

	COLUMBIA COUNTY CASE NO.	13JD00011
	DANE COUNTY CASE NO.	13JD000009
IN THE MATTER OF A JOHN	DODGE COUNTY CASE NO.	13JD000006
DOE PROCEEDING	IOWA COUNTY CASE NO.	13JD000001
	MILWAUKEE COUNTY CASE NO.	13JD000023

AFFIDAVIT OF ERIC O'KEEFE IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION OF THE CLUB FOR GROWTH AND ITS DIRECTORS TO QUASH SUBPOENAS

ERIC O'KEEFE, of lawful age, being duly sworn under oath, hereby deposes and states:

1. I am one of three Directors of the Wisconsin Club for Growth, Inc. (the "Club"), a corporation organized under the laws of Wisconsin and recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code.
2. The Club has two other directors, Charles Talbot and Eleanore Hawley.
3. I have personal knowledge of the Club's activities between 2009 and the date of this affidavit. Among other things, I have personal knowledge of the individuals and entities who have supported the Club's mission and have donated their time and resources to the Club. I also have personal knowledge of the decisions the Club has made to spend or donate its money and time in Wisconsin or in other states between 2009 and the date of this affidavit. I believe that my personal knowledge, or the information and belief I have gained through investigation, is coextensive with the knowledge and information of the Club relative to the topics addressed in this affidavit.
4. Many individuals and entities have donated money to the Club since 2009. These supporters have told me that they donate because they agree with the Club's beliefs regarding society and our democracy, and they know that the Club will use its resources wisely to promote our shared vision. In return, we solicit and accept donations from these individuals because they have expressed to us that they share our beliefs.
5. The Club and its supporters were aware of an intense legislative and public policy debate in Wisconsin beginning in 2011 when the administration of Governor Scott Walker took office and began to pass reform legislation with the help of allies in the Wisconsin legislature.
6. The most significant piece of legislation—but not the only legislation that the Club and its donors supported—was Act 10, a law containing several provisions intended to reform the governance and collective bargaining activities of public sector unions.
7. The Club and their supporters believed that the issues being debated in the Wisconsin legislature were at the core of the Club's mission in Wisconsin of advancing liberty and fiscal responsibility. The Club worked to educate Wisconsin citizens and advance its beliefs during the legislative debate.

8. Ultimately, the legislative allies of Governor Walker prevailed in the legislative and policy debate, and Act 10 passed.
9. The legislative and policy debate did not end with the passage of Act 10. Almost immediately after Act 10 passed, opponents began circulating petitions in 2011 to recall legislators and (later) Governor Walker based upon the stands they had taken on the legislative issues, most prominently Act 10. Wisconsin's recall provisions allow removal of officeholders in the middle of their terms while they are legislating and implementing policy, instead of during regularly-scheduled general elections. Additionally, in Wisconsin, an opponent may run against a candidate subject to recall. This means that recall elections typically focus on the official acts and legislative positions officeholders—and the promises of opponents to reverse those acts—even while officeholders are still legislating and implementing policy.
10. Not all of the 2011 and 2012 petitions gathered sufficient signatures to trigger recall elections for their targets. However, because several petitions did meet the signature threshold, recall elections for several Democratic and Republican legislators were held in 2011 and 2012. The recall election for Governor Walker was held on June 5, 2012.
11. The Club and its supporters believed that the unprecedented public debate generated by these 2011 and 2012 elections provided an ideal forum for the Club to continue promoting the pro-liberty, pro-growth message it had advanced during the legislative debates of 2011.
12. The Club paid for advertisements that advanced its pro-liberty, fiscal responsibility, pro-Act 10 beliefs during 2011 and 2012. None of the advertisements expressly urged voters to vote for or against any candidate.
13. The Club also gave grants to some organizations that then decided to use their money to express their own views—in accord with the Club's views—on public issues. To my knowledge, none of these other organizations' advertisements expressly urged voters to vote for or against any candidate.
14. The intense public debate that occurred in 2011 and 2012—primarily over Act 10 but also over other legislation—benefited the Club and its supporters by increasing the audience for their pro-liberty, pro-growth message.
15. However, there was a dark side to the public policy debate. Individuals and entities like the Club who espoused controversial views—or who were exposed as having contributed to or been members of other entities that may have espoused controversial views—were subjected to harassment and recriminations. These included boycotts, death threats, and other harassment.
16. As a director of the Club, I observed or was made aware of this harassment, which was widely known and reported in Wisconsin during 2011 and 2012. Although it is only a representative sampling, I observed or was made aware of at least the following instances of official and private harassment and recriminations against individuals or entities who held pro-liberty, pro-fiscal responsibility, pro-Act 10 views like those of the Club.
17. For example, contributors to the Scott Walker gubernatorial campaign from specific Wisconsin cities were targeted for boycotts by anti-Walker forces, including teacher's unions. Examples of this include the following:


- a. In February 2011, Marshfield, Wisconsin, teachers obtained the names of 58 local Walker contributors and circulated an email identifying the contributors and their employers. *See Exhibit A, Mass Email Reveals Local Wisconsin Teachers Union Identified Walker Supporters for Boycott*, Education Action Group Foundation, June 27, 2012.
- b. In Union Grove, Wisconsin, business owners were sent a letter by an American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees official, warning that any businesses without a pro-union sign would be subjected to a boycott. *See Exhibit A.*
- c. A "Boycott Scott Walker Contributors" Facebook group was formed on February 13, 2011, and, as late as June 27, 2012, still had 23,409 "likes." As of mid-October 2013, the website still had over 22,000 likes and contained many updated comments. *See Exhibit B, Boycott Scott Walker Contributors Facebook page.*
- d. M & I Bank in Milwaukee was subject to a threatening letter sent by seven unions, which apparently believed that the bank had contributed to Governor Walker's campaign, and gave the bank until March 17, 2011, to publicly oppose Governor Walker's efforts or face a boycott. A bank branch in Greendale, Wisconsin, was vandalized with anti-Walker and pro-union spraypaint, and at least some customers boycotted the bank. *See Exhibit C, Teachers, Firefighters, Cops Target M & I with Boycott*, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Mar. 10, 2011; *see also Exhibit D, M & I Bank Vandalized with Anti-Walker Graffiti*, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Mar. 14, 2011.
- e. As of February 2011, the website DemocraticUnderground.com, maintained a list of "Walker contributors for boycotting," including all contributors or employers of contributors of \$5,000 or more. *See Exhibit E, List of Walker Contributors for Boycotting*, democraticunderground.com, Feb. 18, 2011.
- f. A March, 2011, online article, "Koch-Blocked: Judge Blocks Wisconsin Anti-Workers Bill," contained inflammatory attacks on presumed Walker supporters, stating that "the judge also said Walker should be hanged, by fireman. Haha just kidding! She didn't say exactly that." The article then called on the public to boycott Dixie cups and Brawny towels because they were brands purportedly owned by "libertarian-extremist billionaires David and Charles Koch." *See Exhibit F, Koch-Blocked: Judge Blocks Wisconsin Anti-Workers Bill*, wonkette.com, Mar. 18, 2011.
- g. A March 8, 2011, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel article reported that a boycott list maintained by ScottWalkerWatch.com had more than 4.5 million hits in 3 weeks. Pressure from the boycott forced many Wisconsin companies to issue statements regarding Walker's policies or the political process. *See Exhibit G, Websites Back Boycotts of Walker Contributors*, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Mar. 8, 2011.
- h. The ScottWalkerWatch website is still active, and contains links to sub-pages for (1) attacking presumed Walker donors "Koch Brothers"; (2) "recall archives;" and (3) information on rumors and leaks used to

- politically attack Walker and his supporters, relating to the previous John Doe investigation into employees and associates of the County Executive's office. *See* scottwalkerwatch.com.
- i. On boycott websites, activists expressed feelings of anger and rage against companies whose employees had contributed to Walker, or who were members of trade groups who had supported Walker. One commenter stated, "[T]he core issue is that we've reached a state of 'war.' Koch/Walker/etc. own the [governor's office], the Senate and the Assembly...So yes, in times of war, there will be collateral damage." *See* Exhibit H, *Boycott of Businesses that Supported Walker Gains Steam on Facebook*, Wisconsin State Journal, Mar. 10, 2011.
 - j. The website "Boycott Koch Industries" is still active, with 9,102 "likes." *See* Exhibit I, *Boycott Koch Industries* Facebook page.
18. Supporters of the Club's beliefs were also subject to physical intimidation and violence:
- a. On April 1, 2011, a woman from Cross Plains, Wisconsin, was charged with two felonies for threatening to kill 15 Republican state senators who voted in favor of Governor Walker's collective bargaining proposal; she had emailed them that opponents of the legislation were planning "to assault you by arriving at your house and putting a nice little bullet in your head" and said "we have built several bombs that we have placed in various locations around the areas in which we know that you frequent." *See* Exhibit J, *26-Year-Old Woman Charged with Sending Death Threats to GOP Senators in Wisconsin*, Newscom, Apr. 1, 2011.
 - b. Similar threats were reported to have been received by the Mackinac Center, a research and educational institute that supports labor reform and right to work laws. *See* Exhibit K, *Mackinac Center Received Bomb Threats and Death Threats Over FOIA Request*, Michigan Capitol Confidential, Apr. 1, 2011.
 - c. By early March, 2011, the Republican caucus in the Wisconsin legislature had received at least a dozen credible, specific death threats. *See* Exhibit L, *Death Threats from the Left*, Washington Times, Mar. 18, 2011.
 - d. Numerous death threats were directed against Governor Walker after his recall victory in June 2012, prompting investigations by the Milwaukee Police Department. *See* Exhibit M, *Gov. Scott Walker Death Threats After Recall Victory Being Investigated by Police*, NY Daily News, June 6, 2012.
 - e. In January 2013, it was reported that Governor Walker and/or his family had received over 65 death threats since taking office in early 2011; most of the death threats were received shortly after he took office and announced his proposed legislation on collective bargaining. *See* Exhibit N, *Justice Department not Investigating Gov. Scott Walker Death Threats*, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Jan. 14, 2013.
 - f. Supporters of Governor Walker—not just officeholders—have also been threatened. An 80-year-old LaCrosse-area business owner wrote a letter to the editor supporting Walker, and thereafter she and her family began to


receive threats of personal harm. A smear campaign was also begun against her business. *See* Exhibit O, *80-Year-Old Supporter of Wisconsin Governor gets Death Threats*, examiner.com, May 19, 2012.

19. Opponents of the Club and its position on Wisconsin legislative issues have already targeted me and other presumed Club supporters, accusing us (or the Club) of being part of a vast conspiracy that should be investigated for violating Wisconsin campaign finance law. *See* Exhibit P, *Who Is Behind Wisconsin Club for Growth?*, His Vorpall Sword, Feb. 22, 2011.
20. The Club's supporters have told me that they are aware of the well-publicized harassment that occurred in Wisconsin against political allies of the Club or against individuals or entities who are presumed to have supported the Club's pro-liberty, pro-fiscal restraint, pro-Act 10 beliefs. These supporters are concerned that they will be subject to similar official and private reprisals and harassment if their financial support of the Club and its beliefs becomes known.
21. Because the Club has been recognized as a tax-exempt social welfare organization under the Internal Revenue Code, it is not required to disclose its donors, and federal law generally prohibits the Internal Revenue Service from disclosing this information to third parties. *See* 26 U.S.C. 6103 and 6104.
22. Accordingly, the Club advises donors that their identities are protected from disclosure by the Internal Revenue Service under federal law.
23. Further, I have discussed with donors the fact that their donations would not be made public, and that this would protect them from the kinds of harassment that has occurred in Wisconsin against supporters of the Club's views.
24. Since the 2012 recall elections, the Club has continued to monitor public policy issues in Wisconsin and communicate with donors, supporters, and political allies and associates about plans for continued political speech in Wisconsin and other states.
25. Donors and supporters have told me they remained concerned about disclosure of their identities and the disclosure of internal political communications and strategy.
26. Additionally, even after the 2012 election cycle, harassment and recriminations against individuals and entities who were publicly identified as espousing views like those of the Club continued. As set forth above, many of the websites used to target and attack individuals who espouse the Club's beliefs are still active.
27. The instant John Doe criminal proceeding has itself chilled and, in some cases, frozen, the Club's intimate associations with its political and ideological associates and allies.
28. For example, many Club records were stored at the homes of Deborah Jordahl and R.J. and Valerie Johnson, who had contractual relationships with the Club. When the Club contacted these individuals to obtain access to documents after receiving the subpoena at issue in this motion, the Club learned that the documents had been confiscated by law enforcement in a surprise pre-dawn seizure.

FURTHER, THE AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.


Eric O'Keefe

Subscribed and sworn before me this ^{24th}~~27~~th day of October, 2013.


Notary Public

Robin J. Turetsky
Notary Public, State of Michigan
County of Kent
My Commission Expires July 16, 2017



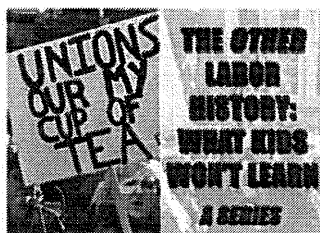
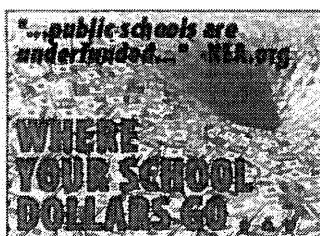
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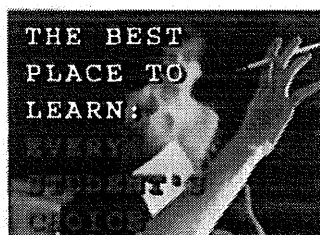
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Mass email reveals local Wisconsin teachers union identified Walker supporters for boycott

 290 12

 By Ben Velderman
 EAGnews.org

MARSHFIELD, Wis. – In late February of 2011, Marshfield business owner John Nikolai received a troubling email that dragged him into the middle of Wisconsin's messy fight over collective bargaining privileges for public sector unions.

The email contained a list of 58 Marshfield residents who had contributed to Scott Walker's 2010 gubernatorial campaign, including how much they contributed and the names of their employers.

"The attached list of Walker contributors may be of interest for whatever reason," read the message that was forwarded by teacher Peggy Hartwig to her fellow Marshfield Area Teachers Association members and two school administrators on February 20, 2011.

The original email came from a man named Terry Gillespie, who is not listed as a school district employee. Hartwig forwarded Gillespie's email, adding her own comments above his.

"Thought you would like to see this!" Hartwig wrote to MTA members. "Thank you for your continued support."

Nikolai received a copy of the email from "a friend," but he didn't believe the donor list was being passed around "for whatever reason," as the email suggested. The message was sent with a very specific reason: MTA members were being given a list of local, pro-Walker businesses that could be boycotted by union supporters.

The email's implied threat of financial retribution against political opponents mirrored bullying union tactics used in other Wisconsin communities.

In Union Grove, business owners were sent a letter by an American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees official, warning that any businesses without a pro-union sign in the window would be subjected to a boycott.

The "Boycott Scott Walker Contributors" Facebook group was also formed on February 13, 2011 in order "to shine a spotlight on companies that support Scott Walker" in favor of "local small businesses that benefit our communities," according to the group's mission statement.

The group is still active, and currently has 23,409 "likes."

It was this atmosphere in which Hartwig's email was sent, and added to the perception that the teachers union was willing to intimidate or financially punish anyone who dared to support their enemy.

Of course the bully tactics did not work. Walker retained his office by a healthy margin. But the unions were once



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[October 2013](#) (90)

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[December 2012](#) (137)

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more exposed for being pushy, arrogant and willing to stoop to any level to get what they want.

A citizen demands answers

This wasn't Nikolai's first encounter with teacher union radicals. During the height of the union protests at the state capitol building in February of 2011, Nikolai was in Madison for the Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce conference to network with fellow business owners and meet with legislators.

Several of those appointments were cancelled, due to the disruptive presence of the protesters. Nikolai and several other business leaders went to the capitol building to get a first-hand view of the chaos.

To his surprise, several Marshfield teachers were at the protests, rather than in their classrooms.

So Nikolai knew there were some hardcore political activists in the local teachers union.

After discovering that his name was on the Walker donor list that had been circulated among MTA members, Nikolai decided to get some answers from school officials.

On March 3, 2011, Nikolai sent an email to Patrick Saucerman, the Marshfield school district's director of business services, asking for an explanation.

"Hi Pat," Nikolai wrote. "Can't tell you how proud I am to be on this list. Just want to make sure that the teachers in this email were not on the taxpayer payroll when they were in Madison. I fully support their right to protest on their own time.

"Also, not sure what 'mtastaff' is, but was wondering if it is school district affiliated, and if it is, if I can use the email list as this private citizen did."

But Nikolai didn't receive a satisfactory response, and he was still requesting answers from the district nearly three weeks later.

"I have had cause to send 13 emails (now 14 emails) about an email that was sent out on district computer equipment, on a district email list (not available to district taxpayers) with a list of people who have given donations to a political campaign," Nikolai wrote in a March 20, 2011 message to Saucerman.

"We have local business owners being contacted by district employees and being told that boycotts of services will happen because of their support of the 'offending' candidate. I asked you if anyone from the district has looked into this matter - you either missed the question or chose not to answer it.

"Personal emails should be protected ... but at my company or any other company in the district, whatever an employee writes via email on a company owned computer using a company owned server ... is subject to review and oversight by the company ownership," Nikolai wrote.

Teacher disciplined for sending email

Eventually, Nikolai spoke with then-Superintendent Bruce King, who told him the district had handled the problem.

King "assured me that disciplinary action was being taken and that he personally spoke to all the teachers involved and assured me that everyone understood the email policy, so emails used for union organizing would not be allowed on district equipment," Nikolai wrote in a letter to board members.

Peg Geegan, Marshfield's current superintendent, told EAGnews the teacher who originally forwarded the email was reprimanded by the district and sanctioned by her union.

Considering that Walker survived his recall election, and no damaging boycotts appear to have materialized in Marshfield, some will label the email incident as ancient history that's best forgotten.

That would be a mistake.

If anything, the fact that business boycotts were even considered by the MTA reveals the depths unions will sink to fight their political battles. Teacher unions will tear communities apart, just to get their way in the state

[July 2012](#) (114)[June 2012](#) (131)[May 2012](#) (134)[April 2012](#) (109)

legislature or at the bargaining table.

It's a lesson taxpayers must remember, because Wisconsin's public sector labor unions are still a force to be reckoned with. If people forget what they're capable of, the state may be doomed to relive its Big Labor nightmare, over and over again.

Obama Health

Attention Teachers

Comments



Add a comment...

☒ Post to Facebook

Posting as Stephanie O'Keefe (Not you?)

Comment

More & Get A Quote!

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Posted on: June 27th, 2012 by Jason [1 Comment](#)

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Links to tables with prices for health. Below are links to with prices for health.

Highlights

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Write something...

Boycott Scott Walker Contributors
10 hours ago

Standard and Poor's estimates the cost of the government shutdown at 24 BILLION dollars. Think about that for a moment. TWENTY FOUR BILLION DOLLARS. Think of how many research grants that would have funded. Or how many small business grants could have been made. Or how many teachers could have been hired. Or how many veterans could have received job training. And on and on and on.

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28

68 people like this.

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Linda Gonzales Actually, the cost is much, much more...during the shutdown, the US had to borrow at inflated rates (no one would lend at the regular lower rates with the US tilting toward disaster) and that added another \$22 billion to the \$6 million the shutdown itself cost us each and EVERY day!!
about an hour ago · Like · 2



Brenda Janldio those Teabaggers should pay it back
38 minutes ago · Like



Write a comment...

Boycott Scott Walker Contributors shared One Wisconsin Now's photo.
10 hours ago

Yep. Ron Johnson voted against re-opening the government and for default.

(DIS)LIKE: If you were one of 18 senators who voted tonight to allow the United States of America to default, please raise your hand.

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October 13 at 3:09pm



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1 · October 12 at 1:56pm



Michael Martin
Michael posted a photo.
2 · October 10 at 7:40pm

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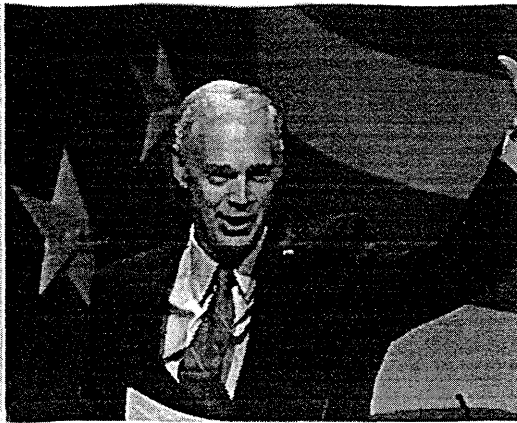
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Sharon Olson He was all over the morning news saying he did this because he didn't want to burden children in the future with all this debt. Well, Ronnie, I'll tell you what -- here's what will help children in the future:
1. Education - NOW
2. Health care - NOW... See More
about an hour ago · Like · 5



Marguerite Kreger Come on Wisconsin voters...VOTE JOHNSON OUT!!!!
34 minutes ago · Edited · Like · 1



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors shared Robert Reich's status.
Yesterday

I'm not sure what I would call it, Robert, but I know one thing and that is I will never, ever buy any of their products again.

(Koch Industries - Angelsoft Toilet paper, Vanity Fair napkins, Brawny paper towels, Dixie cups and plates.)

Suppose a relatively small group financed by a handful of billionaires (1) takes over state governments in order to redistrict, gerrymander, require voter IDs, purge voter rolls, and otherwise suppress the votes of the majority; (2) secretly bankrolls candidates for these safe seats who pledge to shrink and dismember the government; (3) then, once these candidates are elected, has them shut down t... See More

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61 people like this.

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Mickey Crittenden A concerted boycott of all things Koch-related is in order to combat the sedition of the Koch brothers and their Tea Party creation that has done serious damage to our great nation. Such a boycott will deter all of the other Koch-wanabees.
12 hours ago · Like



Betty Kossik Boycotting all this stuff since the Walker 2011 days, Walmart before that. Yes, the hardest thing to do without is Northern bath tissue. I would certainly agree with that. Won't go into a Kwik Trip either.
10 hours ago · Like



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors shared a note.
October 13

Reposting this note - in it you will find links to tables with prices for health insurance offered on the Obamacare

I think this may be one of the most insightful articles I've read about what motivates the tea party. And it strikes me that much is about fear - fear of change:

"But the kamikaze caucus, by seeking to block the president by any means ne... See More



<http://www.nationaljournal.com/political-connections/will-the-kamikaze-caucus-doom-the-gop-20131010>
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Christopher Paul Severson Concise and insightful article. Thanks for linking!
23 hours ago via mobile · Like



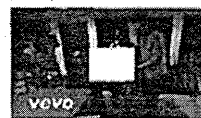
Brad Nelson fear that obama will take from them to give to the poor
22 hours ago · Like



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors shared a link.
October 14

Justin Vernon, and The Blind Boys of Alabama - cool new music recorded in Wisconsin - outside Eau Claire I think.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFGdOCPstTY>



The Blind Boys of Alabama - The Making of I'll Find A Way

Directed by Dan Huiting Buy the new album, "I'll Find a Way" at Amazon
<http://smarturl.it/blindboyscd> Music video by The Blind Boys of Alabama

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8 people like this.



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors The album from this recording "I'll Find a Way" includes the Blind Boys singing a rendition of "I Shall Not Be Moved" - perfect.
October 14 at 9:41pm · Like · 1



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors shared a link.
October 14

"Problem solving ahead of the politics."

Personally I think she - Mary Burke - is a breath of fresh air.

I also think Kathleen Vinehout would be a fantastic governor - she's been working really, really hard for Wisconsin.

exchange for Wisconsin. Tables are sorted by county. Insurance policies are listed according to their metal level (catastrophic, bronze, silver, gold, platinum). Prices are shown for individuals, couples and families.

Links to tables with prices for health insurance in Wisconsin (unsubsidized, by county)

Below are links to tables with prices for health insurance (unsubsidized) by WI county. My computer had difficulty scrolling through the complete file so split the file into smaller files. I downloaded the data from the healthcare.gov webs...

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9 people like this.



Earl Schlueter Is this by month, or yearly?
October 13 at 7:44pm · Like



Boycott Scott Walker Contributors Earl Schlueter · by month.
October 13 at 8:58pm · Like



Burke: In race to win
www.wisn.com

Candidate for governor Mary Burke answers critics who say she's been anointed by party bosses.

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37 people like this.

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Gene Rankin Read her own words, Brad.
October 15 at 9:39am · Like



Kim Darling I'll wait for the debates to make a decision either way...let the best candidate win...and beat the tar out of Walker (figuratively of course).
October 15 at 1:23pm via mobile · Like · 2



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Teachers, firefighters, cops target M&I with boycott

By Patrick Marley of the Journal Sentinel
March 10, 2011

Madison -- Teachers, firefighters and police officers said they would begin a boycott of M&I Bank if the bank does not begin publicly opposing Gov. Scott Walker's efforts to curtail collective bargaining for public workers.

Unions representing those groups said they would start other boycotts of businesses that backed Walker in his campaign.

The letter to M&I President Tom Ellis said the boycott would begin March 17 if the bank hasn't opposed Walker's efforts by then.

"In the event that you cannot support this effort to save collective bargaining, please be advised that the undersigned will publicly and formally boycott the goods and services provided by your company," the letter says. "However, if you join us, we will do everything in our power to publicly celebrate your partnership in the fight to preserve the right of public employees to be heard at the bargaining table."

The letter was sent by the heads of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 311, Madison Teachers Inc., Green Bay Education Association, Dane County Deputy Sheriffs Association and the Madison Professional Police Officers Association.

The Professional Police Association represents dozens of municipal and county law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Sara Schmitz, a spokeswoman for the bank, did not have an immediate comment on the letter.

Earlier this week, the bank, reacting to showing up on a Facebook-sponsored list of boycott targets around the state, said that "Marshall & Ilsley Corporation and M&I Bank have not made contributions to any political campaign in Wisconsin. By law, corporations and businesses are not permitted to make direct contributions to political campaigns.

"Individual employees may choose, at their own discretion and based on their political beliefs, to make contributions to political campaigns. Donors are typically required to identify their employer. Each campaign -- Scott Walker and Tom Barrett -- received voluntary contributions from individual M&I employees."

Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/blogs/news/117756068.html>

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M&I branch vandalized with anti-Walker graffiti

By Don Walker of the Journal Sentinel
March 14, 2011

Greendale - Police said Monday they are investigating an incident Saturday night in which a citizen saw someone spray-painting anti-Gov. Scott Walker graffiti on the side of an M&I Bank branch at Southridge.

Interim Police Chief Bob Malasuk said Monday the bystander spotted the vandal just after 10 p.m. spray-painting the building. No suspect has yet been apprehended.

Malasuk said words such as *Traitor* and *Unions are Forever*, as well as profanity directed at Walker were spray-painted on the wall.

The damage has been cleaned up.

Last week, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, the Professional Fire Fighters of Wisconsin, the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 311, Madison Teachers Inc., Green Bay Education Association, Dane County Deputy Sheriffs Association and the Madison Professional Police Officers Association announced a boycott against businesses because they supported Walker directly, because company executives supported Walker's campaign or because the companies are members of Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce, a pro-business group that supported the governor, or all three.

The groups formally asked the bank to express support for public employee collective bargaining rights. The groups said they would encourage their members to boycott if the bank didn't express support.

M&I Bank was the first company named as part of the boycott. Later Monday, Jim Palmer, executive director of the Wisconsin Professional Police Association, denounced the vandalism.

"Wisconsin has established a new standard when it comes to civil discourse, and illegal acts like vandalism only serve to undermine what has been a peaceful outpouring of support for Wisconsin's public employees," Palmer said in a statement. "Voluntary consumer activism is one way to protest the position of M&I and others who choose not to support collective bargaining. Vandalism, on the other hand, is unacceptable."

The bank has said that it has not taken, or will not take, a position on the governor's budget-repair bill.

The bank said in a statement that it has not contributed to any candidate.

EXHIBIT D

Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/117929494.html>

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List of Walker contributors for boycotting

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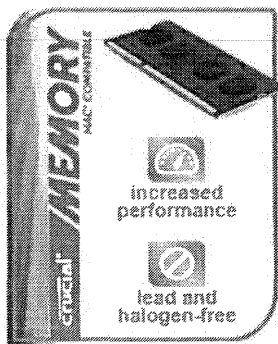
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Original message**List of Walker contributors for boycotting**

Please forward to your mailing list. There is a Facebook movement to boycott supporters of Scott Walker, Boycott Scott Walker Contributors. Most notable: TDS, Kwik Trip, Walmart, Jonsonville Foods, M&I Bank, Miller/Coors, SC Johnson.

Please get everyone you know involved. I will be sending this to TDS and canceling our service!

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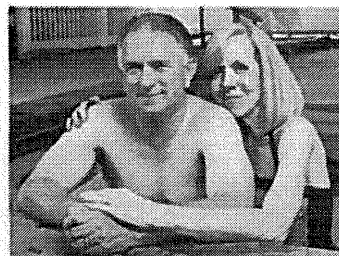
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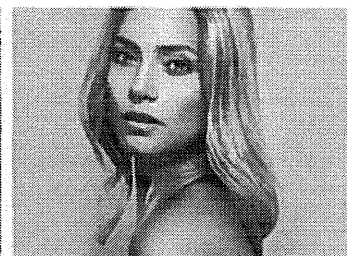
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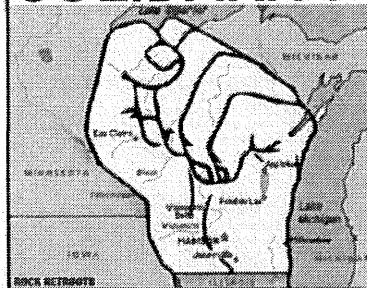
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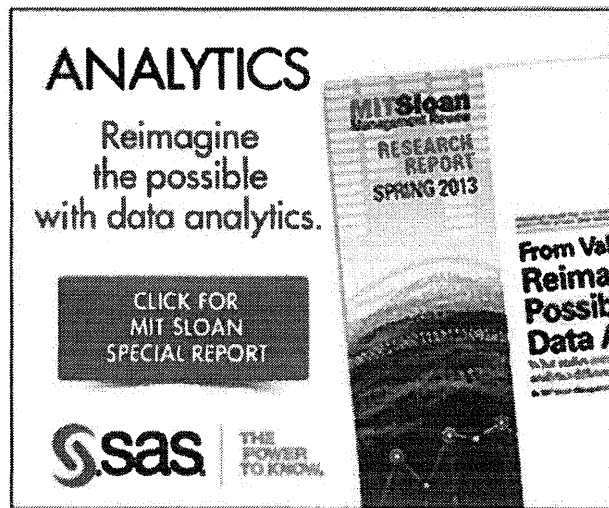
by [Ken Layne](#)

SOLIDARITY



A Wisconsin judge has temporarily blocked Scott Walker's anti-workers bill from taking effect, saying the Wisconsin legislators' passage of the law was likely illegal as it violated the state's Open Meetings law. In other words, Walker's errand for the Koch Brothers seems to have failed, at least in the short term. The judge also said Walker should be hanged, by firemen. Haha just kidding! She didn't say *exactly* that.

The [Wisconsin State-Journal reports](#) on this morning's courtroom drama:



Dane County Circuit Judge Maryann Sumi [on] Friday issued a temporary order blocking implementation of Gov. Scott Walker's controversial measure limiting collective bargaining rights for public employees, saying a legislative committee likely violated the state Open Meetings Law when it rushed passage of the bill March 9.

The ruling bars Secretary of State Doug La Follette from publishing the law, the last step before it can take effect. La Follette had planned to publish the law on March 25, which would cause it to take effect the following day.

Hooray. Your move, Walker we mean, "your move, libertarian-extremist billionaires David & Charles Koch, who own such popular brands as BRAUNY paper towels and DIXIE cups and other forest-raping crap people don't need and should be boycotted forever." [Wisconsin State Journal]

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BUDGET BATTLE

Websites back boycotts of Walker contributors

Some well-known area companies make the target list

By Don Walker of the Journal Sentinel

March 8, 2011

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Through Facebook and at least one website, opponents of Gov. Scott Walker's policies are backing boycotts of companies whose executives or political action committees made major contributions to the governor's campaign.

One Facebook page, called "Boycott Scott Walker Contributors," has more than 9,000 followers. On the site, users can link to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, which maintains a campaign finance database, to determine who made contributions.

Among the companies that have been targeted are M&I Bank, Northwestern Mutual Insurance Co., Johnsonville Sausage, the Wisconsin Realtors Association, the Wisconsin Automobile and Truck Dealers Association and Georgia-Pacific, which is owned by Koch Industries, a privately held company owned by David and Charles Koch, both of whom are Walker backers.

The boycott opens a new front in the ideological battle set off by opposition to Walker's budget-repair bill and the release of his budget plan for the next two years.

On the Web, a site called [ScottWalkerWatch.com](#) also maintains a boycott list.

Much of the campaign donation information comes from the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, a political watchdog group.

Mike McCabe, the group's executive director, said that, in the past three weeks, there have been more than 4.5 million hits to the campaign finance database.

"The boycott sites have been referring people to our website," McCabe said. "We don't know who is behind this."

Though McCabe says his group is nonpartisan, McCabe's site has been critical of Walker.

"We are definitely troubled by his proposal," McCabe said. "We are concerned about the direction this state is headed in."

Companies respond

Some companies have tried to be proactive about the boycott effort.

Chris Snyder, general counsel for the automobile group, said his organization sent out a suggested response to auto dealers telling them how to react to customers. The script in part reads:

"We at (blank) share your concerns regarding actions that the state is taking in an attempt to rectify Wisconsin's budget and economy woes. We have many customers who work for the state and any actions that have a detrimental effect on our customers' incomes and cost of living expenses is something that we take notice of."

The script also notes that the auto dealers and the trade association give

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to both Republicans and Democrats.

Jean Towell, a Northwestern Mutual spokeswoman, said her firm was aware of the boycott efforts. The company has political action committees in which money voluntarily donated by employees is sent to campaigns of both parties. Policyholders' money is not used, she said.

At M&I Bank, the bank issued a statement last month about the boycott effort. "Marshall & Isley Corporation and M&I Bank have not made contributions to any political campaign in Wisconsin. By law, corporations and businesses are not permitted to make direct contributions to political campaigns," the statement said.

"Individual employees may choose, at their own discretion and based on their political beliefs, to make contributions to political campaigns. Donors are typically required to identify their employer. Each campaign - Scott Walker and Tom Barrett - received voluntary contributions from individual M&I employees."

Mike Theo, head of the legal and public affairs department at the Wisconsin Realtors Association, said his group endorsed Walker in the gubernatorial campaign. But he said the association endorsed Walker within the context of issues of importance to members, such as property tax relief, land use planning and economic development.

He said it was unfortunate his group was on a boycott list.

"People are not compelled to work with a Realtor," Theo said.

At Johnsonville Sausage, Christine Wallace, a spokesman said the firm appreciated consumers' interest in the political process.

"We respect the passion consumers have for this issue and recognize the debate and dialogue we're seeing today is what makes our country great," she said.

A Koch spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

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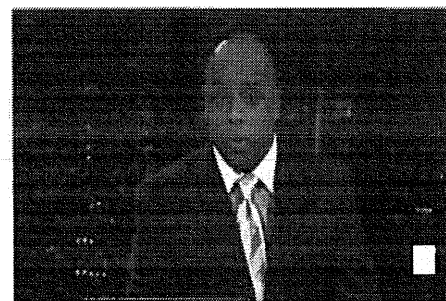


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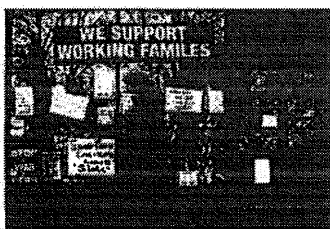
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Boycott of businesses that supported Walker gains steam on Facebook

March 10, 2011 9:55 am • KAREN RIVEDAL | krivedal@madison.com | 608-252-6106 (0) Comments



Signs supporting the protest efforts of demonstrators against Gov. Scott Walker's policies are seen in the window of Savoir Faire, a Downtown Madison gift shop.

Enlarge Photo

M&I Bank says it's neutral on budget bill

M&I Bank said it will not take a public stance on Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget repair bill. [Read more](#)

WMC urges opposition to boycott effort

Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce is calling on residents to "stand up to government union boss intimidation" and ignore calls for a possib... [Read more](#)

Union leader says no boycott planned, blames

'overzealousness' for threats



UNION GROVE — The local government workers union is threatening to boycott numerous businesses here for declining to display a

About halfway down a Facebook page devoted to organizing boycotts of companies associated with deep-pocket political contributors to Gov. Scott Walker, there was this sobering comment:

"I don't think I can be part of this anymore," wrote Mary Possin, a small-business owner in Monona. Possin said she couldn't support the page's directions that consumers not buy products from businesses including Johnsonville Sausage, Sargento, Menards and M&I Bank.

"Has anyone considered the impact on the workers of these businesses? They will be the ones who are hurt," Possin added, noting small businesses that carry boycotted products would be most vulnerable. "The fat cats will still be fat."

But Possin's concerns — so different in tone and substance from the bulk of comments on this passionately anti-Walker, anti-big business page — were quickly dispatched by other posters, including page co-administrator Sam Hokin, who also runs a small business in the Madison area.

"I think we all share your concerns, Mary," Hokin said. "But the core issue is that we've reached a state of 'war.' Koch/Walker/etc. own the (governor's office), the Senate and the Assembly. That means that in the span of only two years, one budget cycle, they can wreak total havoc on the state, doing damage that can never be repaired."

"So yes," he added, "in times of war, there will be collateral damage."

With more than 9,600 followers by Wednesday afternoon, Hokin's Facebook page, titled "Boycott Scott Walker Contributors," is a central clearinghouse for information

EXHIBIT H

poster stating ... [Read more](#)

Still in protesting mood?
Alternative brat fest is in the works



Fallout from
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feeding this next wave of opposition to Walker's controversial budget repair bill and spending plan for the next biennium.

It gives those opposed to Walker's plans for deep spending cuts and the virtual elimination of public unions a place to focus their outrage, Hokin said — by letting people know which company's leaders and political action committees made big campaign donations to Walker.

"Basically the only thing corporations care about is money," Hokin said in an interview. "We can't really affect them by saying things or flashing (protest signs). The thing to do on a day-to-day basis is to try to reduce their revenues."

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To identify Walker contributors, Hokin's page links to a campaign finance database maintained by the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign. It also helps followers send letters of protest to companies, provides a place for updates and shares ideas for more activities — such as organized pickets

outside companies associated with Walker and a planned boycott of this year's Brat Fest because it uses some Johnsonville products.

In its place, a "Virtual Brat Fest" is being organized that lets people donate online to try to replace the money that Brat Fest raises for local charities.

And for those uneasy with targeting local companies for boycotts at all, sister pages such as "Pledge to Spend" have been created to promote businesses identified as "strongly pro-labor," Hokin said.

In other business-related political opposition, two groups of real estate agents — known as Realtors in Support of Public Employees and Realtors Against Governor Walker's Current Policies — formed recently, in contrast to the Wisconsin Realtors Association, which contributed to Walker's campaign.

Also, three popular Roman Candle restaurants in the Madison area pulled out of the Wisconsin Restaurant Association because it endorsed Walker and refused to make a statement in favor of collective bargaining.

The association, in turn, pulled its dining guide off its website, claiming protesters planned to use it to "harass our members," president Ed Lump said.

Lump also noted restaurants are big donors to schools for such things as scholarships, athletic programs and bands.

Christine Wallace, a spokeswoman for Johnsonville Sausage, said the company respected its customers' "passion for this issue" and their interest in the political process.

"We are hopeful both sides of this debate will work to resolve the issues that are facing our state," the statement read.

M&I Bank also released a statement noting that by law, individual employees make political contributions "at their own discretion," rather than the company itself directly.

And a statement from Menard Inc. said "some of (our) team members may or may not have" given money to Walker's campaign, adding, "We know some gave to (Democratic candidate Tom) Barrett as well."

The rest of Menard's statement read, "We feel badly that some want to boycott us. We have the lowest prices and the biggest, most beautiful stores run by some of Wisconsin's friendliest, hardest-working folks. We are a family-owned Wisconsin company that employs a lot of good Wisconsin citizens throughout the state. We hope calmer heads will prevail soon for the sake of all

concerned."

Tags Boycott, Scott Walker, Governor, Menards, Facebook, Sam Hokin, M I Bank, Mary Possin, Johnsonville Sausage, Small Business, Wisconsin Restaurant Association, Christine Wallace, Campaign Finance Database, Menard Inc., Roman Candle

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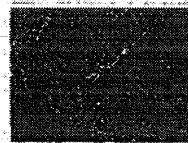
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26 Year-Old Woman Charged With Sending Death Threats To GOP Senators In Wisconsin

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Newscom

April 1, 2011, 5:53 PM EDT | 4

A 26 year-old woman from Cross Plains, WI has been charged with two felonies for allegedly sending death-threat emails to Republican state Senators at the height of the dispute over Gov. Scott Walker's (R) collective bargaining law.

According to reports from the Dane County, WI district attorney's office, Katherine Windels of Cross Plains admitted to investigators she was behind the March 9 emails, which were sent to 15 Republican senators on the night the Senate passed the controversial collective bargaining restrictions for state workers favored by Walker.

Windels allegedly wrote that opponents of the collective bargaining law were planning "to assault you by arriving at your house and putting a nice little bullet in your head" and said "we have built several bombs that we have placed in various locations around the areas in which we know that you frequent."

Windels was charged on Thursday with four counts stemming from the emails, including sending threats via a computer and creating a bomb scare. Two of the charges are felonies and carry a potential 7 year sentence.

According to the investigating documents, Windels acted alone out of frustration with Walker's law. Read the criminal complaint here.

The state department of Justice kicked off an investigation of the emails after one of the recipients, state Senate leader Scott Fitzgerald, shared it with authorities. Investigators say they traced the emails to Windels by following the IP address back to her home address.

When a state investigator, Special Agent Ricardo Tijerino, went to Windels' home to interview her, she reportedly conceded she might have called the senators "assholes." But when Tijerino read aloud a sentence from her email -- "Please put your things in order because you will be killed and your families will also be killed due to your actions in the last 8 weeks" -- and asked if she was the author, she reportedly admitted she was. She said she was confused because she didn't know why she wrote it, and reportedly told Tijerino she wasn't planning on following through on any of her statements.

She also reportedly told the agent she was angry about what the Republican senators were doing.

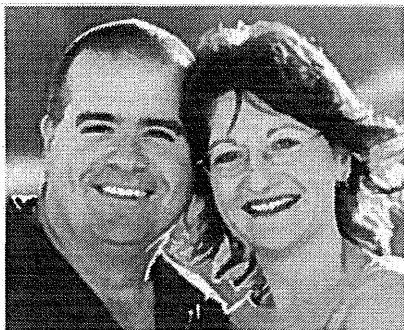
One verbatim portion of an email cited by authorities promises to "send the message to you since you are so 'high' on Koch and have decided that you are now going to single handedly make this a dictatorship."

One recipient of the emails, state Sen. Glenn Grothman (R), suggested to WISN-TV the alleged sender was lashing out.

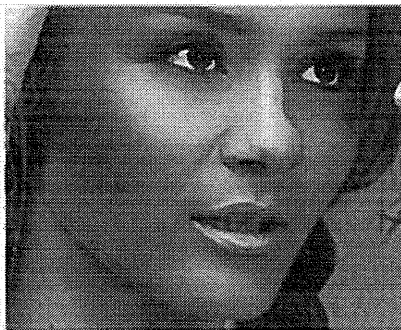
"I hope this poor young gal hasn't ruined her life over a few minutes of over emotional stupidity," he said.

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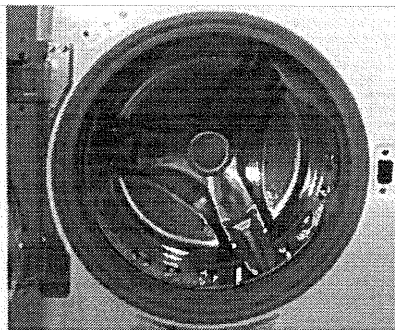
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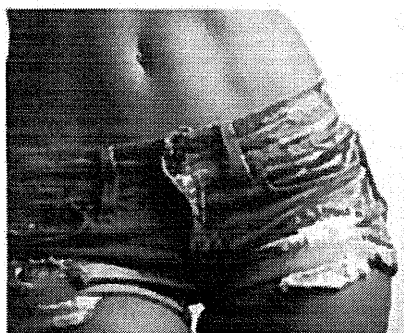
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Mackinac Center Received Bomb Threats and Death Threats Over FOIA Request

By TOM GANTERT | April 1, 2011 | [Follow Tom Gantert on Twitter](#)

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy received numerous death threats and bomb threats in the aftermath of national publicity about a Freedom of Information Act request it sent to three public universities.

The messages were left on the Center's voice mail Thursday night and early Friday morning, but it is unclear at this point if one or two women were responsible for the threats.

Mackinac Center President Joseph Lehman said the Mackinac Center has contacted law enforcement about the threats.

"We, along with the authorities, are doing everything necessary to protect ourselves," Lehman said. "No threats will prevent us from showing the public how universities spend tax dollars."

There were five messages left containing death or bomb threats. Four of them appear to be from the same caller. A fifth message was from a woman who left a death threat and, unlike the previous caller, left her name and indicated she lived in a neighboring state. It was unclear if the second caller was the same as the first caller.

In one message, a female voice said: "Scotty Walker is dead. So are you. We know where you live." The woman then recited the Mackinac Center's address and said, "We are coming up to destroy you."

In another message, a female who left her name said: "You are on Main Street. You are the first place to be bombed."

In another message, a female voice said: "We are going to destroy everybody. We are going to destroy all of you. All of you die. Midland, Michigan. Get ready. We are going to destroy all of you."

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy has been in the spotlight after some national news organizations reported that the Midland-based think tank submitted a FOIA request to Wayne State University, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. The FOIA asked for specific emails from professors in the labor studies departments that referenced Wisconsin collective bargaining, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker or MSNBC talk show personality Rachel Maddow. Maddow had made comments on her show critical of Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's emergency financial manager act.

EXHIBIT K

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The Washington Times

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MURDOCK: Death threats from the left

Liberals respond to pro-union ultimatums with deafening silence



Wisconsin demonstrators jeer at Republican state representatives with shouts of "shame" as they leave the Assembly room of the Capitol in Madison after passing a bill that limits collective bargaining. (Associated Press)

By Deroy Murdock

The Washington Times

Friday, March 18, 2011

"We will hunt you down. We will slit your throats. We will drink your blood. I will have your decapitated head on a pike in the Madison town square. This is your last warning."

Is this a passage from Bram Stoker's "Dracula"? No, this e-mail reached Wisconsin State Sen. Dan Kapanke, a Republican, on March 9, after he voted for GOP Gov. Scott Walker's controversial budget and labor

EXHIBIT L

reforms.

Mr. Kapanke is not alone. While the mainstream media generally yawn, leftists threaten top Wisconsin Republicans with murder.

"Across the whole Republican caucus, I think we have received at least a dozen credible, specific death threats," one well-placed legislative staffer in Madison told me. "This was not just 'go to Hell,' but threats that rose to a level that made people feel unsafe."

Wisconsin's Department of Justice has identified the sender of two specific death threats e-mailed to 15 Republican state senators on March 10. It will not release the suspect's name while investigations continue. However, ponder the accused's chilling (excerpted but uncorrected) words:

c Subject line - "Atten: Death threat!!!! Bomb!!!!"

"We feel that you and your republican dictators have to die. This is how it's going to happen: ... We have all planned to assault [sic] you by arriving at your house and putting a nice little bullet in your head. However, this isn't enough ... So we have built several bombs that we have placed in various locations around the areas in which we know that you frequent. This includes, your house, your car, the state capitol, and well I won't tell you all of them because that's just no fun."

c "YOUR STAFF MEMBERS HAVE NOW BEEN ADDED TO THE HIT LIST ... PLEASE ADVISE THEM OF THE IMPENDING DANGER LEADING TO THIER [sic] DEATHS."

Consider some of the pro-union left's other death threats:

c Police in Eau Claire, Wis., arrested anti-Walker protester Patrick J. Knauf, 43, on March 2. He reportedly phoned in a bomb threat against Heartland Aviation, where Mr. Walker conducted news conferences on Feb. 28 and March 2.

c On the morning of March 3, 41 rounds of .22-caliber ammunition appeared on the Capitol grounds in Madison. "You can't do much with live ammunition without the gun," said University of Wisconsin Police Chief Susan Riseling, "but the presence of it doesn't thrill me."

c Someone slipped a note under GOP State Sen. Glenn Grothman's office door. In red letters, it said: "THE ONLY GOOD Republican is a DEAD Republican."

c Wisconsin Tea Party Patriots coordinator Mike Hintz told WISN-TV what happened when his cell phone rang on March 12: "There was a male caller on the phone, and he said, 'I hope you're wearing a bulletproof vest' and hung up. ... I took it to mean this person was threatening my life by [threatening to shoot] me."

c On Wednesday, Bill Spears e-mailed one state Capitol staffer this homophobic message:

"You won't have your cushy job very much longer - as soon as we get your boss the faggot [Scott] Fitzgerald recalled ... every damn one of you should be exterminated."

Twitter's giant graffiti wall features numerous calls for Mr. Walker's murder, complete with egregious spelling and grammatical errors:

c Lauren Kauffman (Screen name: lauren_2121) wrote: "I hope scott walker dies. someone please shoot him?!"

c Josh Harmon (jritsynme): "Scott walker is destroying the state of Wisconsin!!! I wish a anvel [sic] would fall out of the sky and KILL the scumbag!!!"

c Jeconti (J-Shack): "Scott walker cut food stamps its over he getting assassinated.!"

Are the right's hands spotless in Wisconsin? If they are not pristine, they seem far less bloody.

Democratic spokesman Graeme Zielinski told WISN-TV that volunteers aiming to recall GOP State Sen. Alberta Darling got roughed up on March 13.

"They were physically assaulted," Mr. Zielinski said. "They had their clipboards thrown, petitions destroyed, buttons torn off of them."

Whoever did this should be prosecuted, and their example never repeated - on the right, or elsewhere.

Now, where is the condemnation against the anti-Walker left for its recent criminal behavior?

Deroy Murdock is a syndicated columnist and media fellow with Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

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Gov. Scott Walker death threats after recall victory being investigated by police

Threats against the Wisconsin governor surface on Twitter after election

Comments (195)

BY MEGHAN NEAL / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012, 1:20 PM

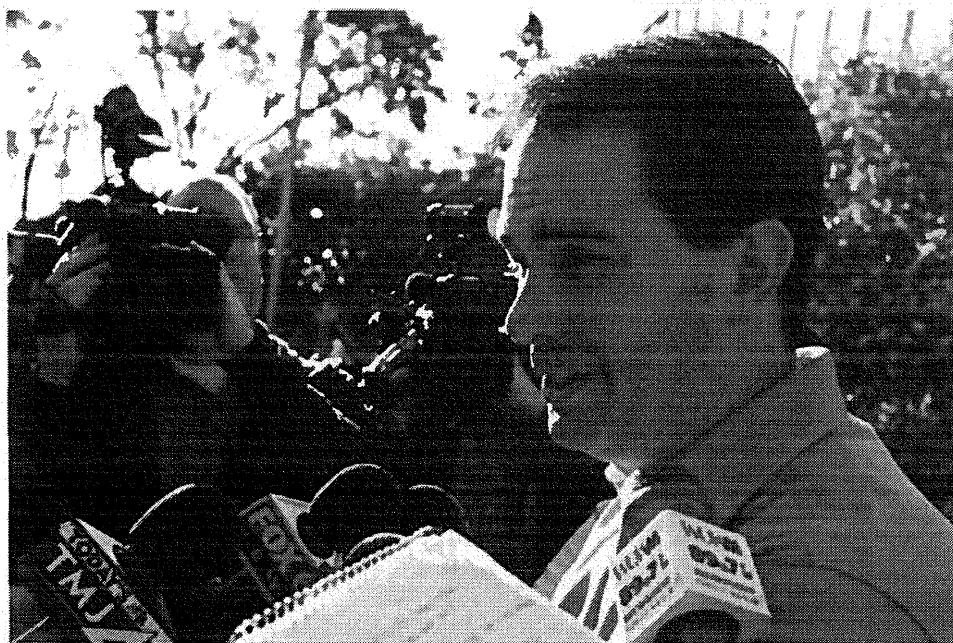
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MORRY GASH/AP

The Milwaukee Police Department is evaluating death threats made against Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker via Twitter.

The Milwaukee Police Department said Wednesday it's evaluating death threats made against Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Twitter following the governor's recall election victory.

Political tensions in Wisconsin came to a fever pitch Tuesday night as the election results were announced. Multiple death threats surfaced on Twitter throughout the evening and into the morning. They were posted on the curation site Twitchy.com.

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Justice Department not investigating Gov. Scott Walker death threats

By Scott Bauer, Associated Press

JUL 14, 2013

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Madison - The Wisconsin Department of Justice has no open investigations into death threats against Gov. Scott Walker, the agency said Monday after Walker's office released more than 100 pages of emails and other documents showing perceived threats made against him over the past two years.

Walker's office released 116 pages of documents Friday following an open records request from The Associated Press.

Anything perceived by Walker's staff to be a threat was saved and referred to law enforcement, said Walker's assistant legal counsel, Teri Hatchell, in a letter accompanying the records. Hatchell said the records were released after consulting with law enforcement to ensure doing so would not jeopardize any investigations.

Department of Justice spokeswoman Dana Brueck said the agency has no open investigations.

Walker's spokesman declined to comment.

Most of the threats in the documents provided to AP come from shortly after Walker took office in 2011, when the Republican governor's proposal to effectively end collective bargaining rights for most public workers resulted in massive protests that lasted weeks. The most recent email was from February 2012.

The threats came in the form of emails, letters and tips from Walker backers pointing to postings on websites such as Facebook.

The records include about 65 messages, including at least 25 from the same person.

That person sent insulting emails to Walker but also left his telephone number.

The Department of Justice previously released details of threats it investigated that were made against Walker and state lawmakers.

Only one case where a person made threats against Walker or lawmakers has led to charges in Dane County. In that case, a Cross Plains woman emailed death threats to 15 Republican state senators in 2011. She pleaded guilty to making a bomb threat and was placed in a first-offenders program.

41

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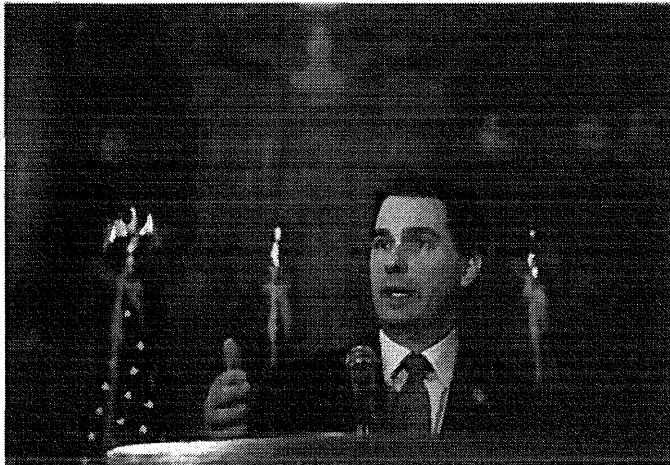
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80-year-old supporter for Wisconsin governor gets death threats



(Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)



Anthony Martin
Conservative Examiner

May 19, 2012

An 80-year-old businesswoman in Wisconsin who supports Gov. Scott Walker in his bid to retain his position in a special recall election has received death threats and warnings that she would be physically beaten, according to a report today from Lloyd Marcus.

Walker came under fire from Democrats in the state soon after he was elected due to his insistence that cuts in the budget must be made to prevent severe economic repercussions. Labor unions joined the fray

due to Walker's proposal that state workers pay a higher share of their pension and insurance premiums.

The governor stood his ground, and Democrats vowed that they would oust him in a special recall election which has been scheduled for June 5.

In support of Walker, an 80-year-old woman who is the head of a family enterprise that has been in business since the 1950s wrote a letter to the editor expressing her views to the local newspaper.

When the letter was published the troubled started, according to Lloyd Marcus in **an article**

at American Thinker.

Marcus met the woman on a recent trip to Wisconsin and has withheld her name in the interest of her personal safety. The reason for his concern is that the businesswoman has been the recipient of threats of personal harm. Her family has also received the threats.

The woman has also been subjected to a systematic smear campaign aimed at ruining her reputation. Accusations of abuse against her employees have been leveled against her, in public, and with no proof to back up the assertions.

According to Marcus, the threats and accusations have all of the trappings of Chicago style politics. The tactics are reminiscent of those that were used against the Tea Party in 2009 in various town hall meetings around the country when SEIU and ACORN **disrupted several gatherings.**

Marcus further explains that due to the fact that Walker is leading in the polls, the Democrats have brought in the big guns from the national party, including Debbie Wasserman Schultz. The goal, says Marcus, is to browbeat and intimidate voters into ousting Walker in the recall election.

But time is running out, and Walker has maintained a consistent lead throughout the campaign.

The Washington Post reported yesterday that Walker has a comfortable lead in all three of the latest polls released this week. Marquette University School of Law, for example, conducted a survey that found that in spite of the massive negative campaign waged against Walker, his job approval rating has remained steady at 50 percent.

Talking Points Memo has released its current average of all of the polls, which shows that Walker is leading his opponent, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, by six percentage points.

NOTICE!

A new entry in my regular series Musings After Midnight is posted at my blog, **The Liberty Sphere**. It's titled "France, the U.S., and the Definition of Insanity." Don't miss it!

Visit my ministry site at **Martin Christian Ministries**.

Subscribe by clicking the links at the top of the page, or below, and you will receive free notifications of new articles plus a free newsletter.

his vorpal sword

22 FEBRUARY 2011 · 6:26 AM

Who Is Behind Wisconsin Club For Growth?

I told you last blog “[\(Water, Tea or Koch?\)](#)”, 20 Feb.), but that’s OK. I didn’t put the pieces together until I watched this clip on Lawrence O’Donnell’s show last night:

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*note to email recipients: if this video doesn’t show up,
pls. go to [YouTube to watch it](#), or this blog post.*

Note particularly — in between the description of the fundamental betrayal of democratic process State Rep. Gordon Hintz outlines in entirely justifiable outrage — his references to Club For Growth, which he has “never heard of before.”

Which is as they want it to be. Let me give you some objective evidence:

Here’s the [SourceWatch page on O’Keefe](#) (out of date):

Eric O’Keefe

Eric O’Keefe is the chairman of the Americans for Limited Government.

Board of Directors, Citizens in Charge, an Initiative and Referendum advocacy group.

President, Legislation Education Action Drive, voucher PAC.

Relationship to Kurt O'Keefe, petitioner of Michigan TABOR is unknown.

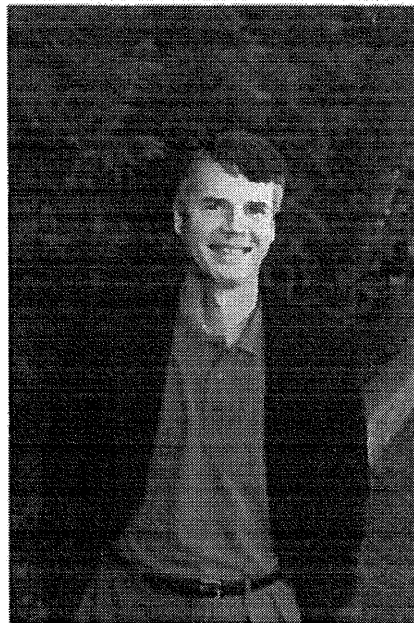
His address is same as that of "Rachel's Vineyard," an "abortion recovery" group.*

Author of book on term limits

Longtime Libertarian Party activist, reportedly aligned with Ed Crane. [1]

Howard Rich "and a rogue's gallery of wealthy pals got buddy Eric O'Keefe ensconced as national director of the Libertarian Party until O'Keefe's really ugly ouster at the national convention in 1981 or so, and they were set to get another of their cohorts elected party president until that plot unraveled on the convention floor in 1983. (If you're willing to kill an hour, you'll find the online archives of the Mises Institute fascinating at <http://www.mises.org>. Under "Journals," click "Libertarian Forum" and you'll find pdfs of Libertarian Party newsletters dating from the late 1960s to the mid-1980s, when the party partly collapsed, partly converged with the Republican Party. They read like today's blogs, full of color and gossip and intrigue, and they chart the rising influence of Rich and his gaggle of trust-fund baby-boomers, sailing under the tutelage of Ed Crane.)"

[* Considering that I was the only blogger who covered the "Rachel's Vineyard" story, I'm flattered they used my stuff, but t'would be nice to be sourced. Oh wait, *I'm a BLOGGER*, and, thus, unworthy of commentary or inclusion. S'okay: I'm used to being treated as a second class citizen, even though it's my 38th year as a writer and 35th as a professional. I guess writing for the *Washington Post* or the *Kansas City Star* or the *Orange County Register*, *Los Angeles Times* and *Los Angeles Herald-Examiner* (back when Joe Farah was news editor) doesn't count. Fine. Onward.]



Eric O'Keefe's 'official' photo

You could go to [Ballotpedia](#) to check him out, except, if you didn't KNOW that Leslie Graves was Eric's wife, you'd never know that he is being given deferential treatment ... *since Leslie Graves has run Ballotpedia from the beginning under three different Fictitious Business Names: Citizens in Charge (Eric sits on the board, as noted in the last post), Sam Adams*

Alliance ("Eric O'Keefe is chairman and CEO of the Sam Adams Alliance") and now the "Lucy Burns Institute":

Leslie Graves, the president of the Lucy Burns Institute, worked as a part-time consultant to the Sam Adams Alliance from June 2008-May 2009 and assisted in a variety of ways with developing Ballotpedia, Judgepedia and Sunshine Review.

And, Oh Yeah, I Almost Forgot (from the Sam Adams Alliance "about us") [emphasis added]:

Eric also works closely with grassroots advocates such as Americans for Prosperity and with the State Policy Network to promote transparency and accountability in state and local governments. He serves on the board of directors of the Institute for Humane Studies*, the Center for Competitive Politics, **and Wisconsin Club for Growth.**

[* Chairman, Charles Koch]

The Center for Competitive Politics? Here's their Board of Directors:

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Stephen M. Hoersting

Vice President and co-founder, Center for Competitive Politics

Eric O'Keefe

Chairman and CEO, Sam Adams Alliance

Sean Parnell

President, Center for Competitive Politics

Bradley A. Smith

Chairman and Co-Founder, Center for Competitive Politics Blackmore-Naught Professor of Law, Capital University Law School

John Snider

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And that Institute for Humane Studies? Greenpeace tells us [emphasis added]:

Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) – Koch Industries Climate Denial Front Group

On this page

- [Read more about the Institute for Humane Studies](#)

- Find more recipients of Koch foundation money

\$1,967,000 received from Koch foundations 2005-2008 [Total Koch foundation grants 1997-2008: \$3,923,457]

The **Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University** offers scholarships and career training to **libertarian** students. Charles Koch is the Chairman of the IHS board of directors.

In a recent article, *Mother Jones* called the **Institute for Human Studies** a “haven for climate change deniers.” Several **climate deniers** have prominent positions at IHS, including: Robert Bradley, member of the **Academic Review Committee** and author of *Climate Alarmism Reconsidered* (2003); and Fred Singer, Research Professor at IHS.

A number of climate deniers are guest lecturers for IHS, such as Bruce Yandle, Senior Associate with Political Economy Research Center; and Kenneth Green, Resident Scholar with American Enterprise Institute.

Cozy.

They don't call it the “Kochtopus” for nothing, kiddies. It's MEANT to confuse you. But, like Theseus in the labyrinth, you can find the Minotaur and find your way out if you have a thread to lead you. In Wisconsin, the thread is named “Eric O'Keefe.”

It's all so cozy. Eric is the “strategist” of the old “Crane Machine” that walked out of the Libertarian Party en masse in 1983. He was also a founding board member of US Term Limits, and is acknowledged as the architect of their “term limits” ballot drives of the 1990s. Here, in his own words, from Eric O'Keefe dot com:

Eric O'Keefe is chairman and CEO of Sam Adams Alliance (SAM), a Chicago-based organization that promotes citizen activism and government accountability. Eric was a **founding board member of U.S. Term Limits**, host of the podcast series, *Engaging Democracy*; and author of the book *Who Rules America* about the Founders' view of representative government and **the case for term limits**. When not promoting political reform, Eric is a private investor residing in rural Wisconsin with his wife Leslie Graves.

In the early 1990s Eric began U.S. Term Limits. Over the course of several years the group helped usher 23 states through the initiative process to limit the terms of their congressional delegation. These states were eventually thwarted by 5 Justices on the Supreme Court who ruled that Congress was exempt from term limits under the Constitution. O'Keefe often notes that politicians became less accountable and less responsible when state governments took over printing and distribution of ballots from private political parties. This resulted in lower turnover rates.

In 2008, Eric, working to advance limitations on the size and power of government, began advocating that Americans should adopt approaches to achieving accountability and limits on government by being involved in the primary process.

The “tea parties” started at Eric's doorstep as has been reported on *Huffington Post* by Alex Brandt-Zawadsky and Dawn Teo (among others); and the Sam Adams Alliance produced a widely-distributed “report” on the “tea party” that was widely quoted by the clueless media:

More recently, the **Sam Adams Alliance** reports that significant numbers of newcomers to the tea party movement are dropping their affiliation with the GOP: Forty-seven percent changed their political affiliation to "Independent/unaffiliated," 20 percent changed to "other," 20 percent to "Tea Party," and 13 percent to "Libertarian." [*Christian Science Monitor*, Sept. 15, 2010]

I have covered this at length as well.

Let's focus on Wisconsin, then, shall we? I mean, Eric O'Keefe is on the board of and a Director of the Wisconsin Club for Growth (and was an attendee at the infamous Koch brothers soiree in Aspen, Colorado, as reported in the *New York Times*). And he's a featured speaker at Tea Party Events.

- Chairman, Club for Growth, State Action: Howard Rich (and see [HERE](#), and [HERE](#).)
- Director, Club for Growth, Wisconsin: Eric O'Keefe (one of only *three* board members in 2008, corrected 2-26)

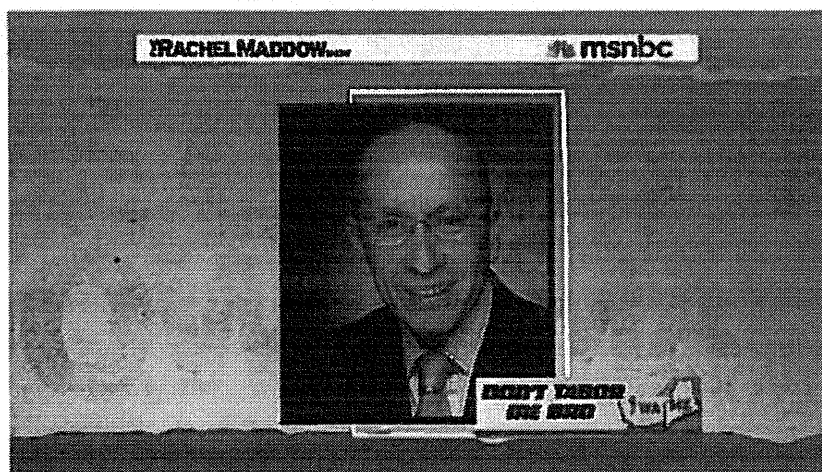
He still serves on the CFG Board of Directors, as noted on Wisconsin CFG's web site in September 2010:

Yesterday the Wisconsin Club for Growth won a huge victory for free and open political speech. A panel of retired judges agreed not to enforce their new rule prohibiting groups like ours from conducting issue advocacy which mentions the name of a candidate on the September or November ballot within 30 or 60 days of the election.

On August 2, 2010, the Wisconsin Club for Growth and the liberal One Wisconsin filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court Western District of Wisconsin, seeking a declaratory judgment and preliminary injunctive relief from Wisconsin Government Accountability Board (GAB) rule 1.28.

The stipulation means that the Government Accountability Board does not have the ability to regulate issue advocacy communications under Wisconsin's campaign finance laws.

Club for Growth Board member Eric O'Keefe said, "Individuals and organizations need to be free to comment on public policy and the records of public officials, regardless of the time of year. That is not just our long-held position; it is the U.S. Supreme Court's long-held position, applying the First Amendment."



Chairman of Club for Growth State Action

This isn't O'Keefe's first dustup with the state for playing fast and loose with election law. From the incredibly 'friendly' piece in Reason Magazine (Koch money founded and supported Reason Foundation, which publishes Reason. David Koch sits on the Foundation's board of Trustees):

A Morning at the Ministry of Speech

Jonathan Rauch | May 29, 1999

Early in the morning of Dec. 11, a few days before his 44th birthday, a political activist named Eric O'Keefe put on business trousers and a sports jacket, but decided not to wear a necktie. This was his small gesture of protest against the proceedings he was about to attend. He and his attorney breakfasted together, went over his testimony, and then drove to a state building in downtown Madison, Wis. In an undecorated and viewless conference room, O'Keefe swore an oath to tell the truth, and then submitted himself to 80 minutes of questioning by an assistant state attorney general who was seeking to determine whether O'Keefe was a lawbreaker. ...

I'm only including the "pro" O'Keefe articles and citations written BY O'Keefe and his minions to let you know that I'm not making this stuff up. If you want to hear the alternate point of view, you'll have to look it up on your own. The point being, if what they're saying is this damning, consider what the actual state of things, unfiltered by the Kochtopus propaganda machine, actually looks like.

They **DEPEND** on running under the radar, and Eric O'Keefe is a case in point. How many political reporters in Wisconsin know who he is?

Last year, using the Citizens United decision, only the Wisconsin Club for Growth flouted the spirit of a public financing law in Wisconsin (from the Pierce County [Wisc.] Herald, Feb 16, 2011):

All the primary candidates but Stephens received \$100,000 tax dollars for their campaigns, **under a new law designed to keep special interests out of judicial races**. Stephens only raised about \$40,000 on her own. Prosser and Kloppenburg will each get \$300,000 in tax money for the general election. But outside groups can still advertise on their own. **The conservative Wisconsin Club for Growth had the only statewide TV ad in the primary, supporting Prosser.**

I'm keeping this short, so that media might actually have the wherewithal to read it, and do their jobs by reporting on it. I've provided the links and the linkages, but in the Battle of Wisconsin, "We the People" need to know this stuff.

The governor of Wisconsin, Ste received TK in Club for Growth money. (TK = I leave it to Wisconsin journalists and bloggers to supply that number.)

Paul Ryan (congressman from Wisconsin, in charge of the House budget, as noted a few days ago) received TK bucks from Club for Growth. In the last election cycle, according to the Rachel Maddow Show graphic, Club for Growth was the Number 10 top money spender in the 2010 election. (TK = Ditto.)

They are getting what they paid for, evidently.

And here's a list of all kinds of candidates Club for Growth supported all over the place, including Wisconsin.

And Eric's gang is particularly interested in taking over the Wisconsin Supreme Court. But they game the law:

That public support could increase if third-party groups run certain kinds of political advertising. Advertising earlier by the Club for Growth, however, was not found by state election officials to trigger distribution of extra public funds to Justice Prosser's opponent, a Journal Sentinel article reported. The ad did not trigger additional funding because it stopped short of using such words as "vote for," "support," or "elect," a state official told the newspaper.

"There's a danger that outside interest groups could weigh in heavily in this race and leave the candidates not in a position to really respond to it," Mike McCabe of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign told Gavel Grab. "I think the likelihood is that groups will weigh in. Which groups and to what extent, that is difficult to predict."

Take a look at these blog posts while you're at it:

- Because "Cudgel For Growth" Wouldn't Sound as Warm and Fuzzy 14 Dec 2010
- Private Legislatures 27 Sept. 2007
- Disneyland Democracy, 28. Sept. 2007
- Breaking News Or Wind Or Something 29 Sept. 2007
- No Souls Day 1 November 2009
- Cheese Whizz, or The Empire Strikes Back 19 Feb. 2011
- Water, Tea or Koch? 20 Feb 2011
- and, for fun Love and Kisses from the Land of the Freed Balloons 3 November, 2007
(urging members to stuff the ballot box for the Weblog Awards)
- etc.

I've got lots more, but that'll give you a week's worth of research to chew over.

And, while you're at it, take a look at the NNDB database page on Club for Growth and see Eric's name with Howard Rich, Betsy DeVos, Paul Singer (who financed a 2008 California ballot measure a couple years ago from his Manhattan home), Lawrence Kudlow, Richard Gilder, Pete duPont, Richard Scaife (founder and funder of "The Arkansas Project" to dog President Clinton), Pat Toomey, Brent Bozell, David Boies, Arthur Laffer (whose cockamamie theories were used to justify "trickle down" economics) and other gold-plated members of what even Mike Huckabee calls the "Club for Greed."

Here's their current leadership lineup, according to their website.

Form 990 (2007) **Americans for Prosperity Foundation** Page 6

Part V-A **Current Officers, Directors, Trustees, and Key Employees**
or key employee at any time during the year even if they were not comp

(A) Name and address	(B) Title and average hours per week devoted to position	(C) Compensation (if not stated)
David H. Koch c/o AFPP, 1726 M St, NW, 10th Fl. Washington DC 20036	Chairman 2.00	
Dr. Richard Fink c/o AFPP, 1726 M St, NW, 10th Fl. Washington DC 20036	Board Member 2.00	

Hey, wasn't AFP the sponsor of the "counter-demonstration" in Madison Sunday?

I've been playing Paul Revere to a nation on Lunesta® for six years now, and it's getting old. We really either need to wake up NOW, or kiss our non-plutocratic form of governance goodbye once and for all. But please don't say that you weren't clearly and explicitly warned.

The ball's in your hands, readers.

Courage.

Click right on to the sequel, Things Go Badder With Koch™ with photos and videos of persons named herein.

NOTE: 2-26-11. O'Keefe's position with CFG, Wisconsin corrected and links to documentation added.

>>> AUGUST 3, 2011: A special late-breaking addition for Wisconsin: 'The Astroturf on Lambeau Field'.>>>

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12 Responses to *Who Is Behind Wisconsin Club For Growth?*

Brandon

22 February 2011 at 7:14 am



I stumbled upon your blog when researching who exactly the "Wisconsin Club for Growth" is. This is most enlightening. The veins of democracy are rapidly becoming more constricted by interest groups such as these. Thank you for your research and presentation of the facts.

Hart Williams

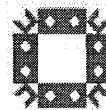
22 February 2011 at 7:42 am



My 'thanks' is that it's valuable to you, Brandon.

Wild Bill

22 February 2011 at 11:09 am



I've been reading your posts for some time now, use to be when I saw one of your posts at C&L, then I got smart and signed up for your emails. You do an excellent job of exposing these people who are trying to hijack our government bit by bit. I've spread your posts among my progressive friends, and also annoy many of my right wing in-laws with certain posts that refute some of the nonsense that they spout. I'm sure there are many others like myself that appreciate what you do, but, sadly don't take a few minutes to tell you about it. I may be trapped here in west Texas among some of the dumbest people I've ever encountered, but, my computer knows no distance limits. Keep the faith. They can't win unless we quit.

Hart Williams

23 February 2011 at 5:35 am



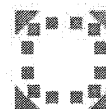
A very sincere 'Thank You,' Wild Bill. I will keep trying to bug your relatives. 😊

Pingback: Things Go Badder With Koch™ | his vorpal sword

Pingback: Hey TPMuckrakers! | his vorpal sword

Sue Cohen

26 February 2011 at 11:42 am



EXCELLENT!

And who was the First President of the Club for Growth? Why it was Pat Toomey now the Republithug Senator from PA!

So the Koch Krooks own 2 Supreme Court Justices, myriad of Congressmen and Governors and at least Toomey if not others too.

Some democracy we have, huh?

Hart Williams

26 February 2011 at 12:09 pm



Thanks much, Sue.

But the **first President (and founder)** of CFG was Stephen Moore (now libeling for the *Wall Street Murdoch*), who you might recognize from his rude jerkiness to Rachel Maddow on Real Time with Bill Maher last week (reran on HBO last night).

He founded Club for Growth when he was a (paid) fellow at the Cato Institute, and held the dual positions for several years. He was "relieved" of command (and his salary), and Pat Toomey was then installed. I *have* many of Toomey's weekly radio shows (see "One of these things is NOT like the Others") and Toomey was followed by former congressman Chris Chocola, who serves until they can install HIM in a Senate seat, I guess.

Oh, and here's the fun part: "Lighting the Brushfires of Freedom (sic)" It's short, and, I'm told, hilarious.*

* PS: I just checked and "Bob A. Fett of KCUF in Ames, Iowa" is still registered. I downloaded their latest program, with the MacIver Institute's take on the situation in Madison. You can listen to it, [HERE](#).

Alex Brant-Zawadzki

26 February 2011 at 3:22 pm



Oh, how I MISS Club for Growth and Howard Rich! It's been years and years... ever since he tried to drop Proposition 90 onto California.

The goal here, people, is to bankrupt the government so that it cannot afford to provide basic services which will then have to be privatized; the govt. will not have the power to pass, let alone enforce, any sort of meaningful regulation. Anyone who says that private industry can regulate itself is either complicit or suicidally naive. Explain BP. Explain Blackwater.

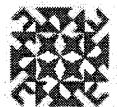
"Limited Government" means HANDICAPPED government.

http://blogs.ocweekly.com/navelgazing/2006/10/prop_90_enriching_the_rich_mak.php

Pingback: Wisconsin Money Slush: O'Keefe and Jacob to Kliesmet | his vorpal sword

Nikki Srnka

2 March 2011 at 12:18 pm



Hello,

I've been researching the John Birch Society, the Kochs, and the Bradleys of Milwaukee, etc. etc. I thought I was nuts, but then I found your site, and I have renewed hope.

It is really hard to find connections . . . everything leads somewhere else. So many names. I hadn't even considered Wisconsin Club for Growth. But, then, all of this is connected. Just follow the money.

I found a site with FBI files on JBS. It will take awhile to go through it all. I did notice, even the FBI said they were super

secretive and difficult to track. And if THEY think so . . .

I'm almost sorry to say this, but your site has opened up a whole new world . . . and it's bigger and creepier than I EVER imagined.

Hart Williams

9 March 2011 at 12:19 pm



Nikki:

I'm afraid that the world is always a lot bigger and creepier than we thought. But we still live in it, and we do not merely survive, but, as the Nobel speech goes, we prevail.

No one has ever yet successfully eradicated the dandelion, and try as they might, plutocrats and self-anointed aristocrats have never subdued the peasantry. One person can make a difference, and every one added increases the difference exponentially. "Every new opinion, at its starting, is precisely in a minority of one. — Thomas Carlyle"