

Business Manager: Harry Kreuser

11175 West Parkland Ave, Milw., WI 53224-3135
888-248-3392 414-359-1310 fax/414-359-1323
www.plumbers75.com

6200 Gisholt Drive, Madison, WI 53713
866-332-9100 608-222-1650
fax/608-226-9116

Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals

Congratulates

Aurora CEO,

Ed Howe

On a retirement package that guarantees him a “life of luxury.” Ed’s worked hard for those benefits...but, has he worked harder than the nurses and healthcare workers that also built the ‘Aurora Empire?’

Don’t you think it’s time for Aurora to support good pension benefits for hard-working nurses and healthcare workers?

Now that would be a Nurses’ Day to remember!



Wisconsin Federation
of Nurses & Health
Professionals AFT,
AFL-CIO 

A Union of Professionals

1-800-828-2256

This Nurses’ Day WFNHP would like to honor our members for their strength, commitment and compassion to quality patient care.

Calendar

Friday, April 28

Workers Day Memorial
5 p.m., Zeidler Union Square Park
Downtown, 4th and Michigan

Monday, May 1

Justice for Immigrants National Action Day
10 a.m. rally and march, S. 5th and Washington
See story on Page 15

Wednesday, May 3

Delegate Meeting
Milwaukee County Labor Council AFL-CIO
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Saturday, May 6

African American Labor & Community Summit
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Laborers Local 113 Hall, 6310 W. Appleton Ave.
\$15 (includes meals and materials)
See story on Page 2

Sunday, May 7

Bay View Tragedy Remembrance
Special Speaker: Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton
3 p.m. at Historic Marker
S. Superior St. and E. Russell Ave.
See story on Page 7

Saturday, May 13

25th Anniversary Wisconsin Labor History Society
"Unions and Wisconsin's Progressive Vision"
Events 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St.
See story on Page 6

Wednesday, May 17

Labor Lunch with Tom Barrett
Noon, Yatchak Hall, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, May 31

Executive Board Meeting
Milwaukee County Labor Council
3 p.m., MBCT, 5941 W. Bluemound Rd.

Bowling

MCLC MIXED SENIOR BOWLING

2005-2006 FINAL RESULTS

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
GUTTER RATS	116	94
ONE BOARD OVER	116	94
LABORER'S 113	113	97
8 BALLS	111	99
SLAMMERS	88	122
CRAZY 8's	86	124

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 500

DAN LAACK	696
SAM SAMUELSON	652
DON WIEDMANN	641
BOB WAGNER	635
WAYNE FRANZEN	596
ELMER HELM	583
DON BOOTON	538
DEL GROSS	526
GEORGE BARAK	512
HANK ZEISSE	506

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 190

SAM SAMUELSON	266
BOB WAGNER	265
DAN LAACK	257
DON WIEDMANN	225
WAYNE FRANZEN	225
ELMER HELM	225
DON BOOTON	203
GEORGE BARAK	201
HANK ZEISSE	192

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 395

PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	424
ELAINE KARIER	406
LAVARNE WERNER	400

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 140

PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	163
ELAINE KARIER	146
LAVARNE WERNER	141

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

Mixed-up America

Is our obvious confusion a reason for despair or for hope?

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

Our cover story reveals that some 2,000 construction jobs will be created over the next few years for new power plants in Oak Creek. That's the same suburb where, at the height of that WE Energies work in 2007, some 1,200 jobs are expected to depart at Delphi.

We are a nation of mixed messages, aren't we?

Conservative talk radio boasts that we are in an economic boom, some 4% growth, yet the same statistics indicate that wages have stagnated, not even keeping pace with inflation.

Health care costs are out of control, so we ruthlessly gut workers who have pensions — even as we learn that Exxon, with its record \$36 billion profits last year, is larding its departing boss with \$400 million to buy that more expensive gas.

Conservatives as well as liberals challenge not only Exxon's behavior but also Delphi's national demand that workers take the buyout (money to live a year or two) or swallow severe loss of wages, pensions and health benefits. The taxpayers, after all, will get stuck with the safety net.

Mixed messages indeed. But note that the mix no longer splits cleanly between pro-business and pro-labor, Republicans and Democrats, the shrinking white majority and the expanding people of color, the believers in family and the deportation fiends. The mixed messages are confoundingly mixed together.

That "don't snitch" gangsta rap message has a wrongheaded influence on making neighborhoods safer. Yet the Frank Jude trial revealed that "don't snitch"

Comment

is deeply and distastefully embedded in Milwaukee police officers — and worse, that it succeeds in keeping your buddies out of jail.

We tell kids to "stay in school" as the pathway to success, even as we raise the economic costs for higher education and refuse to spend more money on schools.

Yup, mixed messages. It drives us all crazy, but maybe it signals that the polarized political wall that has blunted progress may be crumbling.

It was a conservative Republican who told me that CEO pay in this country "is obscene." It was a liberal union

supporter of immigrant rights who complained that "they have to learn English, that's primary." It was a white police officer who was my bitterest caller about the Jude behavior of his colleagues. It was an NRA member who said guns should be outlawed in Iraq.

We're a troubled country, but now we are so troubled that we are re-examining our own attitudes and philosophies

This is not some Pollyanna hope that all will be well. It's going to take, frankly, far more thought than we've invested so far in our society and civics, less knee-jerk response to the establishment positions from any side. We are searching for clarity. But maybe, finally, we are going to resist those soundbite simplicities.

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



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

PLAN YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US

- Negotiations
- Conferences
- Meetings
- Parties
- Weddings

Employees are represented by:

UNITE HERE Local 122
Operating Engineers Local 317



LEFT : Everyone was getting ready at St. Adalbert's church. Roger Hinkle of LCLAA (far left) was checking that the union and supportive team of translators was set to provide instantaneous translation. BELOW: The panel of public representatives was being organized. Conferring at right was the multilingual moderator, MATC instructor Maria Possell. At left, the County Board's first Hispanic woman,

Supervisor Peggy West. In between were representatives of US Congress members Rep. Gwen Moore and Senators Herb Kohl and Russ Feingold. But none, it is safe to say, were prepared for the raw emotional power of the testimonies from the immigrant community at that March 28 community event. One of the stories told is excerpted below.



Insuring the Health of **Wisconsin's Working Families** Since 1946

866-297-4977 www.wpsic.com

21648-021-0503
© 2005 Wisconsin Physicians Service Insurance Corporation. All rights reserved.

WPS
HEALTH INSURANCE

The immigrant experience

Bertha's story

My name is Bertha Gonzalez, and I am an immigrant from the state of Jalisco, Mexico.

In 1980 I started working out of necessity for my family at the age of 14 at a large clothing company, J.H. Collectibles, which went out of business in 1997. Since the work was piecemeal, if you worked hard, you could make a decent living. There was a great sense of solidarity among the Latinas working there. However, many of us were undocumented.

In 1984, my family made a decision to move back to Mexico. Soon after I left for Mexico, the INS conducted a raid at the company, taking many workers out of the plant.

Even those who were legal residents but did not have their documentation at work were sent to Chicago. Many were deported back to Mexico, some leaving their husbands and children behind.

One woman who was separated from her family I will call Maria out of respect, though it is not her real name.

She did what any wife and mother would feel the need to do -- whatever was needed to reunite with her family. She decided to come back to Milwaukee despite the dangers of crossing the border.

She was traveling with two co-workers from J.H. Collectibles who also were separated from their families by the raid. The three were crossing the Rio Grande together, holding hands, when the current pulled Maria under.

She drowned that day trying to unite with her family. She was a victim of a twisted system that on the one hand wanted the benefit of her hard labor while on the other afforded her no rights.

I did not learn about this tragedy until I came back from Mexico about three months later to go back to J H Collectibles. I was stunned and overwhelmed with grief. The women at work

were still weeping.

The tragedy was not only the loss of our co-worker Maria, but the pain felt forever by those who saw her die without being able to save her. That is not even to mention the irreparable loss of a mother for those little children.

I was fortunate enough to have found my path to citizenship without suffering deportation or death of a family member.

But like so many others in our community, personal experiences like these create a lasting bond between documented and undocumented immigrants.

We cannot forget where we have been, nor the suffering of those around us, both in the past and the present.

There are many recent immigrants in Milwaukee, but whether documented or undocumented, all are God's children, for I have walked in their shoes.

I realize this happened more than 20 years ago. But I also know that more than 400 human beings lost their lives this past year in their attempt to find work and a better life for their families.

On behalf of those former undocumented workers like myself who have gained our right to live and vote in the United States, I have a message that flows from this story.

I live in the district represented by Congressman Sensenbrenner, who is making a name for himself by exploiting and fanning the flames of anti-immigrant prejudice.

My message is this. I will not forget Maria. I will not be unfaithful to who I am and where I came from. And I will not forsake those who have come behind me.

-- Transcription by LCLAA
Excerpted by Labor Press

Plan to Have Your Next Function At


Four Points
HOTEL
Sheraton
MILWAUKEE AIRPORT

4747 S. Howell Ave., Milwaukee, WI
414-615-8000

- **Weddings**
- **Conferences**
- **Meetings**
- **Parties**
- **Negotiations**

EMPLOYEES ARE REPRESENTED BY:
UNITE HERE
LOCAL 122
(414) 271-0290

Tradesman Helping Tradesmen
Scott Koenig - 20 Plus Years Local 18

Want to retire...
and actually be secure in your retirement?
Or how about retiring 5...10...maybe even
20 years early?

You owe it to yourself to enjoy life after work.

414-765-0003
KNOW YOUR OPTIONS.

THE
MORTGAGE
GUYS
YOUR EQUITY, YOUR FUTURE

Humanity adds clarity to immigrant debate

By Dominique Paul Noth, Editor, Labor Press

It wasn't all about marches. It was about families and about hiding no longer. Days after the unprecedented "Day Without Latinos" rally in Milwaukee, a regional coalition of unions, churches and community groups created some notable events to look deeper into immigration realities as well as reform.

One was strategic, a daylong discussion of issues and policies among 80 experts and engaged citizens March 29 at the Carpenters Hall in Pewaukee.

The other was almost poetic in place and impact -- a community testimonial that drew 200 persons to St. Adalbert's Catholic Church the evening of March 28.

As people were entering that St. Adalbert's gathering, an out-of-control car leaving a nearby restaurant parking lot crashed into vehicles parked in front of the church, sending one person to the hospital.

It was an unrelated incident -- except after you stepped inside. Because visitors were being welcomed there by a charismatic, smiling pastor. He walked so nimbly on his prosthetic leg that visitors forgot how, in January 2005, he was the victim of a similar accident on the icy street outside his living quarters.

It was back then that the priest demonstrated the compassion, moral courage and forward-thinking that this gathering was really about.

Father Eleazar Perez, a Spanish-speaking priest from rural Mexico whose warm style has helped invigorate Milwaukee's Latino community, was hit by an out-of-control car while helping unload groceries in front of his residence. The driver, a 19-year-old illegal Mexican, fled in fear of being deported. Terror turned to horror when he learned that he had hit Perez and caused the amputation of a priest's left leg.

Yet months later, still on crutches, Perez came to the driver's sentencing to ask for understanding and mercy even as he offered forgiveness. The judge listened. The driver was credited with time served and deported to Mexico.

Father Perez mentioned not a word of this as he welcomed guests to the church basement he has made a centerpiece of community issues. Arrayed behind him were officials from the Latino community -- Supervisor Peggy West, state Rep. Pedro Colon -- plus representatives from the in-session members of Congress, Senators Feingold and Kohl and US Rep. Gwen Moore.

Roger Hinkle and his union volunteers from LCLAA (Labor Council for Latin American Advancement) provided simultaneous translation, while MCLC field mobilizer Doug Curler dispensed the small transmitters with earpieces to anyone who needed Spanish into English.

LCLAA and Hinkle also provided written transcripts of the moving testimony from documented and undocumented members of the Milwaukee community. While Congress continued to dither on what to do, these speakers provided

the human underpinning to the immigration plea for recognition and a legal pathway.

One of the testimonies is excerpted on the facing page, along with more photos. Labor Press hopes to offer other human tales from this forum in the months ahead. If you have a story to contribute, email laborprs@execpc.com.

The strategies and philosophies of how to improve workers' rights and respond to that congressional dithering were center stage in a series of panels the next day at the Carpenters union hall.

From Chicago and Milwaukee, from law centers and employment centers, the experts openly talked about what they have done that's worked and hasn't.

Daniel McMahan of the Carpenters Chicago District 7 could have focused on his union's success stories but instead shared the failure to protect Latino insulation workers in the Wisconsin home construction world. David Somerscales of SEIU Local 1 talked about the ongoing threats to the 350 member Latinos working custodian and janitor jobs in Milwaukee's Downtown.



Father Eleazar Perez



AFL-CIO field mobilizer Doug Curler (standing) moderated a panel featuring (from left) Baldimar Lopez of the Chicago Workers Collaborative, Daniel McMahan of the Carpenters and organizer Christine Neumann-Ortiz.

Marching On May 1

Frustrated by the stalemate in Congress and the lack of comprehensive, humane legal reform, immigrant communities and their allies are going back to the streets of Milwaukee on May 1 as part of a "Justice for Immigrants National Day of Action."

The event here will add some civil rights wrinkles to the mass march itself. It will conduct a voter-registration drive for US citizens and it is calling for May 1 to be a "buy-nothing day" to demonstrate the clout of the Latino community and its sympathizers.

Voces de la Frontera will also provide letters to employers for those participating. Stop by 1027 S. 5th St., call (414) 643-1620 or email vocesdelafrontera@sbcglobal.net for more information.

The march itself will begin at 10 a.m. that Monday May 1 at Washington Ave. and S. 5th St. (near Voces).

Christine Neumann-Ortiz of Voces de la Frontera refused to rest on the successful laurels of the March 23 mass rally and spoke up for the workers penalized for standing up for fellow immigrants.

The few workers fired made national headlines. The New York Times reported that in Wisconsin alone activists restored jobs to 200 workers. While the number of marchers penalized was tiny compared to the million-plus participating nationwide, organizers such as Neumann-Ortiz fear the firings were intended to have a chilling effect on future events, though many businesses have rallied behind the protest -- and some fired workers were actually given advance permission to participate.

Also making national headlines was the innovative lawsuit from a Milwaukee labor lawyer, Mark Sweet, who works with Voces. Defending fired restaurant workers, Sweet argued that their rally activity was protected action under the NLRB's "support of employees for employers other than their own."

"It is about worker rights," said AFL-CIO mobilizer Curler, serving as the moderator of one labor panel. "I know that in the past some unions haven't been welcoming to immigrants, and I know some think our involvement now is about declining numbers and how immigrants can change that," he added.

"But you can't hear these stories and not understand that this is a moral issue for us."

Among the sponsors of these back-to-back events were the MCLC, MICAH, IAMAW District 10, LCLAA, Interfaith Workers Justice, the Chicago Workers Collaborative, the Carpenters, the National Employment Law Project, the National Immigration Law Center and Voces.



FIRE PROTECTION SOLUTIONS SINCE 1906

INDUSTRIAL • COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL • SERVICE

CHRIS SCHOENBECK BUSINESS MGR. COREY GALL BUSINESS REP.

W175 N5700 Technology Drive
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Phone: (262) 252-0183 Fax: (262) 252-7183

E-Mail - local183@execpc.com

www.sprinklerfitters183.org

KEEPING PACE WITH
PROGRESS

WE SALUTE OUR FELLOW BUILDING TRADES ON THE OCCASION OF
CONSTRUCTION WEEK 2006




International Union of Operating Engineers Local 139
Terry McGowan, Bus. Mgr.
N27 W23233 Roundy Drive
Pewaukee, WI


SALUTE TO CONSTRUCTION WORKERS



From Painters, Drywall Finishers, Glaziers and Sign and Display Workers
District Council 7
2850 S. 166th Street
New Berlin, WI
262-797-7800
John Jorgensen
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer



LABORERS' Local No. 113



AFFILIATED WITH AFL-CIO

MILWAUKEE BUILDING TRADES COUNCIL

Building, Sewer, Tunnel, Utility & Paving Laborers

6310 W. Appleton Ave. 414-873-4520



Support your community's local talent.

Union builders are a better value.

By building with union workers and contractors you support the highest quality building talent of people from your community.

When every phase of the job is done by AFL-CIO workers, you'll be assured of the highest building standards accompanied by in-depth training, ongoing educational programs and commitment to excellence.

Demand the best results for your next construction project. For a directory of union construction contractors visit our website at www.milwbuildingtrades.org.

Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council

5941 W. Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee • 414-475-5580



Regional Boilermakers Union Local 107 • Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen Union Local 8
Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers Union Local 8 • Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters
Electrical Workers Union Local 494 • Elevator Constructors Union Local 15 • Glaziers Union Local 1204 • Heat and Frost Insulators Union Local 19
Laborers International Union of North America Local 113 • OPCMIU Local 599 • Operating Engineers Union Local 139
Painters District Council 7 • Plumbers Union Local 75 • Roofers Union Local 65 • Sheet Metal Workers Union Local 18
Sign & Display Union Local 770 • Sprinklerfitters Union Local 183 • Steamfitters Union Local 601 • Teamsters General Local 200
Tile Terrazzo Layers Protective Union Local 5