



AMMO TO KNOCK WALKER OUT JUNE 5

Loose lips go viral

Coward exposed in doorway video

By Dominique Paul Noth
Labor Press Editor

"Any chance we'll ever get to be a completely red state and work on these unions--"

"Oh, yeah," interjects Scott Walker.

"And become a right to work?" continued billionaire supporter Diane Hendricks after hugging the new governor in Janesville in early 2011. "What can we do to help?"

"In fact, we're going to start in a couple of weeks with our budget adjustment bill," Walker explains to one of his wealthiest donors, who as soon as the law allowed dumped a half million bucks into his recall defense.

After being assured by respected documentarian Brad Lichtenstein that this impromptu conversation would not be publicized for a year, he goes on to detail to the admiring Hendricks that he will first take away the union rights of public employees and then complete his "divide and conquer" strategy - implying the next step is to rid Wisconsin of all unions private and public. (In public speeches, of course, he continued to call private unions his good buddies and "partners." And once this video came out in May, he's run around the state insisting that he won't introduce such legislation.)

This is a devastating and revealing exchange, exposing how Walker planned from Day One to break the backs of all unions and cater to the right wing fantasies of destroying worker power in Wisconsin. Today he says he better understands that state voters don't agree, but he never says he's changed his mind - and who in either party can ever trust his word again?

This genuine moment of private reality contradicting public mendacity has made the 38 sec-

Video continued **Page 4**

Editorial

Citizens are eager to show Scott Walker the door June 5. It's a remarkable turnaround in the face of his entrenched money and power. But in trying to explain his excesses, his opponents feel tied into verbal pretzels because they care about accuracy.

His almost endless campaign money and TV ads, his sophisticated legal teams and accounting trickery, his evasions and use of rhetorical loopholes, his constant harping that dumping him is a misuse of the recall process (rather than looking at his reign as a misuse of the democratic process) all create multiple pitfalls. Criticizing Walker has moved far beyond a defense of unions. Calling him vain and unyielding is true but sounds petty. Media crews whatever their motives seem eager to pounce on the slightest factual over-reach and give more play to the goof than the real harm.

But exposing Walker's real intentions has been made much easier by his own actions and words (*story at left*). Other articles dissect the true agony he is causing public education, his falsehoods about being the "health care" governor and the other tricky games his money allows.

In features on Page 6 and 7, Walker's attacks forced our discussion of the extraordinary value of Milwaukee's job training programs, which were so bizarrely condemned by the Walker crowd in his desperation to suppress the election turnout here.

So use our ammunition. Explain the reasons to everyone you meet. Then vote him down June 5.

Unbiased studies expose his education disasters

In the middle of blasts of dishonesty and smokescreens from Scott Walker's political machine, a damning report from the state Department of Public Instruction shows that teacher and staffing cuts caused by the Walker budget are far worse than expected.

This report refutes distorted statements Walker himself has made about how his educational "reforms" are working.

The DPI report - the state's own agency led by an educational specialist whom Walker has singled out as willing to work with him on solutions, Tony Evers - contained alarming key findings that provided state voters proof in district by district detail how Walker's cuts have caused extreme damage:

- 73% of school districts in the state reported cutting teachers this year.
- The 1,446 teacher position cuts represent a 75% increase over similar reductions made last year.
- 74% of school districts cut staff, and the largest, most exorbitant cuts were made to reading,

special education, career and technical education teachers.

The reckless cuts by Walker's knife were mitigated in part this year thanks to \$82.3 million provided by the Obama administration to offset fiscal difficulties at the state level: That money will not be available next year.

Eau Claire Superintendent Ron Heilmann's comment? "Walker doesn't understand how school financing works."

But the DPI report was only the start. Further evidence emerged from University of Wisconsin education specialists looking inside all the figures. They are devoted researchers avoiding political tilts to examine what is really happening. And what they found was dismayingly opposite the purpose of the original state aid to education purpose.

Revealingly titled "**Making Matters Worse**," the detailed May 4 report analyzes the impact on teacher quality, student learning, and property taxpayers of Wisconsin Act 32, the state biennial budget law for 2011-13 -- conceived and promoted by Walker as his key to "fiscally responsible" government.

It found that Walker's budget approach increased funding gaps for poor and minority students in comparison to students from

Education continued **Page 8**

To attack Barrett he demeans city



On April 3, Tom Barrett handily won the pennant to Recall Walker and was wholeheartedly endorsed by all the state's big unions.

By Dominique Paul Noth, Labor Press Editor

It's hard enough for journalists to untangle or even keep up with the exaggerations and self-serving claims of Scott Walker. So imagine how confused the public must be trying to unravel truth from fiction as it decides to vote him out of the governor's mansion June 5.

So let's simplify or at least take apart one constant area of attack on Tom Barrett -- Milwaukee's job performance, tied by Walker to entrenched poverty and decades-long unemployment history. He blames his opponent, the mayor, by calling Milwaukee the anchor dragging down his campaign pledge to create 250,000 private sector jobs by 2015. To help people buy that fiction, he uses -- what else? -- invented data and pounding TV ads.

Walker avoids saying he holds any accountability for the problems though in his eight years in charge of Milwaukee County he never stepped up and mostly blew off the efforts of his partner in governance, Barrett, mayor of the county's largest city who offered programs mostly ignored. To maintain that pretense of innocence, Walker also has to blow off the criticism from even conservative business publications pointing out that the only offices with the political clout and reach to improve a region's job picture are sometimes the county exec and mostly the governor, both of which were Walker.

The one exception reveals a lot about his penchant for evasion. Walker so failed in workforce development that he let Barrett take over. Judging from the ongoing John Doe probe into corruption, Walker much preferred focusing on land sales, the promotional and fund-raising advantages of military flag-waving and campaign treks around the state.

It is not the left-wing but the facts that keep destroying Walker.

First, despite his ads, the city of Milwaukee has actually grown jobs while the state under Walker leads the nation in private sector job loss. The state's record job losses occurred outside Barrett's city despite the excessively broad strokes of Walker's TV claims. The ads also disguise that two-thirds of metro Milwaukee's jobs are outside Barrett's control. Walker did help the stagnation as county executive. He cut the bus lines, moving them out of the radius of jobs. He laid off workers, depleting the county home ownership base. He shred safety nets. He neglected dangers at the mental health center.

But then as now he constantly promised that things "will get bet-

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Calling Nurse Walker - your outfit's ready

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Labor Press Editor

Comment



\$25 million in campaign money can buy a lot of costumes. Try them on one after another.

"The jobs governor." Oops, trash that. It would be followed by jokes about the "worst jobs doll."

"The tax cut governor." Better. Especially if you don't count raising taxes on poor people.

"The no-property-tax increase governor" worked in Milwaukee County! Oh right, most Wisconsinites saw property tax go up.

"The Koch of the walk governor." Catchy but too cocky.

"The open for purchase governor" - no, better scratch that!

Nothing too flashy, pandering, rich, comic strip gaudy, nothing that hints of Lady Gaga.

But we've still got lots of money, so what's left?

The health-care governor! That's good.

Let's put out an ad that can fudge what we are doing or tried to do. We can blitz the state taking advantage of the inflating costs of health care and the previous administration's rescue of the state using federal stimulus money. We can hire a number of surprised-looking older citizens and create a 30-second commercial that quickly says "I spent more money funding health care than any governor in Wisconsin history." PolitiFacts can't argue with that.

If you squint your eyes, Scott Walker can indeed get away with that statement because of several tricky statistical reali-

ties. You know the old saying, figures can lie and liars can figure.

First you can't count all the money he tried and failed to take away from health care. (That darned affordable health care act and pesky federal regulations again!). And then there were those cowardly Republican legislators who balked at his idea of cutting \$20 million from the popular SeniorCare. But you can't hold against him what he failed to force.

As he campaigned in 2010, Walker ignored warnings to prepare his state budget thinking for the end of the outside federal stimulus - those huge amounts that kept essential state health

care programs afloat. He refused to prepare for the departure, to adjust his cuts in education aid or curb his tax breaks for the rich. Meanwhile, all that resistance to affordable health care kept the steady tattoo going of

New 'Voice' unites all workers in political action

The new generation of union members is proving tech savvy when you consider how quickly they can be gathered by cell phones, Twitter, Facebook and other new media tools. It is an ability to respond that is countering the traditional reliance on mainstream media and corporate wealth by the deeper funded opposition.

The national AFL-CIO is underscoring that new reality by being part of the Workers' Voice initiative -- www.workersvoice.org - which is not your grandfather's website (unless your gramps is part of the ever more new-media savvy older generation). Even more it's not even necessarily for union members.

We will "build an independent voice for the working and middle class," says AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Shuler. "For too long, our political process has been dominated by too much money, and too much power, concentrated in the hands of too few -- Mitt Romney, the Koch brothers and corporate CEOs spending unlimited money to buy elections."

Workers' Voice will build out from a network of activists at 14,000 union worksites around the nation, reaching beyond union members and their families and into communities. It is hooking up with its own affiliate for workers outside unions, Working America, but with a lot of other communities as well. It isn't about trying to match the "hundreds of millions of dollars in sleazy attack ads and dirty campaign tricks," says AFL-CIO Political Director Mike Podhorzer. It's about building networks of union and nonunion work-

ers to share the realities. Workers' Voice will first focus on voter registration and protection in communities of color and among seniors and students-groups. Said Shuler, "We will put boots on the ground with iPads in their hands" starting with seeding grants of \$5.4 million.

133% of the poverty level.

Aha! So despite what he was telling voters about how he had balanced the state budget, in March he had health secretary, Dennis Smith, declare to the feds an official state deficit of \$82 million. That allowed the US to grant a narrow waiver - excluding the children Walker originally intended to chop. Most experts estimate this will throw 17,000 people off BadgerCare.

Those pesky Democrats point out that Walker is having it both ways - telling voters there is no deficit while telling the federal government there is a deficit to reduce BadgerCare's reach.

But what did they expect? It's just a health care costume.

This is really the gamesmanship governor.



The current website portal for the Workers' Voice program

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Jeff's death brings special meaning to memorial

The memory of one departed 30-year-old hovered over Zeidler Union Square Park on a wind-whipped Saturday April 28 as a union trumpet duo echoed "Taps," the names of dozens of other workers who died on the job in 2011 were read, tributes were expressed for Wisconsin's fallen soldiers and dignitaries surprised the assembled with the emotion of their comments.

Milwaukee District Attorney John Chisholm confirmed his office's determination to be an aggressive monitoring presence whenever workers are injured or killed at work, recalling how Milwaukee prosecutors had been and remain a leader in such confrontation of corporate behavior.

US Rep. Gwen Moore led off with both an emotional appeal to pay attention to the value of workers on this annual Workers Memorial Day national tribute and then an angry call to the community to "never be cowed" and "never be quiet" about the need to honor and respect the people who go to work every day despite the risks, to not be silent or sidelined by the partisan issues that so occupy our political environment.

County Executive Chris Abele compared guarding workers on the job to essential "human rights" that always "deserved to be protected" and investigated.

But it was Bill Breihan of the United Steel Workers who brought intense silence with the simple story of Jeff Smith, 30, killed when a 39-ton part he had just helped move rolled over and pinned him at the Caterpillar plant in South Milwaukee on Sept. 8. It was the first fatality at the facility, formerly Bucyrus, in 26 years, but the aftermath has left coldness despite a history of working well together, as Breihan related.

(Chisholm confirmed that his investigator had also gone to the scene of Smith's death but determined that there was nothing criminal involved, which does not address the safety issues that still concern USW.)

Breihan openly discussed why USW remained upset. Part of it was emotional. Jeff was much liked. Fellow workers, including Gerry Miller, who took photos of the accident scene and immediately texted union leaders, attended the memorial.



DA Chisholm speaks.

Union leaders and first responders were on the scene in minutes. The USW has a rapid response team of specialists who flew in from the East.

"Plant management had given indication that the union would have free access to the plant to investigate - to talk to witnesses, view the scene, review practices," Breihan said.

The next day things changed despite the presence of far-flung USW specialists in accident issues. "They're met at the door by five managers; lurking in the background is a battery of corporate attorneys flown in for the occasion," Breihan related. "The union reps are told they are being barred from the plant. Access denied. This doesn't concern you. None of your business. Go away."

The company stood its ground even after days of negotiation. "It's all about property rights, you see," Breihan said, sarcastically recalling the company position.

The union is not having it. "Charges are filed with the National Labor Relations Board. A hearing held. Decision pending. We still don't know who's to

blame for the accident. If we could complete our investigation we might know. It is apparent that the accident was entirely avoidable."

He explained. "There were two big fixtures in the department that were normally used to position and turn the part in question. Both were in use that day. Consequently, Jeff and his co-workers rolled the part manually. This was a common practice. As I understand it, Caterpillar has revised the standard procedure now. After the fact."

A side irony emerged when Local 1343 President Kevin Jaskie and Breihan, the USW district leader, met with Smith's family to present them a memorial plaque and checks from co-workers of more than \$9,000. Perhaps out of fear of being accused of remorse for wrongdoing, Caterpillar did nothing and the co-workers gave far more than the automatic worker compensation funeral payment.

The aftermath, Breihan related, is hard feelings. "As you can see," he told the crowd with visible but controlled sternness, "I'm not happy with my former employer. I worked there for over 20 years. I moved and positioned the very part that killed Jeff - dozens of times."

"If there's a lesson in all this, it's that workers need unions - unions that are ever vigilant on the issue of safety. We can't rest in our efforts to make all our workplaces free of hazards.

Companies cannot be relied upon to be our guardians. Profit simply gets in the way."

"It all depends on us."

-- Dominique Paul Noth



Taking photos of the speakers, just as he took photos of the accident site at Caterpillar immediately after Smith's death and texted his union leaders about the tragedy, is USW member Gerry Miller.

BELOW: Jeff (Doc) Dentrice spoke for the military veterans while Bill Breihan (right) spoke for the steelworkers about Jeff Smith.



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County Executive Abele speaks.

Video

From Page 1

ond YouTube of "divide and conquer" go viral and made the entire 10 minute documentary demo of "As Goes Janesville" - Walker's candor comes about seven minutes in - gain serious national news attention.

But here's a surprise to journalists. Labor historians knew about this April 21 when "As Goes Janesville" excerpts were pre-viewed at the Wisconsin Labor History heritage forum as an exploration on the making of a documentary. While the Postal Workers Hall was packed with young scholars and older community activists, the establishment media failed to attend the much publicized event and panels.

So they were weeks late, as was the Barrett campaign, on the revelations of Walker's hypocrisy that filtered immediately through the labor community and academic circles. The episode confirmed that journalists' lack of attention to scholars and union activities lead them to miss many stories - and also clarify why so many in organized labor have



The video moment when Walker explains to Hendricks his union busting plan as a prelude to 'divide and conquer.'

learned not to trust the establishment media coverage.

Still, even unions that long believed Walker was duplicitous were shocked by how open he was when sucking up to the rich. Lichtenstein, a balanced filmmaker who once lived near UWM, had gotten access to both UAW families and the wealthy community after the devastating departure of the GM plant, so he not only promised confidentiality for a year, he also kept it.

He had a bombshell in capturing the real intent of Walker - this was a candid bluntness that only Walker's innermost circle was privy to - but Lichtenstein was actually exploring something

deeper in his documentary than the trivial political shenanigans of the Scott Walker that history will soon reduce to a footnote.

"As Goes Janesville" touches a deep American tragedy for a community and working families -- losing middle class status, leaving town and relatives to find work in Texas, exposing children and mothers to loss of health care, firings, no food on the table, patriotic parades turned into deserted storefronts. Lichtenstein is fulfilling his vision and likely will be vilified for his honor.

That Walker moment uncovered how long in the works was this "divide conquer" strategy, months before his deceptions

turned state politics inside out.

The reason why it is now national news is Walker's fight to stay in office measured against his obvious hypocrisy all along. It is not just the difference between the glib minister's son who speaks a good game on the stump and the real Walker caught up in the euphoric candor of right-wing victory, spilling beans to only his wealthiest confidantes as he also did when he thought he was talking to David Koch.

But mainly it exposes a coward.

Walker knew that saying such stuff out-loud and forthright would have cost him the governor's seat. So he never even informed voters about his Act 10 plan to strip bargaining from public workers, and he actually assured supporters he would never try to push "right to work" (what a lousy misleading euphemism).

The head of the Operating Engineers Local 139, the heavy-equipment builders, Terry McGowan, wound up getting his union to support Walker for governor - and recently supported a mining bill that many other unions opposed - largely because of Walker's flat promise in 2010 that he would never try to turn Wisconsin into a "right to work" state (what many workers, looking at the facts, term "right to work for less" states). Even as Walker was assuring Hendricks "Oh yeah."

Many union leaders felt McGowan was badly suckered. But he insisted even into May when learning about this video that he would "take the governor at his word," though many of his past supporters point out that the Operating Engineers were also cost jobs in Walker's cancellation of the federal train money and that the road expectations haven't worked out anywhere near hopes. "How many times will you let that con artist take you?" yelled one local member at a recent meeting of the union.

But there was more than the obvious Walker deception that made front page news throughout Wisconsin and indeed the nation. There was also what it now reveals about his lack of character as well as the character of the people who support him.

It is not just that Hendricks is seen curling her lip over the evils of unions on the video. It is that her corporate antics are making news on their own thanks to the Who Does Not Pay Taxes? report from the Institute for Wisconsin's Future (*opposite page*) about the state's most notorious corporate tax avoiders.

Truly, around the nation there are believers in that so-called "right to work" who stand up on their hind legs in public and discuss their feelings, even building their platforms around that ideology. But in other states they are not as cowardly as Walker, who knew that in Wisconsin he simply couldn't win by being honest.

He dodged any debate on such extreme ideology because the cold facts are against him. "Right to work" legislation assures that companies go non-union even if union enterprise and expense already established the contracts or could do better for the workers by organizing them.

Statistics reveal that wages and benefits in these states go down and, surprisingly, profits generally don't go up, because the one thing union solidarity is good at is insisting on productivity and efficiency in use of owners' money. That extends from bridges to constructing buildings to nursing shifts at hospitals.

When a company can build a stretch of highway in one day with union workers, that financially more than balances the lackadaisical week of equal construction with lower wages and less worker-to-worker training and supervision in non-union situations, as academic studies reveal. The only rewards are to the already wealthy, because they know the workers in "right to work" states have no legal power to curtail their behavior.

While unions are accused of featherbedding and padding because of their strength in membership, ask any public prosecutor looking at non-union companies, defense contractors, banks, hospitals, fast food chains and rental outfits, etc., what happens when only management has the legal power to set the rules. Featherbedding, corruption and nepotism run rampant, though they are easier to cure when workers have an active say and can set up union shops.

There is another economic reality aside from declining wages. The dues paid by union members to win contracts disappear when a hired hand can get those benefits without joining the union and paying for the effort -- so "right to work" is a deliberate appeal to freeloaders and an attack on organized worthy labor. No wonder it would be a hard frontal political sell in a state like Wisconsin.

That is why this video is so devastating. There were many in Wisconsin who always believed that Walker was two-faced, -- almost everyone who worked with him at the Milwaukee Courthouse will tell you. Many have long thought that once the public gets close to his corruption and venality, he career will be over even among Republicans who cling to the image of control he once represented to their party.

His opponents are convinced that voters are smart enough to act June 5 on reality but they also know how ideology or his smooth manner keep some convinced opponents are going overboard or making this stuff up. "As Goes Janesville" should end that farce, though it is always hard to admit you've been duped, conned and lied to.



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Beloit billionaire businesswoman Diane Hendricks has been in the news recently because of her political activism on behalf of Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker. It was in a conversation with Hendricks that Walker made his now-famous comment about using a "divide and conquer" strategy against labor unions.

During a three-month period in 2012, Hendricks donated \$500,000 to Walker's campaign, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. She is the largest single donor to the governor's anti-recall campaign, outspending even fellow billionaires Sheldon Adelson (Las Vegas casinos) and Richard DeVos (Amway).

Hendricks, whom Forbes magazine says is worth \$2.8 billion, heads Beloit-based ABC Supply Company, which the magazine calls "the nation's largest roofing, window and siding wholesale distributor" with annual sales approaching \$5 billion.

ABC Supply may be a huge money-maker for Hendricks, but the Wisconsin corporate income tax returns she files claim the



Billionaire Walker donor pays no state corporate income tax

Diane Hendricks gave \$500,000; her Beloit firm pays \$0 income tax



Billionaire tax avoider Diane Hendricks talking to Walker on the much publicized video. company makes not a penny in taxable profit.

ABC Supply paid exactly \$0.00 in state corporate income tax in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, according to the state Department of Revenue. Tax data for more recent years were not available when the information was requested from the

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Weeks before the media went berserk, young scholars and labor veterans saw the Walker quote April 21 at the packed labor heritage event.

department.

Hendricks helped make headlines in May when a video emerged of a conversation she had with Walker in Beloit. In the video, "As Goes Janesville," Hendricks asks Walker: "Any chance we'll ever get to be a completely red state and work on these unions and become a right-to-work state? What can we do to help you?"

Walker replied: "Well, we're going to start in a couple weeks with our budget adjustment bill. The first step is we're going to deal with collection bargaining for all public employee unions, because you use divide and conquer."

Hendricks is well-known as a financial backer of conservative causes and candidates. Her political donations in Wisconsin date as far back as a \$1,000 gift to then-Gov. Tommy G. Thompson in 1991, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

And she speaks out herself

in favor of low taxes and less regulations. The opening sentence in an op-ed she wrote in 2010 for USA Today says: "Taxing job creators is a sure way to stop the engine of economic growth."

Well, she's found a way to get around paying any state income tax on her business. After all, state tax law is full of plenty of loopholes for her lawyers and accountants to work with. It's not known which loopholes ABC Supply used to avoid income

taxes.

ABC Supply was founded in 1982 by Hendricks and her late husband, Kenneth Hendricks. She was a very active partner while he was alive and has been running the company since his death five years ago.

Labor Press has agreed to help publicize the Institute for Wisconsin's Future newsletter exposing companies expert in using loopholes to avoid paying corporate income taxes.

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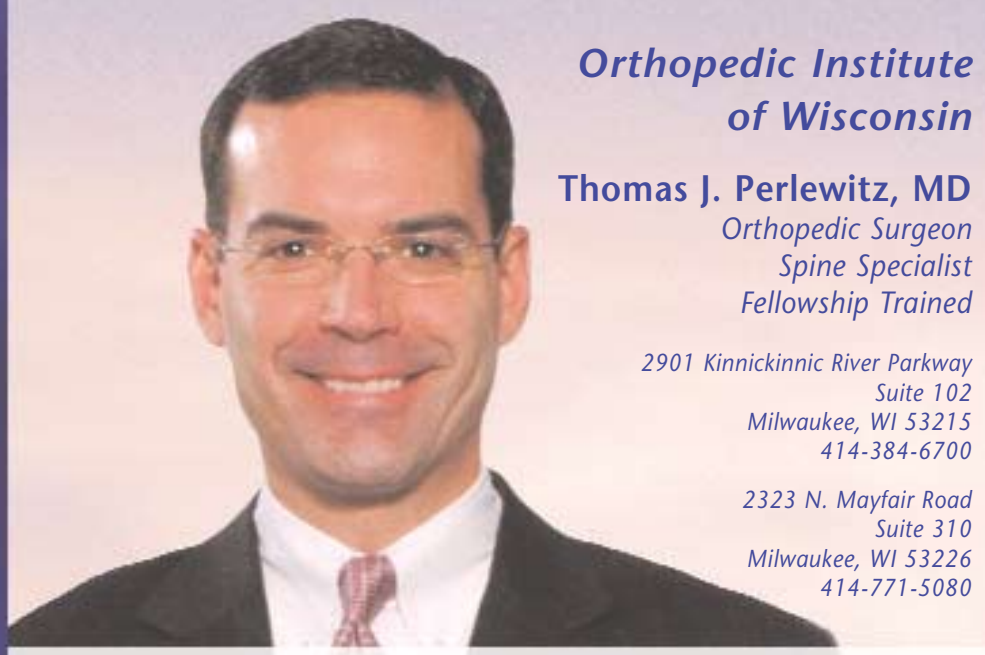
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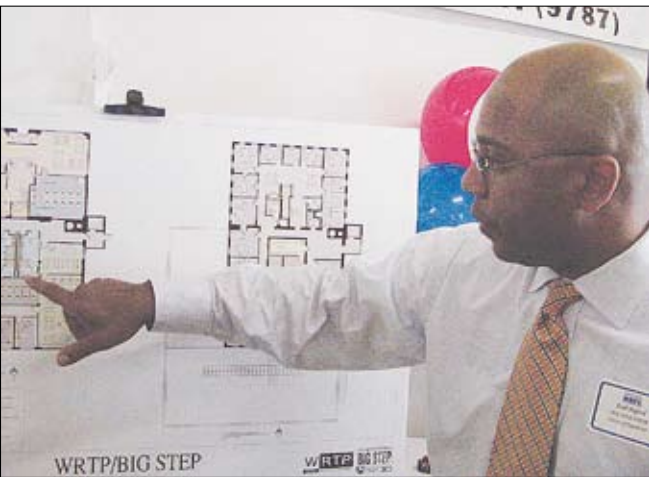
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Urban job snapshots – great ideas, weird barriers



Earl Buford points out where WRTP hopes to add new classes at the Center of Excellence.

WRTP's model assures jobs but pushes for broader access

Earl Buford, the highly respected director of WRTP, explains to Center of Excellence visitors that his group's concept is really simple - putting people together out of mutual need. He builds up networks of Milwaukee residents eager to work, expert trainers from skilled unions, tech colleges and the like and businesses ready to hire trained people in their own special needs. As the businesses step up, he steps up with the other factors, setting up classes and even graduation nights with families. But WRTP requires from the businesses that every graduate is moving into a family supporting job with standards of treatment and benefits.

What he calls simple takes a lot of complicated preparation and detail, counseling, coaxing and hard work. It doesn't produce dynamic change instantly like an entire deteriorating community springing overnight into the magic kingdom. Buford clearly resists expanding his program beyond what can be handled. But WRTP has already brought thousands out of poverty and into good jobs.

Finding grants is a constant problem, but Buford also sees social attitudes hurting the money flow. It's easier to find training money "for kids coming out of high school," he notes, "but not for motivated people who have survived a drug past or a criminal past - and that is where the community needs the help."

Other job experts also see this as a political problem as well as a social problem particularly affecting Milwaukee, which continues to see a small minority of the state's population - blacks --- represent about 45% of those in prison. Many were arrested for drug crimes. Many fight not to be dragged toward crime when they want to be dragged toward productive lives. But they do come out of prison, and the community has to solve the problem.

"We are expert at identify those who want to work," Buford notes, "but it's still a hard sell."

MATC dismayed at roadblocks as it drives to spread success

Buford's concern is echoed by Dorothy Walker, assistant dean in the Technology and Applied Sciences Division at MATC who rose through the academic ranks after starting as a professional welder.

"Years ago there were training dollars for all kinds of people, not just the dislocated, not just the incumbents" (the term for people in manufacturing who want to freshen their skills or be trained for new ones), "but for people who wanted to get into the work and advance to a better economic life," she said. "Stipends were paid for that."

"Today, companies won't hire anyone with a criminal record, and it doesn't even have to be a felony record."

She is aware of a bill being pushed by the GOP majority in Madison. SB 207 would allow an employer to refuse to hire -- or actually go back in time to terminate -- ANY former felon whether or not the circumstances of the felony relate to the particular job.

In other words, ex-felons can be rejected for any reason or any job without fear of legal state action suggesting discrimination. In Milwaukee, this is the opposite of a jobs bill. It chills hopes that deeper job training can curve the arc of hope upward.

Tech colleges are particularly creatures of state funding and dominant ideology, yet tech colleges are also the top job creating engine. It's not just a few rich people.

Yet Walker's budget cuts technical college programs by 30%, and that includes a lot of job training programs.

Among the cuts are WAT - workforce assistance training grants, which will continue at a slower pace. Many companies can't afford the cost of some of the manufacturing certification education, and students certainly can't on their own. Yet right now 24 big companies are working with MATC actively using WAT to upgrade skills.

But the largest impending disaster to MATC's success is the change imposed by a new law signed by Walker giving half the decision oversight and choice of its educational board to the chairs of the Ozaukee and Washington county boards. Yet neither county provides money or many students to MATC.

The change is the test-tube creation of Sen. Glen Grothman, a frequent interpreter of Walker and conservative policies, so it is not surprising to MATC that a part of Walker's current "pro-Milwaukee" media blitz is to attack how MATC does its job.

Enter Reggie Newsom. Before his promotion to head the state Department of Workforce Development, Newsom went on video praising the training programs of MATC. Today he is used by Walker as the public face to the media of Walker's interest in Milwaukee's economy, doubts about MATC and a concept that Walker puts a lot of words behind but no money - "a new training center" run by the state.

Which amuses Dorothy Walker, who noted that "neither Walker in all his years in Milwaukee, nor Newsom, ever visited MATC's manufacturing training facilities to see why 130 companies are working with the college on training and apprentice programs."

Investigation finds that the "three companies" Newsom cites in media interviews as unhappy with MATC training may have other motives. For one company, located in Grothman's district, MATC actually did send dozens of capable welders who chose other companies that better fit their wage demands, lifestyles and interests.

This happens a lot with tech colleges. Companies often have specialized machines they expect the college to train workers for, quite different from the old days when companies paid for such on-site in-house training. Many companies these days have limited their workforce and don't have the people to provide the time or training. That leads to looking at the colleges as sort of a plantation to pick workers not cotton, with taxpayers rather than companies paying for the privilege and enough pickers to choose from that someone will surely accept the wages and working conditions.

Dorothy Walker demurs.

"That's not MATC training," she says. "We're supposed to train for the entire industry not for customized individual companies. We have to be concerned about increasing opportunities and earning levels and recognize how broadly applied are the trades and skills we teach."

"Yet we do believe in responding to change. That's why we've expanded capacity of our machine tool program and upgraded to the most modern training equipment including heavy-plate welding and a new facility at our Mequon campus."

"But let's be clear about the reasons. What we do for students is build careers not jobs."

As busy as MATC is with students, it still has spots to fill in its welding programs - a hangover, many say, of manufacturing downsizing when welders were the early departures. That leaves among students a lingering insecurity that makes it difficult to attract them to a welding career, a veteran male steelworker told me.

He suggested that history as a major factor in the constant complaint that Milwaukee "doesn't have enough skilled workers." It may be true "because the entire country doesn't, but it is hard to get young people to commit to hours developing a skill when businesses refuse to also



HIRE Center manager Alba Boltadona greets some of the 200 arriving guests at the 25th anniversary celebration. commit" - especially with job security and wage levels. The governor's solution, he suggested, is to force down wages and get rid of organizing to leave workers no choice but to simply accept the lower wages and uncertainty.

Dorothy Walker points out that "ironworkers, steamfitters, sheet metal workers: and other trades that use MATC for apprentice program or training also employ welding - different kinds of welding that we must prepare them for."

"But most welding companies don't offer apprenticeships anymore," she noted.

Outside the complainers, MATC has an extraordinary track record. Dorothy Walker can rattle off for hours the major companies that work with them including "Caterpillar, Johnson Controls, Milwaukee Cylinder, Columbia Grinding." Michael Rosen, president of AFT Local 212, the teachers' faculty larded with former workplace specialists and advanced degrees, can point to another startling statistic.

Some 86% of MATC graduates within six months either have a job or are continuing advanced education. Another interesting facet is how many stay in the community. MATC is a vital local engine of training and employment that clearly should be celebrated, not starved.

HIRE lines celebration with displaced back on top

Similar hosannas greeted the HIRE Center in April when more than 200 visitors crowded into its lavishly decorated third floor for speeches, remembrances, hugs by old timers, stories of the hard battles for business respect and participation, amusing tales of how Texas now calls Milwaukee to learn about bilingual training.

A consortium of labor, business and education runs the HIRE Center, which is attached at the hip to the workforce development center that Walker abandoned as county executive, forcing Mayor Barrett to take it all over, and he in turn hired Clinton era veteran Donald Sykes, who participated in the event. The MAWIB as it is known - Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board - works tightly with area businesses and youth groups in developing programs.

But the jewel is the HIRE Center for dislocated workers, the specialist in Trade Adjustment Assistance funding for those whose jobs went to foreign shores and for other money targeted to displaced workers. HIRE seems invested freshly in high morale, remarkable in the face of constricted funding and Madison belt-tightening. Much credit was given to its leader, Alba Boltadona, a persuasive, persistent presence who seems to get the most out of a tight operation and brims with appreciation of her veteran staff.

Averaged over the last 10 years, the HIRE Center places 650 workers a year in jobs - workers once discarded by the community. The tendency to grumble, despair, give up is always hovering. But new careers and hope in the future are HIRE specialties and these placements go on to wage and benefit levels near what they had, at what they had and even better than they had.

The celebration featured catered food, a staff choir, sophisticated song and guitar work by veteran HIRE and union presence Pepe Oulahan. But what drew visitors again and again was reading the HIRE success stories lining the walls, accounts from workers and families that passed through the doors recently or 15 years ago now leading lives full of optimism and gratitude.

Doubt, head-shakes and criticism of Milwaukee's progress emanate from the governor as he suffers through his own tough political times. So now he questions Milwaukee's job training efforts without examining the results. That is more than ignorant. It is downright cruel.

-- Dominique Paul Noth



MATC's outspoken assistant dean, Dorothy Walker

City's best job training dragged into partisan debate

By Dominique Paul Noth
Labor Press Editor

Milwaukee and the Rust Belt were in terrible economic shape through four administrations before Obama. You know the story. Jobs fled overseas, trade deals hurt more than helped, illegal drug cultures thrived, justice worked backwards, on and on.

There was an unintended plus to the dark side. Too slowly given the weight of the problems, Milwaukee developed job training programs that became national models. It almost had to.

Now along comes Scott Walker -- in big trouble. He clearly can't attack his opponent for governor without attacking the opponent's city. He can't point to the sparkling new sky-



Labor and business leaders and job trainers were among the hundreds celebrating the 25th anniversary of the HIRE Center's record of success in providing new productive lives for dislocated workers.

line, the beautiful lakeshore park, the new sense of bustle and corner stores and restaurants. (Granted, too little attention and clout for the black community, but even that is percolating.)

So if you listen to the presentations from Walker's staff to the media or his own premises, they are full of complaints about Tom Barrett (wonder why?), about a too liberal and lazy community and amazingly about ineffective job development programs.

Then Walker offers a helping hand of largely suspect money - see story on Page 9 - and nags about Wisconsin's only first class city as a drag on his philosophy (certainly on his survival).

All that negativity provides a great opportunity to pay attention to three hallmarks of job training that Milwaukee possesses - and could lose if he continues to dry up funding. They are WRTP/BigStep, HIRE Center and MATC and are profiled on the opposite page.

WRTP/Big Step set up its Center of Excellence in an old factory centrally located at 38th and Wisconsin Ave.

The Milwaukee Area Technical College has spread to four campuses and thousands of students. Despite devastating funding problems caused by the state it boasts master teachers and hands and head steps to a bright future in its training varieties.

The HIRE Center in an old MATC building on National Avenue specializes in dislocated workers -- and given the pace of plant and company closings its Rapid Response list features way too many of them: People who watched good jobs and special skills evaporated or discarded. So HIRE responds with a staff that uses its own personal experience in losing work to sympathize and provide individualized help. HIRE pioneered in bilingual instruction, hands-on guidance and practical one-stop job hunts and learning labs

These job training centers all cooperate but serve different functions. All these centers - maybe this is why Walker snarls a lot - rely on a strong union component as teachers, trainers, volunteers and idea generators, yet all work with non-union clients and committed businesses whose political leanings are all over the partisan map.

And all are surprised by the attitude steaming out of Madison, since politics is not a big part of what they do. The nature of the criticism, involved as it is in the current political divide, is "not conducive to our approach, which is to help everyone in trouble," said one of WRTP's assistants.

A manufacturer blamed the



Jokingly ID'd as "Staff Baby," Lincoln Wiberg was the touted-around hit of the celebration.

narrow world of contacts and influence the controlling Madison powers usually encounter, the lobbyists working for the most remote well-to-do and the think-tank concepts built in isolation and with derision. "It warps their understanding of what job training is really about," he told me. "Small minds really don't produce efficient smaller government."

It was unusual to hear because job trainers usually keep politics at bay. But all have been listening to the tone of the Walker team as it sprints through Milwaukee media targeting and demeaning job training efforts.

Labor Press hopes some insight details will stop that.



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Milwaukee

From Page 1

ter" if he would just be allowed - please, people, he almost begs the voters -- to keep hold of the ruling reins. But he had the reins in Milwaukee for eight years and now at the state holds another whip hand. Better? That's his futuristic fantasies.

Crippling Barrett with aid cuts worse than endured by any other city was the prelude to all the ads clobbering Barrett for failure. If the image of taking a tire iron to the mayor pops into your head, that was the literal beat-down at the State Fair - Walker's is the figurative one. The state unemployment rate would be at least a percentage point lower if Wisconsin didn't lead the nation in public sector jobs losses on top of private sector ones -- thanks to his attack on teachers, highway engineers, corrections officers, etc., whose benefits, it turns out, had nothing to do with solving the state's real problems. It was mainly the fall in revenues and his refusal to close the corporate loopholes and lack of combined accounting that allow his major backers to avoid paying their fair share.

He even grew those loopholes with tax policies. Economists point out those middle class workers won't ever make enough to counter what he's allowed these giant businesses to keep. He won't even invest in collection experts to pursue the tax evaders (they might be his buddies).

That in shorthand is the reality. But it does clear up the glib answers in the ads. In fact, he was so averse to new projects as county executive he handed over

economic development to his own inexperienced hire, the very fellow now accused of stealing veterans' money in the John Doe probe, leading Walker around the state in cycle tours and setting up a secret and illegal email network in Walker's courthouse suite. Tim Russell's his name, and many expect him soon to flip on another target of the John Doe probe, fellow named Scott Walker, the only governor in the country to establish and pay into a criminal defense fund, which you can only do when you are being investigated for corruption under a John Doe.

Russell was finally fired - not by Walker, but by the County Board chair, for incompetence. The county under Walker was also in charge of the then deeply troubled and inefficient workforce development board -- a mess in morale and fuzzy statistics about youth and adult job development.

So Walker, anticipating failure, supported a takeover by that competent nearby administrator, fellow named Barrett. The new board, under Donald Sykes, was left with bigger problems, business dissension and less government funding, and today faces Walker's resistant conduits of funding according to insider reports. But it is working much better and with higher morale under Barrett. *See Page 6.*

In fact, despite the lingering problems in the inner city and the added burdens imposed by the governor, the city is bucking the state's trend and seeing signs of life -- 500 new private sector jobs. Milwaukee's better response to its own issues even in the face of Walker cuts has now become debate fodder for Barrett in his campaign.

Education

From Page 1

wealthier districts. Walker's restrictions hit them hardest with reductions in state revenue -- more than twice as large as school districts with low poverty.

"It's almost as if Walker spit in the face of the law's intentions," said one educator upon reading the report and then reading the state law. The equalization aid formula, whatever its problems, was always focused on student needs regardless of income. It was a way to push achievement among all. You can argue its failures, and the holes that have allowed opportunists to sneak through, but you can't escape the intention - unless, it turns out, you are the current governor.

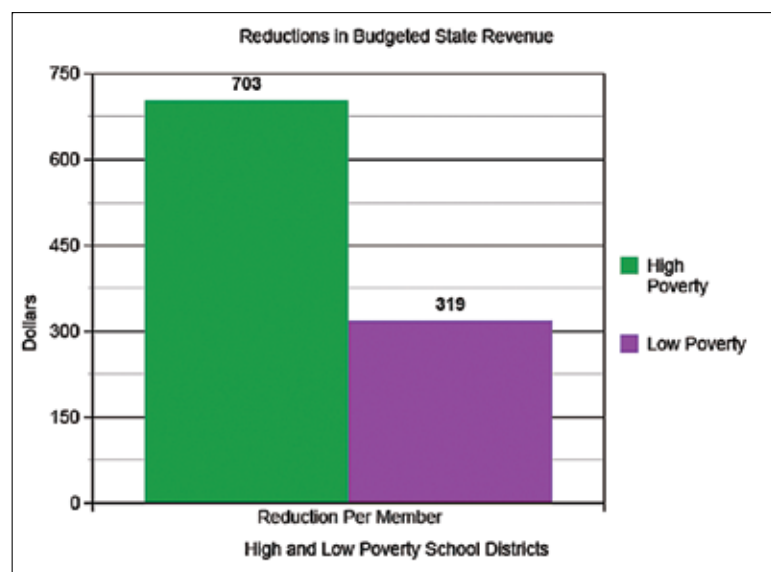
The formula pursued proportional costs of public education under the constitutionally established vision of equal opportunity for all Wisconsin children. It is supposed to assure that poorer school districts receive enough help against the richer to equalize state aid and achievement opportunity.

Walker's budget turns the outcomes upside down, forcing school districts to anti-effective measures to cope with funding cuts, the report shows, but with the impact hardest on those who can afford the losses least. For instance, class size is inevitably impacted by a reduction in workforce "since teachers comprise the largest category of school employees." Walker's budget and tools force poorer districts to use this escape hatch more than wealthier communities.

Among its detailed graphs and heady academic terminology, the education experts offer a "grim picture" of how the Walker budget will impact Wisconsin's education well into the future. It says flatly that "resources are not aligned to address achievement gaps. Funding reductions under Act 32 increase the funding gap between resources available to low achieving students and resources available to high achieving students."

And that, the report reveals, flies in the face of the basic intention of the aid formula and the needs of children.

If that analysis wasn't devastating enough to reveal Walker's



The horrors of Walker's education "tools" leap out of the technical charts that dot the UW "Making Matters Worse" report. While the entire state suffers from the reductions in state aid, the gap analyzed between the districts with the highest poverty and lower poverty demonstrate a remarkable percentage reversal of the purpose of the state aid formula rules.

inadequacy in budget management --- and the concept of budgets as an ethical document -- it came a week after much larger distortion from the Walker camp, including claims that his budget was saving taxpayers \$1 billion.

Even his friendliest media outlets found that one hard to swallow. And they gulped more as they probed deeper. For instance, they could accept the claims associated with the higher payments by public workers for the health and pension coverage -- a percentage they had agreed to before these were mandated in his Act 10 emasculation of their bargaining rights.

You could argue - and the Walker camp does - that the unions agreed to the higher percentages because there was a gun to their head and they wanted to avoid the deeper restrictions in Act 10. But Walker's savings claims failed to mention how public workers had been paying a considerable portion of those benefits in the first place - yet he counted that as his budget savings. That's one reason why media outlets come up more than a fourth short wherever they analyze the \$1 billion savings.

As Think Progress quickly noted: "As is the case of almost all of Walker's grandiose claims, it started crumbling almost immediately," especially his claims about property taxes.

"What he doesn't mention is that the average home fell about 2.2% in value for the pur-

poses of property taxes. That translates to a \$3,500 drop in value, which would be - wait for it - \$11 in tax savings" the same amount he takes credit for in his distortion.

"To make things even more dubious for Walker's claims," Think Progress noted with obvious glee, "an increase in lottery ticket sales accounted for another \$4 drop in property taxes."

But Think Progress is a liberal publication. Would publications without such leanings also chime in? Indeed yes. The Sheboygan Press, hardly a bastion of radical thinking, investigated how all this "appears somewhat inflated in Sheboygan County."

"The governor's estimate assumes Sheboygan employees weren't previously paying any money toward their health insurance when in fact most were paying 8 to 10 percent," the newspaper reported. It further noted how the claims were generally higher by at least a third in every examination it made.

It should also be mentioned -- many journalists did -- that some of Walker's budget savings came from raising taxes on the poorest folks in the state, taking from low-income families more than \$56 million in tax credits.

Walker exaggerates - is that a big deal? He also applauds every one of his measures without weighing their morality. In education, that's certainly a big deal.

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MASTERS AT THE ART OF FINE OFFSET PRINTING

Taking apart Walker's sham aid to Milwaukee poverty

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Labor Press Editor

In April the Walker team launched a suddenly found awareness that Milwaukee's entrenched poor communities, savaged by the flight of American companies to foreign shores, need help. What a revelation!

After years of ignoring the plight, Walker announced a \$100 million program for the economically ravaged community, particularly the 30th street corridor. Those with good memories, please try not to laugh.

Because this is the corridor (once thriving industrial streets) that was to be the hub of mighty rail money from the federal government - more than \$800 million - to make Wisconsin part of a national train network. It meant hundreds of permanent jobs and thousands of construction jobs centered among desperately anxious citizens. Walker turned it all down.

The coalitions long at work to improve things welcomed any investment funds but described Walker's "Transform Milwaukee" as tinsel camouflaging a neglected tree.

Cynical reporters found the timing suspect, while Barrett immediately pronounced skepticism over Walker's sincerity. Yet one African American city official told this reporter to lay off:

"Of course it's all smoke but keep your mouth shut, our people need money however they get it."

Except once you take apart the Transform PR -- looking deeper than the original reporters did -- it's too much a sham to ignore.

The skepticism about Walker's job smarts reared when he showed up May 9 as the unannounced speaker at a Manufacturing Matters conference at the Frontier Airlines Center. Almost a third of this room of largely hard-nosed business types didn't bother the courtesy of standing up even as his aides circling the room touted the \$100 million "investment" for the inner city.

Walker trotted out his tried and true line - "Government doesn't create jobs, business creates job." That usually brings down the house from his supporting financiers at Wisconsin Manufactures & Commerce. The realists here kept looking for the seed money -- job training that government should provide to start new manufacturing balls rolling. These attendees were talking seriously about the need for business and labor, private and public capital, to work together on the job issue and tap the powerful pool of capable workers represented by the central city. Then they look inside the Walker pledge.

More than 75% of the promised economic development is in



Walker's belated interest in helping the 30th corridor was not only mystifying given his inner city history, it was perplexing when the community started examining the nature of the funds -- and then it became angering for ignoring all the existing efforts and progress. Citizens from the Milwaukee Jobs Act coalition -- shown surrounding Ald. Nik Kovac at a City Hall hearing -- have been pressing advances that Walker still fails to address.

the form of tax credits and mainly loans with strings aimed at people who don't have enough resources to rub two sticks together to make a fire. The genuine entrepreneurs in the troubled regions, often young people with insight into the new technology, find scant risk-taking to greet their innovation, and they know how Walker's billion dollar aid cuts robbed them of educational opportunities.

Only 8% was targeted to tear down blighted properties and rebuild, which means the Walker remedy for foreclosure issues works out to only a quarter of the millions he stole from federally appropriated bank money that was intended to help foreclosure victims -- until Walker got his mitts on it. That bank cash is now headed to help close his own (once mythical) state budget deficit, which keeps warping up and down depending on whether Walker's people or neutral economists are counting.

It gets stranger. His new plan for the 30th corridor ignores the years of enterprise put in by union, church and community groups known as the Milwaukee Jobs Act Coalition. They push for minority hiring rules and family supporting wages while Walker's team in Madison attacks state prevailing wage standards and other responsible regulation.

Much of his economic

plan also elevated the questionable practices of his own political promotions, the people who are often chosen because they look friendly to urban Milwaukee -- some are even African American -- but this is the hiring pool that continues to receive big bonuses for criticizing working people while public workers can't bargain.

If that sounds too harsh, this reporter has attended several sessions organized by Walker and Lt.

Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch -- who also faces recall at the hands of articulate fire fighter Mahlon Mitchell -- promoting a "business" agenda. The tactics heard encouraging their cabinet to brook no nonsense from the black community. The message seems more "Don't look to us for help" and "If you'd just get off your butts there are plenty of jobs out there." This to people scratching to survive -- rebukes and resistance. Tough scorn for tough love.

That's really his \$100 million economic plan -- a blatant attempt to make Barrett look bad while usurping the mayor's authority. The central controller and architect is the new WHEDA, Walker's revised Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority that got a boost in reputation and funding under Gov. Jim Doyle to become a highly regarded vehicle for low-interest investment projects. Observers today want the investment effort but remain highly skeptical of what one official termed Walker's "cosmetic malnutrition."

Others remember the blog attack on the basic concept of WHEDA -- to help low income areas and people -- led by Kevin Fischer, former WTMJ Radio journalist and a regular

"InterChange" right-wing commentator on Channel 10 who worked for years as a leading conservative activist in the Madison legislative caucus as aide to Sen. Mary Lazich.

Walker made him information officer for WHEDA, which one state official described as "helping shape the message."

Another Walker mouthpiece, Reggie Newsom, is the third leader in a short time for the Department of Workforce Development While there is no money set aside for this, Newsom keeps talking up as key a "new training center" for area job seekers. That implies the existing training programs are inadequate and that the state should take over. But they are actually regarded as national models that the state should be funding more adequately. See Pages 6 and 7.

Walker's focus is promising aid timed to election survival. So most observers understand that it's more about the politics than a serious concept.

Little of the ideas dovetail with what the community knows it needs through research and brainstorming. And none of his ads explain why he's passing up common sense solutions in favor of exaggerated criticism.



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Calendar leaves moderates in GOP no place to run

By **Dominique Paul Noth**
Labor Press Editor

The election calendar created by Walker's minions is working against his own party -- preventing a moderate face, civility and rapid recovery.

Could that be what this embattled governor is counting on? His speeches and interviews sound like he wanted that uncivil gridlock. He keeps emphasizing how he has sowed the ground so extremely with weeds that disarray will follow his defeat.

Tyranny is more predictable than messy democracy and maybe that spectre alone will keep his waning supporters in line.

The redistricting games the GOP majority concocted are finally upsetting the more responsible members of the Republican Party, they conceded in private interviews.

By heritage they look to their own team first for leaders and once thought conservatism represented the more balanced philosophy. Walker destroyed that sense of balance and drummed out of the party any who favored moderation, leaving very few brave enough to announce for the state legislature in opposition to the right wing rush. Therein lies quite a story.

The GOP redistricting, it turns out, just protected a few right-wing districts. It made Democratic districts more Democratic as counter-weight and tried to make swing districts more Republican by incorporating traditional Republican regions. The GOP was wrong to "count on our kneejerk support of extremists," one GOP school district member told me.

That leaves swing districts open to moderates of any stripe - third party, independent, even Democrats, while party politics put GOP moderates on the shelf. Party discipline of the extreme right is splintering. There is almost a fever in the state not to appear so lopsided.

Here's a hypothetical making the rounds in Racine: John Lehman on June 5 could well regain his senate seat from GOP usurper Van Wanggaard, but Republicans expect they have redistricted so hard (65% to 35%) that the GOP gets it all back in November. Racine strategists say maybe not, because the Republican areas won't be the same walk-through when Walker loses, or so they argue.

District politics are, after all, local, local, local, not label, label, label. When it's your pocketbook involved you look for moving solutions forward. Republican voters may not bolt to the Democratic side but they will jump toward responsible voices - and many responsible members of the GOP feel locked out by the calendar.

Defeat once seemed a long-shot, but now both sides concede Walker is no shoo-in, actually behind in the legitimate polls. Walker already talks about what he could do A.R. (After Rejection). "With rich friends, there is a lot a college dropout can do," one GOP insider laughingly told me. The GOP didn't count on his swoon at the polls when it sought to delay the elections while fulfilling federal absentee concerns to move the fall primary up into August.

Recall Walker happens June



The Bay View Tragedy celebration drew a ton of Democratic candidates and incumbents May 6 to remember a 19th century rally for the eight hour day - but inadvertently revealed not only modern parallels but what the GOP moderates are up against. More than redistricting, Walker's impending loss changes the face of state politics - and among the new faces are Mahlon Mitchell, running to recall Rebecca Kleefisch, Tom Barrett (right) aiming to upend Walker, and Kelley Albrecht, the recall organizer who launched an upstart campaign in western Racine County against ALEC's GOP subservient Robin Vos. Also speaking (top) was John Lehman, up from Racine in a tight recall senate race to win back his seat from Republican Van Wanggaard.

5. The resulting cutoff for nomination papers for the Assembly and Senate is June 1 - days before the GOP discovers who the governor is. Yet the governor's race is suddenly the most determinative factor in electing a new legislature.

If Walker goes down, one politician suggested to me "watch the rats start scurrying." If that is too distasteful an image, consider what another GOP strategist conceded. "If you are married to power, the bottom drops out if you lose it. The faithful will be stuck explaining extremism without the governor around to blame. Their excuse is gone."

The issue doesn't arise in Milwaukee County or most Dane County districts, where the primary contests will be among Democrats in most cases despite redistricting.

But the Democrats are already massing their power statewide recognizing the vulnerability. The smart money says they may win the Senate but can't regain the Assembly. But that smart money never expected Walker to be in so much trouble at this point. That June 5 is a tossup seems quite remarkable

given the earthshaking \$25 million in campaign cash on Walker's side.

The hope for moderation deeply affects many redistricted districts around the state, particularly those that cut across diverse counties. The few dark red may not feel the pain, but the swing districts the GOP hoped to protect no longer seem so safe.

All bets are off when Walker loses. Several of those districts were not made Republican enough and several Republican enclaves are undergoing change and will be further spurred by a Walker defeat to do what they must for this election cycle.

Those districts also have community leaders and municipal and school board officials who would have run for the legislature as more moderate GOP voices. But most didn't file, they told me, because the GOP party machine would make them pay. Only now are they realizing that their voters care more about getting things done than about party labels.

That durned calendar was created when the GOP could scoff and scorn at Democrats and impose harsh discipline on its own members. But not now.



These boxed-out moderates did it to themselves. They saw what happened to moderate and independent Republicans who may have enjoyed GOP majority power but dared to raise questions about the most extreme bills. In some cases, these mild resisters were goaded into retiring. In others they were flatly told the state GOP would run someone against them.

It was Republicans and the Tea Party, with a little push from sympathetic media, that scoured and scrutinized recall petitions, assuring that any Republican they found would be called out. Meanwhile talk radio labeled anyone with doubts as a RINO (Republican in Name Only) including some of the most experienced and thoughtful members of the party.

It was that implacably cold polar world that froze out moderate Republicans who wanted to run, several told me. They feared getting in would bring excommunication by the state party machinery. Only now that there is a genuine possibility that Walker will lose are they understanding they had more to gain than to fear -- and frankly they are kicking themselves.

As one Madison election expert told me, "They had a way out - man up."

Clearly the passion is on the Democrats' side. But the election calendar? It kept at bay the Republicans most interested in working for improvement and led Democrats to seek out their more moderate names.

Redistricting may protect some Tea Party members, but extremists will look even more out of touch and obstructionist without Walker than they now do with him.

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Labor Press uses online signup to add home readers

Thousands of online readers between monthly print editions of the Milwaukee Labor Press have added to the reach and prominence of these journalistic efforts. And that raises questions.

While old editions of the print newspaper are archived in pdf form at milwaukeeelabor.org, this newspaper has clearly changed to fill gaps in basic news coverage of working family issues, health and education concerns, progressive efforts at jobs, bills sneaking along unnoticed in the Madison legislature, maneuvers at City Hall and the Milwaukee Courthouse and political insights as well as the union affiliates' activities once the only staple of the monthly home delivered newspaper.

So constantly the question comes - can people who are not members of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council get the monthly paper home delivered? Can I tell friends about it and get them to sign up? What will it cost?

Yes and yes and \$13 a year for 12 monthly editions home delivered -- probably the best deal around in the media and it gets you the state's second largest home-delivered newspaper.

It's especially easy now that the labor council has launched a fresh new online signup and delivery service, with secure transactions at www.milwaukeeelabor.org.

This is also the Internet portal where fresh news stories appear between editions, a calendar

of upcoming community events appears, the Take Action menu contains downloadable information, the member unions, officers and purposes of the federation are detailed -- and a comprehensive search engines allows visitors to search stories and archived print editions back to 2007, which is proving quite a tool for scholars and researchers.

The Internet is a demanding taskmaster, a universe constantly changing and requiring even more services and a constant tweaking of design and offerings. That is why a website that won the top award for excellence two years ago from the most prestigious journalism contest for the North American labor community -- the International Labor Communications Association - has added new services.

Now anyone can receive home delivery of a year's worth of monthly Labor Press, for only \$13 using secure online registration of major credit cards or PayPal.

The Internet portal not only has added new services. It is a modern way for the newspaper to quickly break important news stories in Wisconsin's hot election season (allowing us to make news on everything from John Doe probes to candidates for



The buttons on the labor council's Internet entry portal.

office), while the monthly print edition allows deeper looks, photo essays and the polished presentation print readers count on.

That has led to offering the newspaper as a gift or to keep your friends up to date, particularly when so much of what really happens in the community is hardly covered or not covered at all by the biggest establishment print and electronic media.

Visitors to the website also have a separate prominent button to contribute to the charitable and other efforts of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council,

which yearly holds a Health and Hygiene Drive for homeless shelters, provides a picnic at St. Ben's for the out of work, raises money for working family causes and engages in a lavish annual fund-raiser to be held this year at the Hilton ballroom on June 2.

You'll find the transaction buttons on the front page underneath revolving images of Wisconsin workers and the famous "Stand With Wisconsin" banner. Use them to subscribe to home delivery of the monthly Labor Press -- for \$13 a year -- or to donate to the labor council.

Calendar

Visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org for updated events

Wednesday, May 30

Executive Council Meeting
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Saturday, June 2

Annual Fund-Raiser Gala
Milwaukee Area Labor Council
Ticket event includes cocktails, dinner, special guests and awards ceremony.
6 p.m. on, Empire Ballroom.

Hilton Milwaukee City Centre, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave.
Contact lynnda@milwaukeeelabor.org for tickets

Tuesday, June 5

Statewide Recall Walker Election
by Choosing Tom Barrett
Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 6

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

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How to mine greed (not gold) using US trade deals

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

Wisconsin's myriad issues with businesses controlling mining legislation may not yet make the state a replica of El Salvador -- but citizens should go to bed every night praying we never get close.

What has happened in parts of that Central American country -- visually alluring but now economically and socially crippled even though a democratic government has replaced years of political turmoil and civil war -- is precisely the disaster Wisconsin should move to avoid by changing leadership.

What happened there becomes even more disturbing when you look at how business practices promoted in this state -- and global trade pushed by big business and many in government -- were culpable in the Salvadoran debacle. All that political dissension also made it easy for speculators to exploit the country.

Jan Morrill, a Maine native, now lives in El Salvador and regularly visits the river and town of San Sebastian researching and recording the devastating aftermath of the gold mining operation from the early 1900s until the mine was shut down by the government in 2006 for pollution and disease-causing reasons.

Her photos of the discolored muddy rivulets that look like toxic yellow reddish muck have gotten wide exposure in the environmental community, since they make vivid what happens when big business leaves behind arsenic, acidity and chemicals, indifferent to the 20,000 people who live near the San Sebastian River basin.

Did the owners of the mine for so many decades - Milwaukee's own Commerce Group - apologize and beg forgiveness for what it helped leave behind? Quite the opposite. The company is suing El Salvador before international trade tribunals demanding millions in tribute for interfering with further possibility of profit. They first used an obscure legal clause involving the World Bank under one of our trade deals - CAFTRA, the US, Dominican Republic, Central American trade policy.

They lost last year. But the financially deteriorating Milwaukee company - foundering for many investment rea-

sons - immediately appealed, as if only on the backs of the desperate nation could it rebound from its losses. They still hope the global trade deals that favor big business give them avenues to win millions of dollars from El Salvador - and so far they seem untroubled that such actions cost that struggling government its own unredeemable millions of dollars in complicated legal defenses.

Before you think this is one stray company behaving badly, consider how an immense Canadian mining company -- Pacific Rim, blocked by the worried Salvadorans from operating another mine in similar fashion -- opened an office in the US merely to qualify under a US trade deal to also sue El Salvador for millions of dollars.

Morrill was invited to Milwaukee to speak to fair trade activists before moving around the country on information missions. She operates the Salvadoran headquarters of the International Allies Against Metallic Mining, a coalition working to support Salvadorans struggling for sovereignty over their own natural resources. Many local fair trade and environmental groups are supporting the fight against the Commerce Group's legal action, banding together as the Midwest Coalition Against Lethal Mining.

In Wisconsin, the issue of mining involves a much less intrusive mineral far easier to mine if laws are followed -- iron, not requiring the levels of water use and environmental devastation suffered in El Salvador. Iron mining is quite possible -- when done right and profit-minded corporations

don't write the rules as Walker attempted.

Gold and silver mining, which had 20th century American barons salivating to get into El Salvador, requires tons of chemicals and as much water in one day as a family needs to survive for 20 years. While it never raised the workers out of poverty, for decades before bullion prices seesawed the mine made some outsiders rich and caused the Commerce Group to take over operations in 1968. It may have just missed the real gold rush. In the first half of the 20th century the San Sebastian mine was the most productive precious metal mine in Central America.

Continued operations exposed such obvious human and environmental consequences that the government was forced to shut down operations in 2006. It was not just the acid, arsenic and the rest of the chemical soup fouling the river but rising levels of illness and disease.

Geological analysis cites mining runoff as the main reason the water in San Sebastian is undrinkable and either rainwater collection tanks or imported water (at considerable cost) are now used for humans in the region, according to Morrill's research.

The bad water is still used for agriculture, the second largest industry in the country. The first largest is subsistence provided by relatives living in the US. This gives you a sense of how poor a country can become even when theoretically rich in nature - and in valuable minerals exploited without concern for its people.

Fair trade advocates see another lesson - the vital need that US trade deals incorporate teeth in environmental protection, local authority and financial development within borders.

The most startling part of the story about the global trade deals is that they encourage legal action if corporations believe profits are being limited, but almost no legal recourse on issues of destroying the environment. The richer the defendants, the bigger the barriers they can put up.

Morrill has returned to El Salvador. Those who want to help her cause can learn more, including photos, at www.stopESmining.org. They can also contact Steve Watrous at watrous@uwm.edu.



The lethal mining issue brought Jan Morrill from El Salvador.

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