



Fresh from an aggressive debate with Scott Walker, Tom Barrett stirs up Labor2010 Oct. 16. **More on the walks on Page 7. More on politics including our endorsed candidates on Pages 2, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 13.**

When Mary Lou Young became the first United Way CEO in years to address the monthly council meeting, September delegates surprised her by donning their own "Live United" T-shirts. **More on labor and United Way on Page 16 .**



TOO UGLY! complained Republicans who saw our ACTION! newspaper's cover illustration.

JUST RIGHT! said Milwaukee County victims of Scott Walker's political two-face tricks hidden by his public TV profile, They want the rest of the state to see the underside before Nov. 2, as caricaturist Mike Konopacki did. **WE SAY LEARN MORE** about how Walker's two decades of base political tactics have cheapened his ideological sand castle and hidden from voters the enduring motives of his behavior. **See Page 8 and 9.**



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Do we know how to measure recovery?

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

A soldier on the Afghan battlefield knows when he's stepped on an IUD. A sophomore coed hit by a drunken driver knows what happened when she wakes up.

A great nation struck by an economic bomb apparently doesn't realize it and doesn't remember what the soldier and the student know -- recovery comes one step at a time, one struggle by one muscle at a time.

Most of the media doesn't know either, and that's why few showed up when a mere 17 out-of-work city residents received their diplomas of graduation in

September at WRTP/Big Step's Center of Excellence, reflecting intense classroom and hands-on completion of training in Sheet Metal/HVAC and Weatherization courses that make them eligible for emerging jobs.

And jobs are emerging, many through the federal stimulus, including the Century City project underway in Milwaukee.

The city development people and aldermen attended, not just for political purposes but because step by step is what recovery is about. And meanwhile the media is indifferent, consumed by petty political sniping that nothing is getting better and that, in fact, the soldier and the student as well as



Instructors in a basement training house teach weatherization students what works and what doesn't in the home.

the average citizen should just lie down somewhere and not get up from the explosion that hit them.

Reflecting on the negative attitudes that greeted the real national progress in green technology and

weatherization, the director of public affairs for the DOE (Department of Energy) can only sigh in dismay. The media "can't decide if we're spending the money too fast or not fast enough," says Dan Leistikow.

But media skepticism pales before the outright lies Leistikow faces from those politicians out of power and desperate to hold the reins once more

By virtually every economic measure, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is working the US back toward economic health, with manufacturing in an

Progress continued Page 14

Tracking the secretive big money duping America

By Dominique Paul Noth
Editor, Labor Press

The Internet is neither liberal nor conservative but the right-wing was dumb-struck in 2008. Barack Obama seized the initiative in social networking and new media organizing, burying traditional GOP corporate money with floods of small donations and stirring millions of web and cell phone addicts into collective action behind one leader's vision and policy.

Violently dismayed, the right started trolling Twitter, Facebook and other social sites. The technologically savvy started

thinking about all those email lonely-hearts they found, unhappy chatters, isolated bloggers longing to become Fox News darlings -- all hardly of one mind but all feeling abandoned.

There were clusters of Republicans angry at having lost; anti-tax advocates who felt the GOP had abandoned them; religious families who feared the Democrats would be worse than what they had gone through.

There were clumps of disgruntled libertarians believing any social policy meddling; pseudo-intellectuals wanting attention; anti-intellectuals who reveled in their ignorance;

believers in 19th century American values; evangelicals and fundamentalists (not always the same by any means), Christian-supremacists (also not the same), haters of Muslims and any other religion; survivalists, gun-rights crusaders, deficit hawks, Glenn Beck fanatics -- and let's not ignore sincerely worried, hard-working people fearful of any government that thought it knew better -- just leave us alone! they seemed to chatter. And they also found racists, both bridled and unbridled, hate mongers and knee-jerk deriders enlivened by Internet anonymity and AM noise volume.

All made up a miniscule but avid part of America. All thought they reflected the fierce independence America had long cherished.

This mix of discontent seeking comfort on the Internet



It's oil barons, media tycoons and health industry lobbyists funding Ron Johnson -- and it only works if the voters don't find out.

was also ripe for the picking.

To the savvy marketers who have become experts at lobbying and funding, this could become the Madison Avenue seeds to mold a new Tea Party, particularly since these objects tended to be more conservative, with more free time and better

heeled than the average Republican. Another common bond -- they did not want anyone telling them what to do, even establishment Republicans.

To the manipulators that meant that if handled right (that is, deceptively) they wouldn't

Secret continued Page 12

Parading in honor of Elmer Knutson

For the last several decades, anyone who helped plan, marched in or enjoyed Laborfest depended on the presence of Elmer Knutson and his wife of some 45 years, Betty.

Elmer was the faithful parade marshal everyone relied on, and yet much more than that. He was dogged in doing what was needed to be done, and always knowing what to do. He was the devoted union guy always practical and always willing to help.

He wasn't around for the 2010 Laborfest, though he had helped plan it. Let's rephrase that. He wasn't physically there because he was ill at a hospice.

But chief organizer Sheila Cochran made sure he was there. From the Miller Stage before President Obama spoke, the labor council's secretary-treasurer dedicated this Laborfest to him. It was the first Elmer had missed in generations. He had won a special award for his service on that same stage in 2005. He was a young 87 at that ceremony.

Knutson had lived decades longer than most of his colleagues in the Laborfest meetings, so there was a lot the union community didn't know about him when he died

In Memorium

September 27 at age 92.

In his 20s he joined the Marines to serve in World War II, and even in his obituary wanted folks to remember: "Once a Marine always a Marine Semper Fi."

Then he was a member of the carpenters union - and not just between jobs. It was quite a career. He was a member for 62 years. Imagine how many generations of carpenter families from Local 264 knew him and worked with him. That is, when they weren't fishing for perch with him along the lakefront; it was an avid hobby.

There are even some around who remember when he and Betty started volunteering and helping run the show for Laborfest. It was back in 1983, when the event still gathered at the courthouse and marches were to muddy Veterans Park.

It was only in the 1990s that Laborfest solidified the march route through downtown ending at Summerfest -- and Elmer was there to help make the first marches go smoothly.

Knutson didn't want flowers, just memorials to his church, Nathanael Lutheran Church, 1147 N. 50th St.



As Betty Knutson looked on, Sheila Cochran presented Elmer with a special award for distinguished service at the 2005 Laborfest.

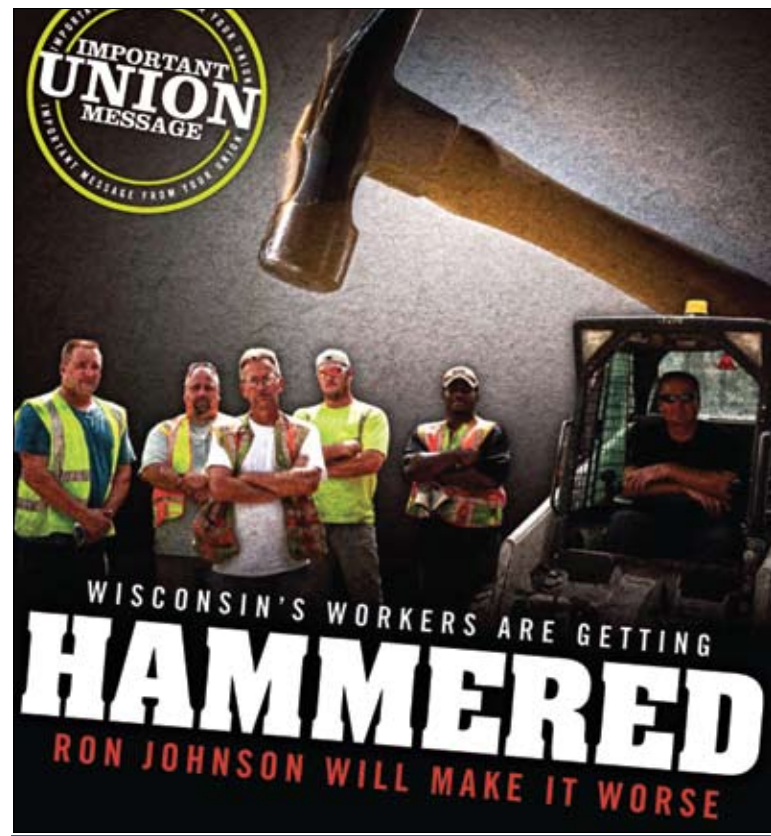
Big mailing, big message

Many union households in Wisconsin know about the Ron Johnson hammer (at right) from their mailboxes, but many may not know how extensively and individualistically targeted the national AFL-CIO has become in Wisconsin.

Starting October 11, the labor federation delivered hundreds of thousands of mailers in Wisconsin as part of a national effort for 3.5 million union households.

Aside from the Johnson hammer, state households got a piece describing Scott Walker's job-cutting record as Milwaukee County executive and riposting the Republican Governors Association's blatant falsehoods about Tom Barrett.

Individual mailers focusing on outsourced jobs were also active in House campaigns, criticizing Sean Duffy in District 7 and Reid Ribble's support of bad tax policy in his effort to unseat Steve Kagen.



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New State AFL-CIO officer hits the ground running

By Lynnnda Guyton

Editorial Assistant, Labor Press

Leaving your old job after fifteen years and going to another, learning something totally new, as well as working with a new group of people -- we can all imagine that would be a challenge. Stephanie Bloomingdale took that challenge and was elected secretary-treasurer of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO at the group's Green Bay convention in September.

She recalls that the decision wasn't easy for her to make because of the many relationships she formed with the leaders and members of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals, where she served as director of public policy. Especially difficult was leaving the wings of her mentor, Candice Owley, president of WFNHP and a national vice president for the AFT (American Federation of Teachers) -- until Stephanie reminded herself that she will continue to work with and for the nurses in her new role.

She felt very proud to be asked to serve in this position by the departing secretary-treasurer, now elected new State AFL-CIO president as she was elected to his old office, Phil Neuenfeldt. She is equally proud to be the first female State AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer. Her main duties are overseeing the finances as well as serving as a lobbyist for the AFL-CIO along with Neuenfeldt leading a federation representing all of Wisconsin's union members.

In the next three months she has set a few goals for herself. Front and center is the November 2 general election. She knows "we need to make sure the candidates that support working people are elected."

She is committed to bringing affiliates together to craft a legislative agenda that will protect and create family supporting union jobs.

One of her favorite quotes is: "A WORKING PERSON THAT VOTES REPUBLICAN IS LIKE A

Spotlight



Stephanie Bloomingdale, with son Nicholas preparing for an October Labor2010 walk shortly after being elected state AFL-CIO secretary-treasurer

CHICKEN VOTING FOR COLONEL SANDERS."

Bloomingdale sees the job of labor leaders clearly -- to allow people to dream again. If people are worried about jobs or if they are not able to put food on the table, pay utilities and protect the future of their children, they simply can't sleep because of such concerns, and she's determine to fight for the American dream.

When it comes to the economy her stance is that we need a healthy middle class and emphasized that what's good for the richest one percent is not necessarily good for the rest of us because they are taking more than their share of the American pie.

Milwaukee delegates heard her anger directly at the October monthly meeting, when she returned from one of the largest union protests in recent state memory at Kohler, Wis., where nearly 2,000 people and UAW workers at the Kohler planet joined to protest the company's plan to impose a two-tier wage system and cut the income of existing workers.

It was another case of a privately owned company pleading economic necessity without opening up its books to the public. See story on Page 5.

This plea of economic

necessity is "another effort to destroy the middle class," she told the delegates.

In an interview with Labor Press, she also noted that some of the wealthiest individuals, the very people who created this economic crisis, are working behind the scenes to deflect voter anger from themselves and direct it toward the government and organized labor.

Look closely at who is behind today's so-called grassroots movement, she said, and you'll find an Astro-Turf agenda designed to serve the fortunate few at the expense of everyone else. To put it bluntly, she says, "Power is the one simple word to explain what happened to the economy." Specifically, she believes, working families must regain the power to influence where the money that our economy generates goes.

"We are in an uphill battle and in order to grow our movement we are going to have to be energized, diligent and focused on rebuilding the middle class," she said as she took on her new job. Organized Labor is not the problem but the solution and the most important duty for the State AFL-CIO is "Solidarity because as Martin Luther King said, An injury to one is an injury to all."

So it's up to the AFL-CIO to help the affiliates help each other because "the only way we have half a chance is for workers to stand together."

Stephanie was born in Milwaukee and is a graduate of UWM-Milwaukee with a degree in political science. She grew up hearing from her uncle who worked for Master Lock and Rexnord. He told her many stories about working people sticking together and the only way to get ahead is to have a union job.

She must have been a good listener because her whole family including her mother who worked as a Milwaukee Public Health nurse for SEIU Local 1199 had a union job. Her husband, Doug Savage, a teacher at UWM, is a member of an AFT local. She has two sons, Nicholas and Spencer, who many have met, because they attend many labor functions with their mother.

She expressed how proud she is of her children and excited that they want to be a part of the labor organization. To her, the labor movement is not just about jobs but a way of life and stronger when families are involved.

Bloomingdale's life is pretty full; she is active in union

activities, political campaigns, serves as president of Citizen Action Education Fund, is a member of One Wisconsin Now and a delegate and executive board member of the Milwaukee Area Labor Council. She remarked that there isn't much down time left for extracurricular activities but she dabbles in photography and enjoys gardening but added that she wouldn't win any contest and is in a constant war with the squirrels, woodchucks and raccoons that want a share of her vegetables.



When Kohler workers scheduled a protest rally October 6, Bloomingdale plunged right in, eager to publicize the issue.



She and Phil Neuenfeldt greet Lt. Gov. candidate Tom Nelson at the October 9 Labor2010 walk.

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Feingold turns trade into hot political issue

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

A few months ago, US trade policy was hardly regarded as a game-changing rallying cry in the mid-term election. It is now.

New polls show the majority of the public, from Republicans to Tea Party to Democrats to Independents, opposes the free trade pacts. Only 18% support these deals.

While most US industrial companies now have outsourcing strategies, few have US job retention strategies - and the public is noticing. In 2004 the US doubled the number of offshore jobs in three years to some 400,000 jobs. The attitude from big business? Suck it up.

But outsourced trade and departing jobs have become indefensible. Business people who blame a 33 year old law about home loans are justifiably laughed out of court.

The star of this new awareness is Sen. Russ Feingold. He opposed his own party back

into the 1990s -- even before some unions warned that free trade agreements such as NAFTA would bleed work away from the Wisconsin farmer and the Wisconsin industrial worker alike. They were right about that, but he was right first and louder.

Now he has made this unfettered free trade policy and his long fight for harder US trade standards a central issue in his campaign for re-election and his debates against Ron Johnson, a manufacturer who not only blamed that ancient 1977 law -- Johnson actually praised China for its business environment, without mentioning that such things are clearly more predictable in a centralized Communist dictatorship.

Such self-serving ideas have forced his handlers to cringe and for the challenger to slink away from Feingold's pointed criticism that the last thing Wisconsin needs in the Senate is a millionaire manufacturer who thrives on foreign trade more than on growing American jobs.



The free trade issue turned poll numbers as Feingold pounds away during October rallies.

The greed and perils behind too much of this outsourcing have such political resonance that it is changing poll numbers. Not just for Feingold, but for Democratic candidates throughout the Midwest who have picked up the

theme, galvanized in part by AFL-CIO political energy around the issue. Ads on the issue of unfair trade and lost jobs have flooded these races and put Republicans and their sad networks on the defensive.

Alerts and news stories from fair trade activists that tended to be ignored in citizen's email boxes or by media news-heads are drawing air time and in-depth coverage. Suddenly, despite third-party ad rules that prevent detailed disclosure, the issue of illegal foreign money has danced into the domestic political arena, since 90% of this secretive money backs politicians supporting outsourcing.

The US Chamber of Commerce first said it got as little as \$100,000 in fees from foreign companies, but investigators quickly forced that estimate upward by tenfold within a week, leading the public to doubt the honesty of the trade organization. (What does segregating such cash mean? Left pocket rather than right?)

Feingold's bold pronouncements are not just being echoed in races across the nation. It's helped a new search engine on the Internet become a hot property, though never intended primarily as an election tool. It is now.

Working America and the national AFL-CIO created JobTracker. It's a simple page at www.workingamerica.org/jobtracker. Put in a ZIP code and find the nearby companies that have outsourced jobs. You may be amazed - pinpoint colored maps nail not just outsourcers, but also companies violating safety and labor laws and contracting regulations. It's all drawn from reliable databases and is accompanied by a report on OutSourced Jobs with anecdotes

and facts. The report is so compelling that we've posted it in the Take Action section of our website, www.milwaukeeelabor.org.

Trade is admittedly a complicated issue, so while violations are one thing, the number of jobs in other countries from American companies is not necessarily a direct loss to the American worker. But JobTracker, using trade adjustment and other databases, help nail the millions of jobs that are.

The old businessman's analogy that all the loss was from technological advances and global factors no longer flies. Back in the 1990s, despite Feingold and other critics, economists could doubt that free trade deals were causing America's industrial and agricultural doldrums. Today the statistics confirm the worst fears.

Decades ago trade unions were the big champions of the concept of helping workers in other countries enjoy better working conditions and wages. Those rules they sought in trade deals have largely been ignored, so too many foreign workers are exploited while the US is being asked to think of itself in terms of Third World wages and conditions.

What also angers the American worker is growing evidence of the behavior at the top by the corporate elite. Too many said those deals weren't just about cheaper workers and fewer environmental standards. They turned out to be lying.

"Creative destruction" no longer flies when the creation is CEO wallets and the destruction is the middle class.

Johnson needs to use Job Tracker. Feingold doesn't. He saw the problem before most politicians did, and now his vision is helping them as well.

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Massive protest tells Kohler to flush two-tier wage proposal

From State AFL-CIO blog

Enough is enough. Kohler Company is taking advantage of the poor overall economy to demand extreme and unnecessary concessions from its workforce, including a wage freeze, a two-tier wage system and the use of more temporary employees.

Nearly 2,000 people turned out October 6 to stand in solidarity with workers from UAW Local 833, as the workers fight to put the needs of working families ahead of corporate greed. Workers and community members picketed side by side in order to send a united message to Kohler management even as the union encouraged talks.

"During times of economic prosperity, the leadership of UAW Local 833 has always taken a reasonable and responsible approach to negotiations. Unfortunately, Kohler Company chose to exploit the current recession as evidenced by its present proposals," said UAW Local 833 President Dave Bergene.

"Kohler harps about high labor costs. They conveniently forget to mention that the quality and productivity of Kohler workers is second to none in their global empire. Build it elsewhere, rework it here," added Dave Boucher, a full-time Kohler



Hundreds of union supporters and UAW workers joined Local 833 President Dave Bergene in a mass rally October 6 at Kohler.

— Photo: Mike Underhill and Stephanie Bloomingdale.

Foundry worker and an executive board member of Local 833.

The contract fight at Kohler is part of a larger trend affecting all workers, union and non-union. As companies sitting on huge cash reserves consistently put profits above people, the Wisconsin labor movement is mobilizing to fight on behalf of the middle-class and all working families.

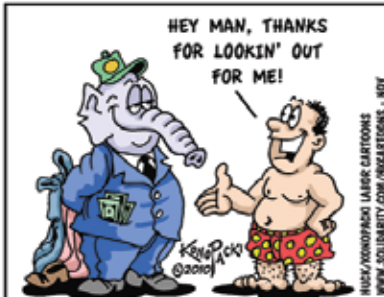
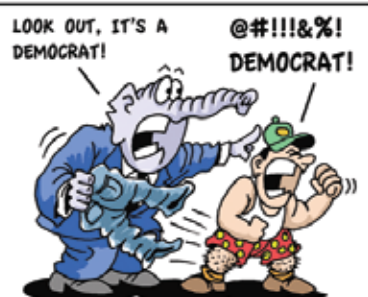
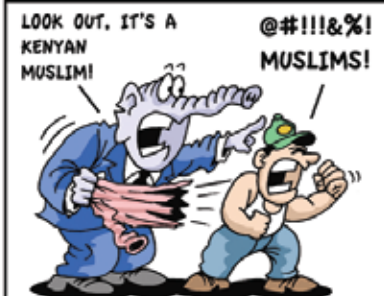
This pattern of 'restructuring' is becoming all too frequent, with successful companies demanding huge concessions from workers; not because they have to, but because they can," thundered Phil

Neuenfeldt, the new president of the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO.

"This is happening at non-union facilities too, but you simply don't hear about it, because those workers don't have a democratic structure through which to fight back."

Neuenfeldt and his running mate as secretary-treasurer, Stephanie Bloomingdale, attended the rally in Kohler in order to focus statewide attention on the growing cancer of corporate greed that threatens to consume Wisconsin's middle-class.

Said Bloomingdale, "It's time to take a stand. This madness has



to stop somewhere. If companies like Kohler want people to be able to buy their products, they must provide reasonable compensation in order to make it possible."

"All too often, the retirees that toiled to create a strong company are forgotten and thrown under the bus, all in the name of greater 'competitiveness.' We're not willing to let that happen here," vowed Pete Behrensprung, UAW International representative and former Local 833 president.

"Maybe the company should focus less on improving their golf tournaments and more on improving their operations; then

they wouldn't have to extract huge concessions from the workers," remarked Bruce Krueger, a UAW rank and file member.

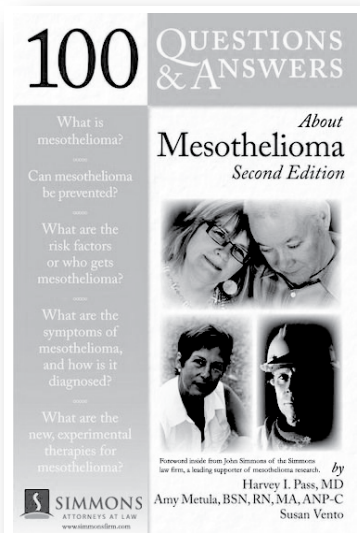
In order to successfully fight the battles that lie ahead, working people will have to unite across sectors to support each others' struggles, noted Thor Backus, AFSCME Council 40 organizer, who sees a larger picture and was speaking out in support of his UAW brothers and sisters.

"If Kohler gets its way, workers and retirees in the area won't be able to afford a pot to piss in, much less the company's toilets," he said.

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Like it or not, region controls political future

This is hardly the kind of attention southeastern Wisconsin craves. The November 2 election may affect the state in every corner, could devastate progress if Scott Walker beats Tom Barrett for governor, and could set independent thinking back a generation if Ron Johnson replaces Russ Feingold as US senator. The regional vote margins in these statewide races are considered crucial - and the margins are not by any means decided.

But the southeast may also hold the balance of control of the state Senate because of two races. (Currently the Democrats hold sway by three votes, with several stalwarts retiring or running for other office.)

The race closest to Milwaukee is the Wauwatosa-Waukesha Senate District 5 where incumbent moderate Jim Sullivan is beating off the shrill invective of Republican Leah Vukmir, a contest that caused the Shepherd Express to run an amusing and particularly apt cover piece suggesting that Vukmir's extremism track record in Madison was more annoying to fellow Republicans than to Democrats.

But in Racine Senate District 21 operates a contest quieter in the media but just as polarizing in its own way.

On the surface it rather typically pits a veteran of progressive change and concern for the families of Racine, John Lehman, against a traditional little-regarded Republican believer in trickle-down, that tax



State Sen. John Lehman

cuts for the wealthiest will spread providence for the working stiff.

The families of this region went through a decade when all that spread was manure, and non-fertile manure at that, so in normal times they know better.

These are not normal times. In one conservative fiefdom they did help elect Van Wanngaard as a Racine County supervisor, which gave him credentials. And now he has the Tea Party crowd to provide another club to try to beat down the thoughtful, plain-spoken education committee chair and key finance leader of the senate.

The club is a referendum, asking the voters to choose or oppose any new tax (be its sales tax or vehicle registration) to support the KRM (Kenosha-Racine Milwaukee commuter rail line).

Van Wanngaard is willing now to sound anti-train in a district that badly needs the jobs and traffic KRM represents. What he's really married to is the belief that a knee-jerk anti-tax vote will win him office. He so believes in that



Racine area Rep. Cory Mason at a recent fund-raiser.

he is actually ducking debates with his opponent to discuss the other crucial issues in the contest.

It is the same game Ron Johnson is trying to play with Feingold - and perhaps for the same reason. Lehman is a solid thinker so why risk extensive debates? Ditto Feingold. Plus, Johnson's GOP handlers are clearly stuffing a pillow in his mouth to keep him from committing any more boners than he has in debates.

So both candidates are saying little beyond "no more taxes" and don't seem to think they need ideas to win voters.

Still, there are voters who want comprehension more than chants. How would tax cuts for the wealthiest not destroy state and federal revenues and further diminish the middle class? Why do we need effective health care more than health insurers need exorbitant profits? Why shouldn't regulations control the corporate polluters who do the most damage in the shortest time?

Lehman has demonstrated good ideas on all these fronts; his opponent only offers a few slogans. So District 21 is as much about sending Wisconsin back to the Dark Ages as District 5, where stridency makes the purpose more apparent. The voters will decide whether to turn back the clock.

Within Lehman's district is Assembly District 62, and there organized labor has a ton of reasons to retain Cory Mason (facing both Republican and Libertarian opponents). Mason was the state technical colleges'

Comment

legislator of the year for fighting to keep funding affecting some 400,000 tech students; he championed renewable energy and a green economy through the Green to Gold revolving loan fund; fought to rid the state of toxic toys and defended public safety, raising the minimum wage and healthcare reform.

In another year, his record of success would mean no worry for the common man. In this year of unthinking fear, everyone worries.

-- *Dominique Paul Noth*



Incumbent Sen. Jim Sullivan tells an October Labor2010 walk about his fight against right-wing Leah Vukmir.

CBTU to honor its founder

History records that it was disgust with union leaders who supported Richard Nixon that led William (Bill) Lucy to establish the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists.

Few in organized labor thought his rump protest nicknamed CBTU would grow into one of the most effective national networks in the union movement.

And few would believe that four decades later there would still be union leaders playing footsie with reactionary forces while the plight of the American workers has gotten even worse. One of the enduring dams against the disintegration of America's middle class and blue collar strength within minority communities has been the CBTU, probably the largest single voice of African Americans in the US.

For all those reasons past and present, the Milwaukee CBTU meeting Nov 11-13 (Friday to Sunday) will pause to personally honor its founder and national president, Bill Lucy, now the retired secretary-treasurer of AFSCME International and long a powerful voice in the AFL-CIO.

Lucy has helped the CBTU emerge not only as a ferocious advocate for black workers but also the largest single organization of African Americans in the nation. There are more than 2.5 million black

workers in organized labor (nearly half of them women) and one of every five black workers (20%) belongs to a union. For these unionized workers, the evidence is inescapable that they receive higher wages, better benefits and working conditions than their non-union counterparts. The CBTU has gained by representing the trade union philosophy for everyone.

This Region Six conference of the CBTU will draw delegates from throughout Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Minnesota as well as Wisconsin.

Organized by the Milwaukee chapter, the conference will be centered at the Wyndham Hotel (across from Mitchell Airport) with special rates for conference attendees, according to CBTU Milwaukee chair Anthony R. Rainey. Registration (\$40 for delegates; special hotel rates start at \$82) will take place both Thursday, November 11, and at the opening of the conference at 9 a.m. that Friday. Special workshops and events plus other tributes and educational sessions are planned.

Those interested in participating can visit www.CBTU-mke.org for updates or contact the Milwaukee Area Labor Council AFL-CIO at (414) 771-7070.

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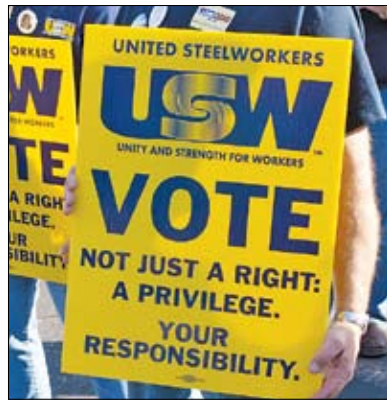
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Labor 2010 in action



MALC SECRETARY-TREASURER Sheila Cochran introduces the Thorn family at the Labor 2010 walk October 9 (top photo). It was one of several walks dedicated to the late Julie Thorn, a USW activist and force in the Women of Steel and its Laborfest presence. Her close family, including cousins, was invited to participate in the rallies, held every Saturday before election and featuring such threatened political progressives as Sen. Russ Feingold and gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett.

THESE NEIGHBORHOOD WALKS to get out the vote also attract notable guests along with rank and file union members signing in (top right) to be assigned for walks or phone banking. Chatting above (from left) were Scott Hassett, Democratic challenger for attorney general, incumbent state Sen. Jim Sullivan and Rep. Gwen Moore. When Barrett dropped by Oct. 16 to mingle with the crowd, among those listening to his talk were other candidates including (above right) Assembly hopeful Tom Michalski (in hat) and state senate primary winner Chris Larson.

MANY VOLUNTEERS brought banners and signs, as USW workers did when they led sponsorship of the Feingold rally.

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TRACKING SCOTT WALKER'S LEGACY OF DIVISIVE POLITICAL TRICKS

By Dominique Paul Noth
Excerpted (c) **ACTION!** Vol 2

"Walker - Unfit." Such was the editorial headline from a newspaper in a conservative community judging Scott Walker's leadership abilities.

The newspaper had backed his opponent in an earlier editorial, but complimented both candidates for their refusal to slam each other on the campaign trail.

Now it was retracting that compliment -- to put it mildly. It had just seen Walker's latest campaign brochure, which not only attacked the newspaper for its endorsement but slimed his opponent with a "blatant mudslinging spree," and deliberate "caricature."

Walker -- sound familiar? -- harshly flip-flopped from previous niceties before the media, and his followers had even tried to seize and hide copies of the paper with the endorsement of his opponent.

On the same day as the "Unfit" editorial, the newspaper's front page reported how Walker owned up to facing a disciplinary hearing and violating election rules, incidents he blamed on "overzealous" supporters. Walker said no candidate could be expected "to control" such people.

He ducked questions about

his own role by saying he didn't want to get into a "dog race" of which candidate accused the other of more violations and noted he had "not filed one single grievance" against another candidate. It was a neat sidestep since, of course, no other candidate had ever been accused of violations.

"In our opinion," the editorial said, "no one who responds to opposition by distorting (if not assassinating) the character of his opponent and making pouty accusations deserves" to be elected.

That editorial -- and the election Walker lost handily -- occurred in 1988 when sophomore Walker, active in campus and Westside Republican politics at Marquette University, ran for student body president before dropping out of school less than two years later.

Today's conservative talk radio hosts seem to want to lock up for life those 21 year olds whose hijinks and moral compass run afoul of the law. Not here. Wisdom suggests patience, since many young miscreants straighten out with maturity and lead productive, even exemplary lives.

Similarly, we know many college dropouts who go on to fine public and private service careers and even go back to school.

Those intrusive government regulations that Walker opposes also support the strict privacy that allows him to hide his grades and disciplinary records from prying eyes, so both he and the university can dismiss inquiries from the Democratic Party or the general public about why he never completed his degree or pursued one at another university.

But sometimes the child is father to the adult.

Walker's misbehavior in college, quickly exposed by the Marquette Tribune (overseen by faculty advisors at a Jesuit university), could be dismissed as youthful prankishness -- except: The next 22 years reveal adherence to the same sidestepping games and mendacity.

His career has continued the troubling patterns of the dirty tricks and glib evasion disguised by a boyish appearance and reputation as a preacher's son.

Overzealous followers were blamed then -- but also are today, when his own political hire impersonated a liberal to dupe a cell phone user or inflated type size to make Walker's jobs plan seem longer than Tom Barrett's. Can't be blamed, Walker tells the media: An overzealous supporter was responsible - one he hired. Still, who can control these guys?

What's forgivable as a college sophomore becomes dangerous in

TWO DECADES OF DUPLICITY

ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?

a county executive, and frightening to contemplate in a state's chief executive.

The 43 year old Walker is surely far slicker and cleverer than the callous Republican stereotype so easily nailed by the Marquette Tribune.

"(He attended every class in a three-piece suit," recalled one prof. "It was like teaching Alex Keaton.")

But some tactics remain darkly visible -- including revisionist history. But now revisionism can be day to day.

Witness the recent mental health meltdown and how quickly in the face of public anger and newspaper investigation he dropped his opposition to a new center and finally fired his hand-picked chief who had run the place for years despite the complaints. Lost in his political desperation over losing a governor's race was any "no tax" pledge since the new center will cost the taxpayers 10 times more than acting promptly when problems overflowed years ago.

Witness his "we're good friends" approach turning to darkness when internal polls showed his primary opponent, Mark Neumann, creeping up on him. Only then came Walker ads sliming the guy as more liberal in his days in Congress than Nancy Pelosi (ironically over a vote that Democrat Tom Barrett, also then in Congress, took the side Walker seems to advocate today).

Shortly after his Marquette debacle, Walker gave an interview to the university yearbook that told the story of that first race quite differently than research reveals. He lost, he suggested, because he focused on "personalities and egos," implying mistakes more about tactics than blatantly breaking the rules.

His key goals in politics, he revealed back then, still remained to address "problematic societal issues." Perhaps he wasn't forecasting indifference to Milwaukee County's responsibility to protect the sick and mentally ill from sexual assault and suffering. But the attitudinal roots were there that this was one of those problematical "societal issues" -- government oversight intruding into business freedom.

Perhaps he didn't mean it shouldn't be government's role to keep people from

Why this illustration?

The Picture of Dorian Gray is a famous story by Oscar Wilde about a handsome public figure who retains his looks over time while a portrait hidden in his attic reveals the blossoming ugliness of his corruption. It struck nationally honored caricaturist Mike Konopacki as an apt metaphor for the career of Scott Walker.

being killed by collapsing infrastructure. But it does seem a political winner these days whenever he can sell himself as a fiscal conservative even at the cost of jobs and safety.

There is a larger conservative (and liberal) commitment in a democratic society to caring for the less fortunate, but Walker can shuffle that away with his rabid faithful under the guise of saving money. It is a mantra of his campaign philosophy even when such actions actually cost more money than basic good management would. Now he longs to apply that approach to the entire state.

When spending can't be laid at Walker's door, he has changed his tune. Then his political ideology can suddenly mouth better service for the unfortunate. That's another key lesson in his political career, though perhaps not what the Jesuits intended to teach.

As county executive he demeans the federal stimulus in the campaign but uses \$132 million to plug holes he created in his budget. That allows him to take credit for saving the remaining bus service he had already thinned to the breaking point.

He slams others for takeovers his ineptitude at management forced upon them (the county call center, the House of Corrections, the applauded health care program, GAMP) or actually begs the state to take over the courts.

That larger conservative (and Christian) ethic about stepping up for the less fortunate -- it doesn't prevent Walker from defining the less fortunate as suits his purposes.

So Walker steps in when cutbacks affect and anger the older, white, suburban voters he counts on for support, so he can



move to restore just their parks and pools, as one of Walker's Wauwatosa neighbors reminded me. The cuts in bus service, central city parks and pools don't affect his votes so he can ignore those howls of dismay from the truly poor and desperate.

Perhaps if the poor would vote for him, his tactics might change. Perhaps if the rich spent more time in the courthouse, senior centers and parks, the community wouldn't face some \$225 to \$300 million in deferred infrastructure maintenance.

In one old interview at Marquette, Walker said, "I really think there's a reason why God put all these political



thoughts in my head," though many observers would doubt God wants that responsibility.

Nowhere was there acknowledgement of rule-busting, Nixon-era politics or the political viciousness insiders at the time remember. In a Marquette interview when he was in the race for county executive in 2002, Walker attempted to muddy even further.

He lost in 1988 because his opponent, John Quigley, "and his supporters were active in liberal issues and made student government into a partisan one," a

viewpoint that provokes laughter today from one former classmate. When Walker said in that interview the race was a "good lesson," the colleague remarked, "I think he meant he wouldn't get caught the next time."

So patterns are subtler today, or at least smarter. Be civil on camera but smear behind the scenes, but not -- ever again -- in a way so easily exposed as the Tribune did.

Lie boldly and say you were misunderstood -- it happens again and again, especially with issues Walker once supported that simply would not fly with his most strident Tea Party supporters.

Back to 1993, when Peggy Rosenzweig left to run successfully for state senate, Walker won that special election for her Wauwatosa-Waukesha seat. It was his first win and he continued to serve in the Assembly where he was a loyal backbencher to Tommy Thompson. He wants today's voters to forget he supported no-bid transit competition to speed rail choice along. He backed budgets that doubled costs to the taxpayer. And he voted for BadgerCare and its concept of helping workers and their families get basic health care.

So it was astoundingly bald-faced when in a public debate he



from welfare into the workforce," (never so).

Editorialists jumped all over him for deliberate misstatements. Barrett laid a political nasty on him -- more telling because it was true ("he'll say anything to try to get elected").

Walker's defense was that the debate format required "short answers" -- short now becoming code for falsehood.

In 1990, just before he left Marquette University without a degree, Walker entered state politics. We he the sacrificial lamb for the GOP, as one fellow legislator now suggests? Or did he believe as his supporters said that the Assembly district that ran right up to his hometown was winnable?

The roadblock was the occupant, a Democrat and an MU grad with considerable political skill and following. Her name was Gwen Moore. She stands today as the only public official to have beat Walker in an election, and she whumped him with 73% of the vote in what is still his only partisan race in Milwaukee County.

He retreated to the Red Cross in the years when Elizabeth (Liddy) Dole (GOP activist and spouse of Bob) was its president, later accused of using the charity as a refuge for

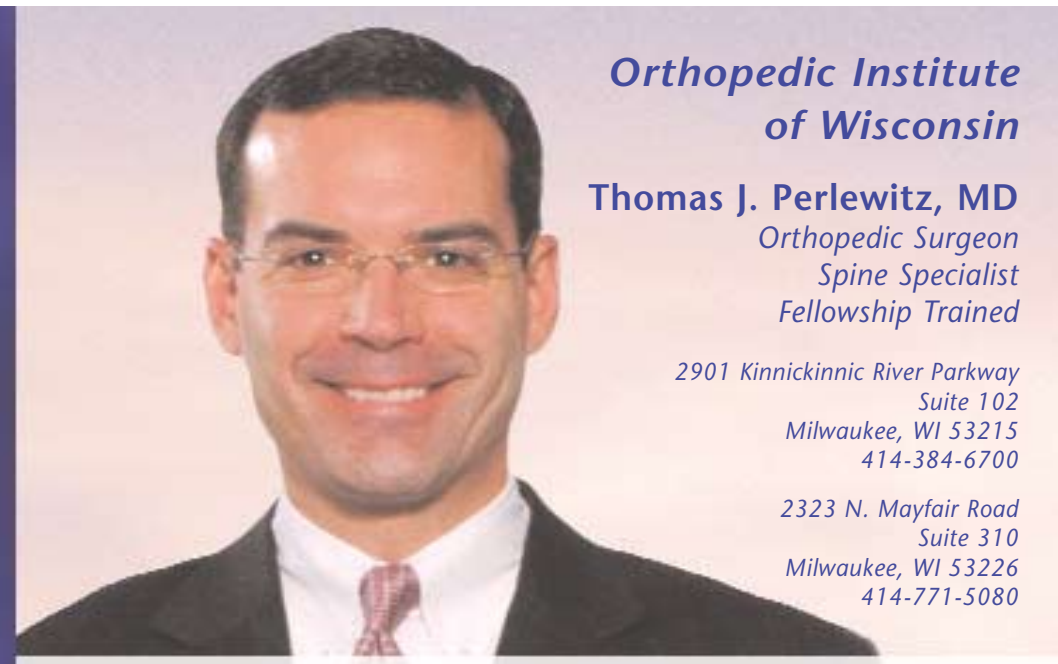


Republican political failures. Which the young Walker definitely was.

Today, many elections later, Walker covers his tracks better. Yet a timeline reveals the same devices, particularly closing the barn door after the damage has been done and blaming others.

Were the student journalists at Marquette that much better than today's professional breed? Or is his current escape a reflection on today's mass media, busy pursuing the same readers whose votes Walker pursues?

But now a crucial statewide election is upon us, and that mass media is finally asking the questions they should have asked years ago, and discovering answers even more unsettling because of their long delay in pursuing investigative truth.



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Also honored was the departing president of the state AFL-CIO David Newby (introduced warmly by new president Neuenfeldt)

Obey proves that wisdom doesn't mellow

HUNDREDS of older citizens, it turned out at the Oct. 11 Power Luncheon gala at the Wyndham Hotel, are eager to pledge allegiance, share their experiences but definitely not go gently into the night.

Honoree Dave Obey, after 41 years in the House representing the 7th District as a ferocious defender of Social Security, has not lost a whit of feistiness in retiring. "There are a few things I want to get off my chest," he told the guests - who knew they were about to hear some vintage Obey.

And sure enough, he blasted not only the GOP upstart challenging for his current seat, Sean Duffy, but GOP Rep. Paul Ryan, whose "economic elite" agenda Obey dissected piece by piece - not only lambasting Duffy's kneejerk support and the GOP leadership's carelessly quick reading of the plan, but also Ryan's "betrayal of the Wisconsin LaFollette tradition" originally created by Republicans.

Obey was just warming up. While graciously accepting the honor from the Wisconsin Alliance for Retired Americans, he praised their recognition of Sen. Feingold and skewered in detail Feingold's opponent, Ron Johnson, as deserving "the lifetime award for hypocrisy."

Obey's penetrating analysis of the political scene followed a veteran insight into looming government distress for seniors. Barbara Kennelly (photo far left), a retired elected official now heading the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, recalled how she was there in the 1980s when the painful decision was made to raise the retirement age over time to 67 and lift the floor on eligible wages to \$106,000 a year. "That was tough," she recalled, but it



preserved Social Security solvency for decades to come, requiring only a few bipartisan fixes from now on.

But she fears recommendations from a new commission, craftily stalled until just after the election, expecting an attempt to raise the retirement age to 70. "The older folks on the commission sit in air-conditioned offices and have comfortable lives," she noted, "and they don't think what that will mean for nurses who have to lift the dead weight of patients, or construction workers or machine operators. Such careers can't do that at 70. We have to fight all these myths."

BEFORE THE LUNCHEON, media cameras and supporters gathered outside (far left) to help alliance president Leon Burzynski and noted health care advocate and nurse Vivien De Back announce group support for Feingold, whom the speakers described not only as a champion of Social Security but one of the few in Congress who clearly understand its methods and principles.

OTHER HONOREES (below) were Margarita Garcia Guerrero, the tireless director of the Near Southside Interfaith Outreach program, and veteran state Senate leader Dave Hansen. Not pictured are AFSCME retirees Joe Kreuser and Jerry LaPoint.



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Think you're angry? Not like these people

By **Jim Hightower**
for *OtherWords.org*

Look out. They're angry. Foaming-at-the-mouth angry. And they're lashing out, saying they won't take it anymore. As one of their leaders angrily cried, "It's a war." Indeed--they're on the move to take their country

back.

Forget the tea party rowdies, I'm talking about the Champagne Party. More precisely, it's the Dom Pérignon-\$1000-a-bottle-Champagne Party, propelled by -- get this -- billionaires' rage.

Yes, some of the richest, most pampered people on the planet -- people who wallow in luxury every day, with never a concern about losing a job, a home, health care, or getting their kids into college -- these people are wailing in self-pity. They are Wall Street hedge-



fund operators, which essentially means they are high-flying financial flim-flammers. What has stoked them into an elitist fury is an Obama proposal to close off a ridiculous tax loophole that has let them pay only 15% of their lavish income in taxes, rather than the 35% rate that we commoners pay.

One of the richest of these raging billionaires, Stephen Schwarzman of the Blackstone

Group, sees Obama's proposal as an outrageous intrusion into the suites of the elite, comparing it to "when Hitler invaded Poland." This over-the-top-tantrum comes from a multibillionaire, a guy who spent \$3 million in 2007 to throw himself a birthday party. Come on, Steve, pay your taxes!

Pathetically, the real root of this sad Hedge Fund Rebellion is a feeling by these powerful, super-privileged megalomaniacs that they are being picked on. One even whined that asking hedge funders to pay taxes at the same rate as everyone else amounts to the "persecution of the minority."

Good grief man, get a grip! Next thing you know, these doofuses will hire Glenn Beck to host a weepy "Save the billionaires' Tax Loophole" telethon.

Jim Hightower is a radio commentator, writer, and public speaker.

Calendar

Visit www.milwaukeeelabor.org for updated events

Saturday, October 30
Labor2010 Halloween Walk, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Costume party for kids, breakfast, lunch, 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Tuesday, November 2
General Election! Make Sure to Vote
Polls open 7 a.m., close 8 p.m.

Wednesday, November 3
Monthly Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

Friday-Sunday, November 11-13
CBTU Regional Conference
Wyndham Hotel, See story on Page 6.

Wednesday, November 17
Executive Board Meeting
2 p.m., 633 S. Hawley Rd.

Wednesday, December 1
Monthly Delegate Meeting
6:30 p.m., Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Ave.

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RAE MATOWSKI	469
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	447

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 150	SCORE
EILEEN WESTERFIELD	213
RAE MATOWSKI	183
PHYLLIS NAVARRETE	171
MARLENE CORTEZ	148

IND. HIGH SERIES OVER 470	SCORE
DAN LAACK	648
WALLY GEISE	594
DEL GROSS	592
DON WIEDMANN	535
STEVE LINK	501
JOHN PADRON	479
GENE HERRICK	475

IND. HIGH GAME OVER 175	SCORE
WALLY GEISE	247
DAN LAACK	245
DEL GROSS	232
DON WIEDMANN	222
STEVE LINK	193
JOHN PADRON	183
GEORGE BARAK	182

Official notice

Nominations for USW Local 2-209 positions for Executive Board and Bargaining Committee will be conducted at the regular 10 a.m. membership meeting on Sunday, November 14, 2010, at the Ironworkers Hall, 12034 W Adler Lane. Elections will then be at a date yet to be determined in January, 2011. For more information please contact Andy Voelzke, Recording Secretary at (414) 531-4845 or watch for plant postings.

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Secret

From Page 1

look too deeply at any community (meaning organization) willing to help fund them.

While Obama created a leader-led revolution, this one had to think it was headless, meaning leaderless. From this alchemy was born the funding mechanism and general philosophy trying to elect unknown, untested and sometimes pretty weird candidates to major public office. The leaderless would back the unknown and untested -- because the two camps were most alike.

The key to the enterprise was not letting the Tea Party regulars know who was running the show, quietly choosing candidates or providing the money.

The mechanism became these cleverly named third-party groups to hide corporate roots while guiding the results. Fund the anger, link it to other groups and thus create a network of high-sounding conglomerate names.

This juggernaut includes Americans for Prosperity, American Justice Partnership, Crossroads, Citizens for a Sound Economy (morphed into Empower America, then FreedomWorks), American Future Fund, American Federation for Children, Club for Growth, the laughably named Patients United Now, and a moniker that sounds like a failed Marvel comic book, American Action Network.

For all, the money despite secretiveness and disguise comes from the same cartels, multi-national corporations, anti-regulators, acid-rain deniers, oil company financiers, health industry lobbyists, the Republican stalwarts like Karl Rove, Dick Arme and Ed Gillespie, and the billionaire David Koch who indirectly runs Americans for Prosperity.

The Koch family is quite a piece of work, ranked as the second-largest private industry in the US. Kansas-based Koch Industries operates oil refineries, Lycra fibers Brawny paper towels, Dixie cups, Georgia-Pacific lumber. The family has contributed more than \$100

million over three decades to dozens of its causes (34 groups in 2008 alone) reflecting evolving libertarian platforms more than Republican traditionalism -- causes like denying any human role in global warming and espousing an end to federal regulatory agencies.

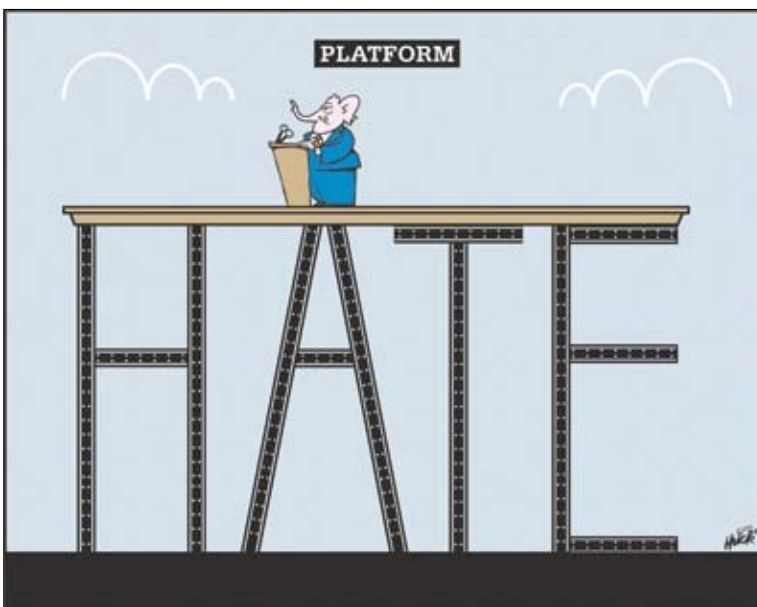
David Koch has not really moved from libertarian ideas formed in the 1970s but, tired of losing, he no longer openly champions abolishing the FBI and CIA and in 2010 was the largest single contributor to the Republican Governors Association.

The money involved from all this is genuinely staggering. While 2008 was a presidential race in which ad spending reached \$2.1 billion, analysts Borrell Associates says 2010 will reach \$4.2 billion! More than double -- all in a mid-term election!

Corporate and lobbying money aimed at stopping Obama, by accepting Tea Party candidates into the GOP fold regardless of ideological differences, has become a major part of the cash involved. Media Matters cites the now \$70 million that Rove-Gillespie have pledged through soft-money American Crossroads GPS.

But then the media watchdog added in the US Chamber of Commerce (\$75 million), the Koch-founded Americans for Prosperity (\$45 million), the Club for Growth (\$24 million at a minimum), the National Rifle Association (\$20 million), the Arme-run FreedomWorks (\$10 million) and a host of less prominent Republican groups -- "an eye-popping \$400 million in 'independent expenditures' - the Federal Election Commission's term for almost-unrestricted political campaign spending that can be impossible to trace back to its sources."

Most of these groups -- and some such as Concerned Taxpayers of America and Citizens for a Working America may not even be groups, just one big donor -- can hide who is giving thanks to the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling that tends to equalize big money and free speech. Such rulings further enable a raft of advocacy groups that -- mainly on the GOP side so far -- have become the big players because of the



anonymity they afford donors.

Even combinations of progressive groups fighting on the other side and seeking to exploit the same rules have to rely on fewer and smaller individual donations, by most accounts. They can't keep up with the corporate big money involved.

While one, the Greater Wisconsin Committee, has spent \$1.2 million going after Scott Walker, according to reports, it can't begin to compete with the \$2.2 million (and still growing) money attacking Tom Barrett from the Koch-supported Republican Governors Association and the American Justice Partnership.

The GOP still can't match Obama's power in small, fully reported donations on the Internet but it can thrive in a year he's not running. How? By relying on these third-party rules. The New York Times complained that this left its reporters "only scattered clues that can be gleaned about the financing, like the two \$1 million contributions from Louisiana companies tied to Harold Simmons, a Texas billionaire and longtime Republican donor who helped finance Swift Boat Veterans for Truth."

NPR tried to find the hidden givers for two other campaign networks assailing Democrats. The trail led to lobbyists connected to the largest health insurance providers in the nation.

Some of the most vicious ads, the reports revealed, had nothing to do with the issues for which these networks justify their secret funding -- education organizations attacking candidates for law and order

votes, health providers disguising how the stimulus bill created US jobs, free trade advocates attacking Wall Street regulation.

The journalists revealing these funding maneuvers by big business are hardly a liberal conglomerate, incidentally. Revelations have come from the Wall Street Journal as well as the New Yorker.

But not from News Corp. The parent of Fox News, part of the Murdoch empire, has actually split \$2 million between the US Chamber of Commerce and the Republican Governors Association specifically to support these "anti" campaigns.

While not all companies cross the boundaries of objective journalism so blatantly, most local and electronic media don't have a clue or frankly don't much care -- and from a venal standpoint it's understandable when you consider how much money the beleaguered and struggling media conglomerates are making from political advertising this year.

So neither they nor the Tea Party regulars nor much of the public were asking the obvious questions -- even in stories about Wisconsin.

It was better to pretend the Tea Party was a spontaneous outgrowth of discontent. But in the early days, when only a handful of Tea-people gathered on a street corner, how did Fox News know to send a camera?

Who then organized the larger rallies, paid for the conventions in tourist locations, excited the media into attention, created and distributed the placards, including those grotesque characterizations of Obama? (It turns out American for Prosperity made some of those signs look hand-made to fool the viewers.) The creation of Tea Party attention took a lot of organization and money. Hidden money.

Who funded the Texas gathering of 500 Tea Party activists, giving media time to bloggers previously ignored when they called Obama "the cokehead in chief"?

Why did the media not question the big money behind the clearly erroneous Tea Party charge that there were death panels in the health care bill? (It's an even more pertinent question

today since Pew Research reveals that most Americans actually wanted the government to do more about health care than is in the Obama bill.)

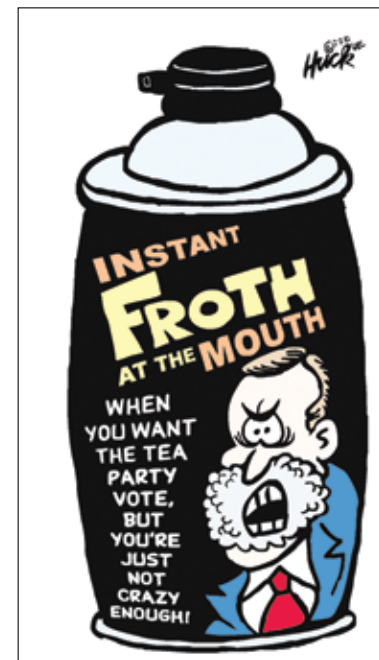
Only now does it come out that such meetings including the so-called spontaneous parties in Wisconsin were concocted and funded by the very lobbyists and oil company moguls that so many in the Tea Party believe they are fighting.

(There is continuing confusion about what the Tea Party actually supports. Polls indicate that a majority of Tea Party members think the free trade deals the US made hurt the country -- and so do most union members the Tea Party slogans blame. They oppose many of the principles their chosen candidates expound, such as ending Social Security and the Department of Education or allowing oil spills in the Gulf as the price of doing business.)

The trick has long been keeping the corporate funding hidden from its victims.

That was revealed recently when one of those active secret moneymen, "Bush brain" Rove (who has backed Rand Paul in Kentucky and Sharron Angle in Nevada), complained that the Tea Party had chosen the unelectable Christine O'Donnell as the GOP standard bearer in Delaware. He was immediately slapped down as an establishment father figure by Tea Party activists, including Sarah Palin.

Of course, they were biting



the hand that fed them but no one, not the GOP or even the candidates, are in control of this movement.

It's a tradition in America that populism, inspired by anger or a sense of lost power, can be hijacked, but never so clandestinely thanks to master puppeteers understanding the invisible strings of the Internet.

Leaderless is a two-edged sword - but this time the sharp if headless point is likely to stab the Tea Party believers along with the voters they are trying to herd. Their candidates in Wisconsin and elsewhere know darn well where the money and the real power come from. So they will never be beholden to any ground troops.

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Tim Carpenter
for State Senate District 3



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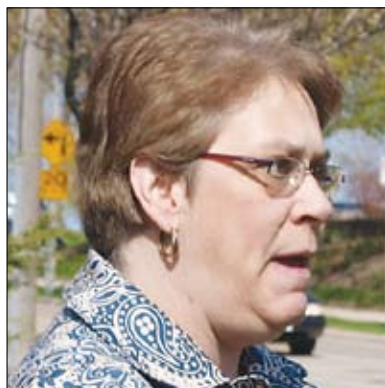
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Progress

From Page 1

uptick, new jobs every month where we once were losing 750,000 a month under George Bush, and essential public and private workers and industries redeemed.

In real ways, Milwaukee could see those burgeoning possibilities in the basement cavern of the Center of Excellence last August when the Carpenters and other unions set up the framework of a Milwaukee home, the Laborers Union assembled four different kinds of insulation to demonstrate proper installation and 14 eager residents took the classes as well as hands-on training in how to handle weatherization and become credentialed.

A DOE program augmented by private and public money is behind the effort, with funding for the training coming through the city's Century City contract to renovate buildings, including where Talgo will set up its factory to build high-speed trains (another recovery project). The money and cooperation will get even better in Milwaukee, where the newly approved ME2 will escalate \$12 million in DOE recovery funds for weatherization into \$72 million in federal, state and pledged private support -- money, supplies and services -- to retrofit at least 4,500 city homes and buildings.

The impressive fund combination is the still rare example of private-public cooperation.

But what the ME2 really demonstrates is how the public should measure success -- not in millions of jobs, alas, but in 12, 50, 100, a thousand jobs, a growth piece by piece to truly build a dynamic industry for the near future. There seems no other way out, just to steadily grow employment and skills in new industry, because the

concept must grow to prove its financial value.

ME2 attacks unemployment directly. It requires 40% local resident hiring and pushes the union-established concept of trained skills and long-term family supporting jobs.

The seeds were unveiled at the Center of Excellence. Led by initial materials from the Skilled Trades Collaborative and its partners in residential construction, galvanized by some \$6,000 in materials from Laborers Local 113, the training house in the basement became a central location for some 24 summer students, who also devoted hours in upstairs classrooms absorbing complex and simple knowledge, like which water heaters benefit from weatherization and which don't.

The eager and willing residents are being taken through the literal nuts and bolts and fine details of good weatherization - and they have to pass these three-week courses or they can't join the program as working apprentices. The training was supported by city funds through the Century City project and draws some funding from the MAWIB (Milwaukee's Workforce Investment Board).

The residents were from the 1st, 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 10th, and 15th districts. Involved along with WRTP/Big Step were veteran monitor of minority employment and business practices, Prism Technical, and experts from the steamfitters, laborers and other unions. Observing were officials from city and community agencies.

Eyeing the teaching with special interest was Tony Arteaga, the minority contractor who beat out Johnson Controls and others to win the Century City retrofit bidding.

The sort of fine tuning and cooperation now represented by ME2 came about through pressure from folks like WRTP/



Instructors demonstrate the do and don't of insulation and then take students upstairs to a Center of Excellence classroom to teach which water heaters benefit from weatherization work.



Big Step leaders and Pamela Fendt, green jobs coordinator with the Laborers union. Along with the Sierra Club and the Good Jobs and Livable Neighborhoods Coalition, they have worked months to make the case to private investors and public officials, including the Common Council and the WIB, trying to improve the pace of progress. One centerpiece is the Century City project at what once was derided as the wasteland where A.O. Smith and Tower Automotive thrived and then crumbled along Capitol Drive.

Federal stimulus initiatives are a main reason why Wisconsin, which wallowed at the bottom of federal coffers in the Bush years, has now jumped to 22nd on the list of states, receiving some \$21.14 billion in federal funds, a growth of more than 50%.

Yet the TV ads from the 19th century obstructionists say the stimulus isn't working. What they really mean is it's not working fast enough given their old policies that cost eight million jobs, so even saving or creating four million jobs by year's end through Obama incentives can't quite cut it.

Objectively the hole the US dug for itself under the philosophy of help the rich, soak the poor and wait in vain for trickle-down was a lot deeper than people realized. Now "We've got a public suffering so hard they can't see past their own navels," grouched one long out of work Milwaukee resident, "and some of the time I feel just like they do."

And that's the anomaly. President Obama says creating jobs should be the main business of the private sector, not the government. He just wanted to prime the pump and show the

way. Yet now he fields complaints the government isn't doing enough - and charges that the government is doing too much. The voters can't seem to make up their minds.

The public is only now starting to ask why the private sector is still sitting on \$1.8 trillion in profits, seeing how the stimulus is opening the door to money-making opportunities that would restore American economy and consumer spending.

In Leistikow's area, the stimulus is working mightily after what the administration has always conceded was a slow rocky start.

"There are states performing extremely well and there are states continuing to trail the national progress," he noted last August (and statistics along with the economy are even better today), so the states successfully weatherizing homes for low-income families and creating jobs in their local community far outweigh the handful of states with problems.

Among the leaders: Wisconsin. The state has

completed more than 30% of the homes targeted, one reason why the DOE weatherization effort has now expanded from a few million dollars to a \$5 billion project. (By June Wisconsin had weatherized more than 5,700 homes with Recovery Act funding, plus nearly 7,800 homes with annual program funding.)

The lack of similar tight-knit attention elsewhere -- no pressure to emphasize skills and excellence over quick rewards, no push to put residents back to serious work with serious long-term wages -- has emerged as a big reason weatherization got off to a slow start.

There was such an early eagerness in hard economic times to get the money into the system that some companies and well-meaning nonprofits were not watching the pennies, and no one was questioning why the private sector was sitting on its assets and letting government agencies take the weight.

In some states private contractors saw the gaps and took short cuts; public agencies and nonprofits treated the concept as some sort of 1930s "make work project" to get people off the streets for a little while rather than recognizing the enormous potential for ongoing energy efficiency and intelligent retrofitting. As a consequence, some taxpayers felt ripped off and some politicians and pundits scoffed.

Now the officials understand how the trade union emphasis on professional training, standards and apprentice advancement is necessary to assure private investors that the results will be of a quality to produce energy efficiency savings.

By November, when ME2 really starts humming, Milwaukee should see the difference -- but maybe not in time for the Nov. 2 election. Such is the reality facing not just the DOE but local leaders. The public, the politicians and the media measure success in millions of new jobs, but the growth of a new industry is going to come a house, an office building, a block, a neighborhood at a time. Ask the soldier. Ask the drunken driving victim. A step at a time.

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| Sengraph Communications, Inc. | Label #43 |
| Sun Printing | Label #7 |
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| Weber Printing Company | Label #67 |
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| MCP Company, Inc. | Label #1029P |

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

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SOME OF THE KEY PLAYERS

WRTP/Big Step - Using private and government grants, the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership and Big Step make up the Center of Excellence, a non-profit public interest organization -- now nationally recognized -- devoted to preparing people for family-sustaining jobs in Milwaukee. Its mission is to enhance private sector organizations to recruit and develop a more diverse qualified workforce in construction, manufacturing and related sectors and its programs over the last decade have placed more than 4,000 low-income, unemployed, and young job seekers into family-sustaining jobs.

Prism Technical Management & Marketing Services - the Milwaukee-based consulting firm that has monitored or coordinated the participation of minorities, women, small businesses, underemployed workers and apprentices on projects such as the Miller Park, Lambeau Field, City Hall and the Milwaukee Public Schools Neighborhood Schools Initiative. A consultant to the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee on the Century City project, Prism monitors contractor compliance with such workforce and contracting goals as Emerging and Local Business Enterprise preferences and participation, Prevailing Wage compliance, Residents Preference Program participation, apprentice utilization and On-the-Job training.

Some hard facts about the Recovery Act

As state gains, evidence refutes false charges

Frankly, political ads from all sides have muddied the hard facts. The right obfuscates or badly misstates; the left has trouble explaining the complicated details.

The problem may not be anger but correlation. Many people were better off in the Bush years and find it hard to believe that what happened then is what is clobbering them today. Much easier to blame what has happened since with health care and stimulus bills from a Democratic administration.

So what are the cold analytical numbers about the federal recovery act in Wisconsin?

Our main story on Page One discusses weatherization, but that is a blade of grass. Few realize the extent of the stimulus success. Even fewer read the data closely.

The congressional watchdog office does.

It estimates that 63,000 jobs in the state were created or saved through June 2010 as a direct result of ARRA (the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act). These jobs are supported by the more than \$6.7 billion in Recovery Act funds made available to Wisconsin - but only about \$4.6 billion of that has been spent. So the jobs numbers don't count some in the pipeline and don't include almost a third of the money and future jobs being checked and assigned.

It is still the private sector's job to replace most of the work lost, but the stimulus is certainly providing the American-centered bridge to span the hard times until the big money guys wake up.

Here so far is what the actual figures do show, and remember this is an expanding process:

- More than \$700.5 million has been obligated for 457 transportation projects. These projects are putting 974 people to work, and improving 490 miles of highway across the state. In most cases, public works are leading the way though they are employing many private sector companies.

- There are 2,407 Recovery Act-backed small business loans that have been given to Wisconsin small businesses, which are now investing \$948 million into creating new jobs and buying new equipment they said they needed to succeed and couldn't get big banks to help them.

To offer some different examples covering both technological advances and the traditional recreational business models:



Waukesha Electric Systems in Waukesha was awarded a clean energy manufacturing tax credit for \$12.5 million to expand an existing plant to produce large, high voltage power transformers. The company expects to add scores of family supporting jobs as a result.

Wingra Canoe and Sailing Center, operating since the 1950s in the Madison area, got a Recovery Act fee waiver and express loan assistance to open a new boat rental location close to a consumer center, and also to open up lake access and citywide service.

On other fronts:
 • Because of the Making Work Pay tax credit, 2.2 million Wisconsin working families will collectively receive \$1.2 billion in tax relief - dollars they can put to use immediately.

- More than 730,000 Wisconsin residents have expanded unemployment benefits because of the Recovery Act, giving their families breathing room as they pursue jobs in a tough economic climate.

- About 54,000 people in Wisconsin received COBRA benefits, due in part to Recovery Act investments.

- More than a million Wisconsin seniors and 31,171 veterans have received one-time

economic relief payments of \$250, totaling over \$263.3 million.

- Figures indicate 23,041 low-income undergraduate students in Wisconsin have received grants to help them further their education and provide opportunities they might not otherwise have.

- Professors, students, and other researchers in Wisconsin have received \$110 million to

THE DETERMINATION AND PERSONALITY his teachers saw in Mario Britton during the WRTP/Big Step weatherization training was quickly evident at the graduation ceremonies when he was picked as the student representative.

AFTER RECEIVING his accreditation diploma from his own alderman, Willie Wade (left), Mario talked honestly about how he was in jail when he sought an apprenticeship, desperate to turn his life around. He contacted every trade union he could think of and they all told him to go to Big Step, which took him into this project.

MARIO HAD A PLAN as well as determination -- to work everything through, to prepare every goal to reach a better life. The fight does begin with a single step -- but like Mario, always forward.

— Photo by Leah Ganjbakhsh

fund 345 health research projects and explore treatments and cures to medical issues that affect millions of Americans.

- As many as 1,058,562 people and 901 community institutions, such as schools and hospitals, stand to benefit from broadband projects in Wisconsin.

- The water infrastructure of Wisconsin will see significant improvements from the 103 rural water and waste disposal projects, and clean and drinking water projects launched across the state by the Recovery Act.

- More than 9,319 education positions were reported as funded by the Recovery Act in the second quarter of 2010 in Wisconsin - which has received more than \$1.5 billion in DOE funding.

- The Recovery Act has already made more than \$1.2 bil-

lion available to help prevent Medicaid cuts in Wisconsin.

- Law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin received more than \$12.2 million in funding to support 58 police officers' salaries and benefits for three years.

- Thanks to \$94 million in ARRA funding, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will widen -- from six to eight lanes -- a 35-mile section of I-94 from the Mitchell Interchange to the Illinois state line.

That's not just creating construction jobs right now, but laying the the foundation for private sector job growth for years to come. The next time someone asks what the stimulus has done for Wisconsin, cut out these figures and show them.

-- Dominique Paul North

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CHOSEN FOR THE YEAR'S Community Service award at the Labor Kick-Off Rally for United Way, veteran IAM Lodge leader and MALC activist Doug Curler hid his surprise at first by joking with his presenters – CEO Mary Lou Young and United Way campaign co-chair Lynne Sprangers (right). But then Curler – a military veteran as is his son – turned serious, reminding the crowd how returning vets need not just understanding and help for their obvious physical injuries but for the traumas hidden underneath. “That may not yet earn a Purple Heart but they should have our strongest support,” he said.

CURLER'S HONOR and his remarks drew warm applause from the crowd at the WRTP/Big Step Center of Excellence, turned into a nightclub of sorts for the event, with tables and drinks for chatting guests (below left) and delicacies catered by Mader's. Campaign leaders also spoke of how union workers, closer than many CEOs to the increased suffering in the community, are still the essential life's blood of the community giving.



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