

The Badger State Dream Team.

There is a gross misunderstanding of capitalism afoot in this state, this nation, this globe. There is an inconvenient truth -- a global fiscal climate change. There are at least two generations on the loose who totally fail to apprehend the risk and reward of capitalism, the wants and needs of this global economy.

Sen. Luther Olsen put his finger on it the other day when he said folks are hopping mad over government taxes and spending and shouting, "Cut, cut, cut!" But when a specific program is targeted, they say, "We didn't mean you should cut that." Wait and see how Luther hollers when his precious Corn/Ethanol subsidy comes up for debate-the Luther family is involved in this issue downstate I believe.

Here is an example from across the pond, which is likely to be exported to America in coming months. Thousand of students across the United Kingdom are protesting at government and university buildings over a national austerity budget that cuts funding and increases tuition and fees. In essence, they are demanding money that does not exist to pay for their rightful college education.

Many UW campuses in the past 6 years have seen small student protests over fee and tuition hikes forwarded by the Board of Regents in response to state budget cuts. This reality has magnified over the tenure of Diamond Jim Doyle, as he robbed segregated funds, with disgraceful Republican complicity, to minimize the deficit's impact on union jobs and students.

But students and unions are in for a real shocker as the Walker administration takes the reins. Walker has vowed not to simply stand in the blast crater and wait for erosion to bring the ground down below his chin. And he has vowed not to dig for China with sham investment plans like high-speed rail.

Walker is going to cut state spending and create a tax climate that encourages private sector job growth. How do unions create jobs? They demonstrated their plan outside the Talgo International train factory in Milwaukee, "free Willie Wonka, and more free chocolate!"

They gathered with signs, roused their ire with audaciously hopeful rhetoric, and chanted, "What do we want? Jobs! When do we want them? Now." I know this is the Badger state, but do you create jobs by badgering employers to add liabilities to their payrolls? Did SC Johnson create more than 12,000 jobs in 72 countries by demanding them into existence? Did John Menard create the nation's third largest home improvement empire by standing outside offices badgering government to build him a store?

NO! They wracked their brains, wrung their hands over business and finance plans, vetted products and manufacturers, sweated over supply networks, pitched proposals to banks and investors and prayed for loans. They stretched their necks over the chopping block to realize their dreams.

But they did it so long ago and have been so publicly successful that subsequent generations forgot the sweat, toil and flirtation with failure that necessarily accompanies capital investment. Most folks under 50 don't know what Bill Gates went through to become Bill Gates. They think Warren Buffet is merely an incarnation of King Midas.

And, unfortunately, through programs like BadgerCare and TARP, many have come to believe government is an ATM from the Bottomless Bank of Abundance. Weaning a larger than imagined cross-section of self-interests from across political and economic strata will be a huge undertaking, but done fairly, shared by all, big and small, union and non-union, it may be the beginnings for a reunification of the citizenry. Dreamer, eh?

Gov. Walker will reset reality on capitalism; restore the badger as a symbol of industry and feisty self-reliance. He will re-establish Wisconsin as a place and a people with the determination to help restore normality to the global fiscal climate. Our very livelihoods rely on this dream becoming more a reality. As I see it this is no longer a dream; it is a necessity. The question remains, will our newly elected conservative dream team come to play?

Richard Parins — President

The BROWN COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION
In our 26th Year of Promoting Fiscal Responsibility in Government.

Common Sense.

This "Obituary" makes the rounds every so often on the internet. It still makes "good common sense."

"Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was, since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

- Knowing when to come in out of the rain;
- Why the early bird gets the worm;
- Life isn't always fair;
- and Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you can earn) and reliable strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a 6-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live, after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death, by his parents, Truth and Trust, by his wife, Discretion, by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason.

He is survived by his 4 stepbrothers;

- I Know My Rights
- I Want It Now
- Someone Else Is To Blame
- I'm A Victim

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on. If not, join the majority and do nothing.

From the internet

"Things in our country run in spite of government, not by aid of it." . . . Will Rogers

"Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote." . . . George Nathan

As Election Euphoria Fades, Reality Sets In.

Basking in the excitement of election-night euphoria, politicians often read too much into results. Convinced of an electoral mandate, partisans fervently believe they have a "blank check" to enact their agenda. And, with post-election congratulations ringing in their ears, successful candidates, like Icarus, are convinced of their invincibility.

The findings of one of the most extensive opinion surveys ever conducted in Wisconsin should give this year's victors pause. Conducted earlier in the 2010 campaign season by a UW-Madison political scientist (on behalf of the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute), the poll suggests that Badger State citizens don't view government through the same lens as partisan activists.

Consider, for example, that those who said they were independent (32.6%) or had another or no party preference (13.5%), dwarfed Democrats (28.6%) and Republicans (22.2%). Neither party should read too much into ephemeral approval from voters.

Indeed, even among self-identified partisans, party loyalty had its limits. Of Democrats, only 55.9% called their party support "strong," while 41.5% characterized it as "not strong." Republicans were similarly ambivalent: 55.9% "strong" vs. 45.3% "not strong."

This year's election winners should also realize that voters will cut them little slack. They are very dissatisfied with state government. Only 29.5% rated the "job state government in Wisconsin is doing" as excellent (1.8%) or good (27.7%), while 68.0% rated it "only fair" or "poor."

Moreover, the patience of state citizens is limited. Over 60% said they were either "frustrated" (45.2%) or "angry" (15.5%) with state government; the combined percentages varied little by region (58.7% to 65.8%). Only 34.0% said they were "content." A majority of all groups, except young people were similarly unhappy.

Why? To borrow a much-used political phrase, "it's the economy, stupid." When asked what "should be the top priority of the governor and the state legislature," close to 60% named either jobs/economy (39.2%) or taxes/spending (18.7%). No other issue topped 11%. Pocketbook issues were the lead concern of every region and group.

An even starker indication of public angst over the economy emerges from residents' thoughts about staying in or leaving the state. Over three in five (61.8%) said "the best and the brightest people in Wisconsin . . . leave to work in other states." Only 26.8% said they stayed. Pessimism about retaining "the best" was highest in the City of Milwaukee (68.2%) and in the surrounding metro area (65.5%), but no region was under 57%.

It is little wonder, then, that Wisconsinites don't care for the state's direction. While only 33.7% of respondents thought it was headed "in the right direction," 57.6% said it was "on the wrong track"—a fairly consistent sentiment across most categories—region, gender, race, age, and union affiliation.

State citizens may be unhappy, but the good news is that they appear ready to try new things. By more than two-to-one, they said state government was "tied to old practices" (60.5%), rather than innovative ones (28.0%).

They might disagree about specifics, but it's clear that they want change. Only 9.8% of those surveyed said state government "didn't need much change at all." Much larger percentages were ready for reform: 52.3% endorsed "some" reform, while 35.8% chose "very major" reform.

Voters will soon know whether the new faces in Madison will deliver.

Todd A. Berry, President, Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance.

The Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance (WISTAX), founded in 1932, is the state's oldest and most respected private, nonpartisan government research organization. WISTAX aims to improve Wisconsin government through citizen education. WISTAX receives no government funding and is not affiliated with any group. To join or learn more, go to www.wistax.org.

November Meeting Notes.

Newly Elected Legislators Address BCTA.

Monthly Brown County Taxpayers Association meeting, November 18, 2010 held at Titledown Brewing.

Newly elected Representative Chad Weininger, for the Fourth Assembly District, announced that he will be holding three (nighttime) public hearings before the end of the year. The first hearing, on December 3, will focus on jobs, his first priority. The second hearing, on December 20, will focus on cutting wasteful spending. The third hearing, on a date to be announced, will focus on government reform to reduce mandates and red tape in order to support job creation. Chad is committed to restoring fiscal responsibility in Madison and reducing the state's structural deficit.

André Jacque, elected to his first term as Representative for the Second Assembly District, said that he is looking for ideas. He stated that our first priority is to stop runaway spending by the state. We must stop using tax increases as the only tool of government. He stated that lower taxes will lead to creating more jobs. He explained that a number of issues will need to be addressed to get the state's financial health restored. Bonding limits and the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) by the state must be considered. The Stewardship Program, mediation/arbitration, and utility mandates must be reviewed. Difficult topics will be school funding and shared revenue for municipalities.

The Communication Committee reported that it met and agreed upon the design for a new website. It is now online at BCTAxpayers.Org. It features a new logo and several new features. We will have a demonstration set up and answer questions at our Dec. 16, monthly meeting.

Rich Carlstedt reported for the Schools Committee that the Green Bay School Board approved a 3.8 percent budget increase for 2010–2011. He also noted that the Green Bay School Board is seeking legal opinions on the proper use of the Community Service Fund.

The County and Municipal Committee reported that the Brown County Board approved a no tax increase \$273 million budget, made possible by transferring \$1.7 million from the general fund (reserve). The Green Bay City Council approved a 2011 budget with no increase in the property tax rate. Increased property valuation in the city will provide tax revenue to offset the \$2 million budget increase over 2010.

The next BCTA meeting will be Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010 at Titledown Brewing. Details on the back page of this *TAX TIMES*.

Dave Nelson – Secretary

Articles and views appearing in the "TAX TIMES" do not necessarily represent the official position of the Brown County Taxpayers Association. We want to encourage discussion and input on current issues of taxpayer interest and invite your comments or articles suitable for future "TAX TIMES." Please them to the BCTA, P.O. Box 684, Green Bay, WI 54305-0684, or call Jim Frink at 336-6410. E-Mail BCTA@ExecPC.Com.

Now it's Time to Get to Work.

I see the Nov. 2, election as a rejection of intrusive government, high taxes, out of control spending, debt, and back door deals which reduce transparency and lessen the people's faith in government.

Because of this, it is very important that current leaders live up to their promises and govern in a way the people have demanded. If we do not live up to expectations, they will be rejected in 2012 and rightfully so.

It is now time for lawmakers to get to work. Governor-Elect Scott Walker has promised to call an emergency special session immediately upon taking office to pass job creating proposals. I support his call and will work to include ideas I have in that special session.

Private sector growth is urgently needed to increase job creation, employer expansion, and state revenues that fund our vital public programs. This will happen by reducing government's burden on employers through reforming both the regulatory climate and tax code. As well, an aggressive agenda is needed to bring employers to Wisconsin and to show the nation Wisconsin is open for business.

Wisconsin has one of the worst business climates in the nation. Our state lost nearly 10,000 private sector jobs from August to September of this year. Our unemployment rate continues to be unacceptably high. As well, our taxes, deficit, and debt per capita are among the highest in the nation.

Turning these things around will not happen overnight. But with the right policies in place, it will happen. The state needs to chart a new economic path. More taxes and more government spending is not the answer. The answer to our economic woes is a pro-growth economic agenda that is based on less government and more entrepreneurial opportunity.

It is time for the legislature to put up or shut up.

Rep. John Nygren

Committee Help Needed.

One of the things that keeps the BCTA active able to perform are our committees. These consist of the Schools, County/Municipal, State/Federal, Communications, and Membership and Development Committees. Each committee has a chairman from the Board of Directors, and members from the membership.

When new members join the Brown County Taxpayers, one of the items on the information form asks area of particular interest you may have. We have members with an interest and expertise schools, county or city government, and just about any subject that involves taxation in some way. Events in recent years have created far more items of taxpayer concern to us than can be covered by a monthly discussion meeting or newsletter.

That is where our committees come in. We don't ask for a lot of work, but an interest in functioning as a committee to examine and report on what is going on, and help us to develop a position to act upon as a group. Give it a thought, let any of our officers or directors know of your interest, or attend one of our monthly meetings for more information.

"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on would save one-half or the wars of the world." . . . **Thomas Jefferson**
"Charity is no part of the legislative duty of government."
. . . **James Madison**

National Debt Update.

We are entering December with an official National Debt of **\$13,668,098,711,919.00**. That's an increase of about 120 Billion since last month, and is keeping up nicely with the average growth of \$4.15 Billion Dollars a day. If I figured this correctly, our National Government is going into the hole at a rate of about \$13.39 per day for each one of us. Doesn't that give you a warm feeling.

A few months ago, our Congress approved raising the debt limit to \$14.3 Trillion. By law, we cannot spend (borrow) over the limit established by Congress. Unfortunately there are no effective laws establishing what our money can be spent for, or at what price.

One item on the new Congresses agenda will be to raise the national debt to another level. This may be a test of their ability to actually control the debt. The faster it grows the greater amount of money goes to pay interest. Then the problem is we have to keep borrowing more money to pay the interest on the money we borrowed.

U. S. NATIONAL DEBT, 1900 - 2010

1900	2,136,961,091.67	"notes"
1905	2,274,615,063.84	
1910	2,652,665,838.04	
1915	3,058,136,873.16	
1920	25,952,456,406.16	World War I Debt
1925	20,516,193,887.90	
1930	16,185,309,831.43	Beginning of Depression
1935	28,700,892,624.53	Middle of Depression
1940	42,967,531,037.68	Start of World War II
1945	258,682,187,409.93	End of World War II
1950	257,357,352,351.04	Korean War, Marshall Plan
1955	274,374,222,802.62	
1960	286,330,760,848.37	
1965	317,273,898,983.64	
1970	370,918,706,949.96	VietNam War
1975	533,189,000,000.00	
1980	907,701,000,000.00	
1982	1,142,034,000,000.00	Reached Trillion \$ 1st Time
1985	1,823,103,000,000.00	
1990	3,233,313,451,777.25	Reagan
1995	4,973,982,900,709.29	G. Bush I
2000	5,674,178,209,886.86	Clinton
2005	7,932,709,661,723.50	G. Bush II
2010	13,561,623,030,891.70	Obama

Source - U. S. Dept. of The Treasury

The debt was first recorded in 1791, with a total of \$75,463,476.57. It remained fairly constant until the Civil war year of 1863, when it first surpassed a Billion. It was only a little above \$2 Billion in 1900. We also had a number of wars, property purchases, depressions and major constructions projects during that time.

Note the rapid rise in the debt during the past ten years and the rate in which it is accelerating. It appears we are drifting deeper into uncharted waters, have no idea what to do about it, or what the consequences will be. One observation, building unneeded railroads and billions of Congressional "Earmarks" is probably not the answer.

Jim Frink - BCTA

1500 Years and Climbing.

If you would like some perspective on what your government's leadership is doing and has done, go to this internet site: www.usdebtclock.org It is overwhelming! Obama and his gang have increased the rate of the problem but the Bush's also were culprits. Now we get numbers like trillions thrown at us and they are incomprehensible.

One way to dimension the scope of the problem is to imagine that instead of increasing the debt at the rate you see at the website, imagine that your government would come up with a plan to reduce the debt at the rate of \$1,000,000 per hour, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The current debt is \$13,100,000,000,000. So, at this rate of pay off, how long would it take to eliminate the debt? 1495 Years!!!!!!

As you can see at the website, the debt is however rapidly increasing so this number is getting further away. The debt has doubled in the past 7 years. When liberals say "let's increase welfare benefits, extend unemployment, pay for school for all, provide health care for all, etc." maybe we can all agree on the merit of these but I defy anyone to figure out how we can pay for them. If we took all of the money of all of the rich, we would barely make a dent. Doesn't anyone get it?

You of liberal bent, please enlighten me if you have an explanation of how this can turn out well. Unless there is dramatic change, this country will go broke and we have no one to rescue us. What happens then? History would say anarchy followed by dictatorship, but who knows? Let's not take the chance. Support massive cuts in spending even though they will not be popular. This likely means big cuts or elimination in Medicare, Medicaid, social security, food stamps, unemployment, farm aid, windmill subsidies, electric car subsidies, college aid, etc.

Every ox needs to be gored! Chris Christie (New Jersey) or Mitch Daniels (Indiana) may have the guts to do it! If you don't think this is a serious problem please convince me. I would love to be rid of this angst and dissonance.

Jerry Loritz, BCTA Director

Note: This article was prompted by a video I viewed, made in 2003, that noted it would take 660 years at that time to pay of the debt at the million dollar per hour rate.

"A consultant is a person hired at great expense to tell management what the janitor already knows."

. . . Doug Larson

"A politician's words reveal less about what he thinks about his subject than what he thinks about his audience"

. . . George F. Will

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.BCTAxpayers.Org

E Mail, BCTA@ExecPc.Com

Things That Make Us Wonder.

WISCONSIN "OPEN FOR BUSINESS?"

One of the first things Gov. elect Scott Walker stressed during his campaign appearances was that job creation would be his first priority.

While his opponent proposed creating a commission to study the problem, Walker promised to sit down on day one with people from all interests, to determine the reasons that new jobs were not being created in Wisconsin and how to go about making corrections. It could be a long first day.

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WILL THEY COME IF THEY BUILD IT?

One of the first items of business for Gov. Walker will probably be the fate of the proposed "High-speed" rail line between Madison and Milwaukee. The promise of \$810 Million in Federal money to spend has had politicians drooling, Gov. Doyle has been busy promoting the project, planning stations, talking the potential jobs created, and lining up supporters for the first ride.

Ongoing costs of the project, lack of enthusiasm from potential riders, and that it would be of little benefit to 75% of state residents who realize it is a fragrant waste of taxpayers money while more pressing items should be addressed seem to make no difference.

Using the Spanish Talgo plant in Milwaukee as a poster child, Doyle has temporarily halted work on the project making Walker responsible. In the meantime, if Wisconsin and other states decide to cancel the project for reasons of fiscal responsibility, other states have their hands out. Apparently Washington did not get the message on Nov. 2.

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THROUGH RAIN AND SNOW WE GO.

After the USPS was denied permission to increase postal rates, they announced a \$8.5 Billion loss for the year ended Sept. 30. This in spite of eliminating over 100,000 employees in recent years. While they blame reductions of volume, especially first class mail which is most profitable, their biggest expenses are still labor and retirement benefits. Increasing the cost of first class mail which is their usual way of increasing revenue would

probably result in even lesser revenue as businesses find more economical methods of communication.

They blame Congress for not allowing 5 day delivery which could result in meaningful savings. Perhaps it is time to raise the price to charities, advertising, and periodicals a little more. They cost just as much if not more to deliver and account for a huge percentage of Post Office volume.

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YOUR BILL IS ON IT'S WAY.

We all look forward to the holiday season, but for many of us it will be spoiled by the property tax bill we will be receiving just before Christmas.

While the potential selling price of most of property has dropped dramatically during the past year, here is what most of us can expect. The Green Bay and other school districts are asking for levy increases as well as several area municipalities. The City of Green Bay and Brown County budgets do not call for tax increases and we commend our elected officials for taking a sometimes difficult stand against higher spending.

Again it shows the importance of attending and speaking up at budget meetings. We commend our elected officials who take the sometimes unpopular stand of keeping their budgets in line with what taxpayers are willing and in most cases able to pay.

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WHO PAYS FOR "FAIR" FUNDING?

State School Supt. Tony Evers has announced his school financing plan which no doubt will be carefully analyzed by all parties involved to determine winners and losers. He calls it "Fair Funding for Our Future." School districts support it as it provides them with more money to spend. They didn't ask taxpayers.

One of the fair funding features would transfer more spending from local to state control by phasing out the school levy tax on their property tax bills. which also means shifting control from local to state supervision.

As with any tax distribution plan which comes out of Madison, their will be complex formulas based on school enrollment and poverty levels. The fact still remains that some school districts are presently better managed than others, and various economic factors make one

school district different from another.

One thing missing from Mr. Evers proposal is how it will be financed. He was very careful to outline all of the something for everybody features but most taxpayers are only concerned with the bottom line.

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NOTHING BUT THE BEST.

One institution that doesn't seem to worry about the economy, taxpayers or any other distractions is the UW-Madison.

An article in the Wisconsin State Journal lists 13 Major projects on the Madison campus underway or approved and scheduled for completion within the next 5 years. The total cost will be in excess of a Billion dollars, or over \$200 Million more than the controversial train from Milwaukee to Madison. It is also unlikely this will come from tuition increases.

We realize the UW and its many accomplishments are a credit to our state, but sometimes we get the impression they believe the reason you and I exist is to pay taxes to finance their excesses.

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CONTROLLING IMMIGRATION.

Received an interesting E-Mail claiming Missouri does not have the influx of illegal aliens that other states do.

Reasons given were that in 2007 a statewide referendum approved making English the official language passed by a 90 to 10 margin. No individual can demand government services except in English. Law enforcement officials are required to verify the immigration status of any person arrested and inform federal authorities if necessary.

Illegal immigrants are not given access to benefits such as food stamps, health care or financial aid for education.

Probably not much different that the existing laws we already have, or the laws where the immigrants come from.

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THE EXPENSIVE PASSAGE TO INDIA.

President Obama has returned from his trip to Asia where among other items he discussed job creation skills with other world leaders. Let's hope he accomplished something.

While the actual cost of the trip to U.S. taxpayers will probably never be disclosed, it won't set an example of frugality. At least 800 people accompanied him, and it was necessary to book entire hotels. One estimate said 3,000 people but we will give



him the benefit of the doubt.

Nonetheless, he took both Air Force Ones, about 40 other aircraft, 45 cars, 35 secret service agents, Coast Guard and Navy ships patrolling adjacent waters and the works. While one estimated cost was \$200 Million per day the president does have an expense account.

Necessary for international relations or not, it sets a poor example to taxpayers concerned with the economy.

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NO SUCH THING AS A FREE RIDE.

Gov. Elect Walker says he would like to return the \$810 Million for high-speed rail back to the Federal Govt. to apply against their deficit. At least use it for more pressing projects such as aging highways and bridges. The government is considering allocating it to other states for additional rail projects.

Why does Washington have to spend it on anything? They would have to borrow the money anyway.

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HIDE THE SHREDDERS.

The MacIver Institute claims that officials within the Doyle administration have been warned not to destroy any public records when they leave office. Especially copies of contracts. So much for public records.

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HIDE YOUR PIGGY BANKS.

On Nov. 2, over 70% of Wisconsin voters approved the referendum calling for an amendment to the states constitution prohibiting the transfer of segregated transportation funds to other state purposes.

Great idea. To date Gov. Doyle has confiscated an estimated \$1.3 Billion from the transportation fund for use on other state purposes.

This \$1.3 Billion came from gasoline taxes and motor vehicle registrations for use in highway construction and maintenance, forcing the DOT to borrow money from other sources.

Since there are other "Piggy Banks" available, shouldn't an amendment to the constitution prohibit any transfers of segregated funds by future governors unless specifically authorized by a majority of the legislature?

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FROM GARBAGE TO ENERGY?

The Oneida tribe is moving ahead to build a 70,000 sq. ft. waste-to-energy gasification facility capable of turning 150 tons of garbage a day into enough electricity for 3,000 homes.

This sounds like a good idea, especially if it could solve problems such as disposal of garbage without filling up landfills for eternity and providing cost effective energy in return. We are surprised there has not been much publicity on the project.

Is this a joint project with the county where disposal of waste seems to be an ongoing concern? Where will the 150 tons of garbage per day come from? Who will pay who for what if it becomes operational? Shouldn't the county have looked at such a system years ago rather than filling limited available landfill space?

The immediate problem seems to be finding a location acceptable to all parties, environmental concerns and communications.

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FOLLOWING THE MONEY OUT.

Plans have been announced for a June 11, concert at Lambeau Field, hoping to attract 50,000 people at prices ranging from \$81 to \$252. Like other big events held in the area it is being heralded for the economic impact it will bring. No doubt the hotels, restaurants, and other retail establishment will all benefit which is good,

One thing we have always wondered about is if the money the players, entertainers and promoters of these events take with them when they leave town and spend elsewhere is factored into the balance sheets of the economic impact factors? At an average of \$150 or so per ticket this could be considerable.

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A CASINO ON EVERY CORNER.

We read that Illinois lawmakers are considering opening several large gambling casinos. They figure they could make \$1 Billion more to apply against their states deficit.

Let them go ahead. A number of casino projects in southern Wisconsin have been turned down by voter referendums in recent years, largely because many people probably knew better. Also history has shown that any government unit is incapable of even running a gambling casino at a profit the same as any

other business they get involved with.

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THEY LIKE IT BETTER THERE.

Municipalities, school districts, and counties often require their employees to reside within the boundaries of their district. Rationales being they are paid by the taxpayers of the district.

This apparently doesn't apply to state government, at least not in Wisconsin. It was disclosed last summer that the person in charge of Wisconsin's adult prisons and responsible for whatever goes on, Bill Grosshans actually was commuting from his residence in Galena, Illinois, and had the use of a state vehicle.

Earlier an attorney overseeing casino operations as a state employee received \$26,300 state reimbursement to drive back and forth to his home in Chicago.

Apparently when people are appointed to key state jobs in Wisconsin they don't have to tell anybody where they live.

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GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN.

As if airlines haven't had enough problems with fuel prices, mergers, and adding surcharges for luggage and snacks the Transportation Security Agency (TSA) has complicated things a little bit more.

We all acknowledge the importance of safe air travel and are thankful of the fact that largely through the efforts of the TSA this has been largely achieved.

Unfortunately maniacs intent on destroying our system have not gone away.

While most of us have learned to live with metal detectors and luggage checks the sudden imposition of full-body scanners and invasive pat-downs by TSA employees is drawing criticism.

Considering that the "Shoe Bomber" and the "Underwear Bomber" were isolated cases but still necessitated changes in security procedures all over the world. We can only speculate what will cause the next level of airport security.

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WHERE IT COMES FROM COUNTS.

Every election the media tells us that the candidate able to raise the most money for his campaign will be the likely winner. While there is some truth in this, it seems that in recent years it is not the candidate with the best message and qualifications to raise funds and support is not as important as party affiliation and attracting

special interest money and advertising in your behalf.

In the Nov. 2, election for Wisconsin Governor, it was reported that outside groups on behalf of both candidates raised and spent more money on advertising, (mostly negative) than the candidates raised and spent on their own. Also it was reported that \$11.8 Million was contributed from sources from outside of Wis for Congressional races.

The source or financing of most third party ads is not easy to determine but the messages were mostly politically negative rather than positive. Statewide the voting turnout for this most important election was about 46%, which perhaps also reflects the general opinion of politics and government.

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DOYLE CLEANING OUT HIS DESK.

Gov. Doyle has been busy trying to save as much as he can of his administration before it ends in January. This includes approving contracts with state employee unions before they had been formally negotiated and implementing legislation he authorized while in office. The previous budget projected a \$2.7 Billion shortfall which will be a problem Gov. Walker will have to resolve while keeping his promise not to raise taxes. It is possible that due to the economy and over spending on some budget items the deficit will be even more.

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REMEMBER CAMPAIGN PROMISES.

It was reported that members of Gov. Elect Walkers transition team have suggested an increase in the state sales tax from 5.0% to 7.0 or even 7.5%. This would put Wisconsin right back to the top of the list of highest tax states in which to reside and do business.

Walker quickly denied the idea, but will have to come up with some balance of income and expenses if he is to balance the budget as promised.

* * * * *

DO WE LEAD THE LEAGUE?

Lambeau Field has a nation-wide reputation as the best place to attend a pro football game, and we credit everyone who is involved in it's game day operations.

We often wonder though if other teams keep track and publish statistics of the number of people arrested and ejected after each game. It must serve some use-

ful purpose.

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SAVING FOR ME OR YOU?

The Village of Allouez is one of several communities in Wisconsin participating in a program to monitor and reduce utility use in order to conserve resources and save money.

Fine idea as long as rates aren't increased simply because the utilities aren't making their targeted profit. Conserving energy is paramount to preserving our way of life for future generations.

What bothers is that most of us seem to realize that the resources used to produce heat and energy should be preserved for future generations. While we conserve we notice signs of conspicuous extravagance such as overheated and overlighted public and commercial buildings and even using heat lamps to grow grass on a football field in December.

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1 OUT OF 8 ON FOOD STAMPS.

The Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services reports that 13%, or 1 out of 8 Wisconsin residents relies on food stamps. Any way you look at it this is an unacceptable problem. While we agree that assistance of some sort is necessary when the economy dictates, the qualifying level of assistance allows a family earning \$4,300 a month or \$51,600 annually to receive \$793 monthly benefits, provided they have 5 people in the household.

Perhaps this explains why some people prefer working for cash. Sorry if we offended anyone and would like some better ideas for public support.

* * * * *

MORE PUBLIC REFERENDUMS?

Every so often the suggestion comes up in Wisconsin that more public referendums should be held in Wisconsin to allow citizens more influence.

This does not seem like a bad idea considering the Doyle administration could be described as "Government by Decree," considering the amount of binding legislation which was enacted in the annual budgets and by partisan politics.

However, we only have to look to California to see the results of citizen ballot initiatives. Every election it seems ridiculous laws initiated by special interests are approved that are both impractical, or cost effective.

The best system is still to elect

representatives to office that fortify your own values and interests, keep in touch with them, and re-elect them if they live up to your expectations.

* * * * *

SOMETHING FISHY HERE.

We are all concerned with protecting the Great Lakes from various invasive species and pollution. After all, we drink the stuff every day. With all the agencies involved, it is the Army Corp of Engineers who has the final word.

So what do they do? They have proposed a "massive and complex" study costing \$25 Million and which will take a few years to study the problem. By the time they get their survey completed and figure out what to do we could have Asian Carp coming out of our faucets.

* * * * *

SALES TAXES ARE THE PROBLEM.

The State of Wisconsin claims it loses \$150 Million annually in sales tax revenue due to internet sales. Local merchants also suffer due to sales lost avoiding taxes.

So far internet retailers have been able to resist efforts to force them to collect and report sales taxes or impose a super tax managed through the IRS. Reasons being that each state has different rates, laws and exemptions and reporting jurisdictions to deal with. So far a problem better off left alone.

As usual, lots if things to wonder about.

Jim Frink

"Things That Make Us Wonder," consists of thoughts that occur to us, mostly taxpayer related in some way from current news events. We use reliable, published information and statistics. Some items are unimportant and probably not worth commenting about while others could easily be expanded to full length feature articles worthy of future study and action to protect our interests as taxpayers. We try to cover a wide variety of subjects in limited space and perhaps put a different spin on items from what you read in the papers or see on TV. We acknowledge that our perspective on some items in this column may be contrary to some of our readers. However, one of our purposes is to encourage debate, as we realize there are two sides to every question. Comments or suggestions are welcome for inclusion in the "TAX TIMES."

"Economy has frequently nothing whatever to do with the amount of money being spent but with the wisdom used in spending it."

. . . Henry Ford

The TAX TIMES

Brown County Taxpayers Association
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The TAX TIMES - December, 2010

BCTA Meeting and Events Schedule – MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- Thursday - December 16, 2010. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Titledown Brewing Co., 2d Floor Meeting Room.
Introduction and Demonstration of BCTA Website.
- Saturday - December 25, 2010. MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !
- Saturday - January 1, 2011. HAPPY NEW YEAR !
- Thursday - January 20, 2011. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Titledown Brewing Co., 2d Floor Meeting Room.
Green Bay City Assessor. Your property tax assessment.
- Thursday - February 17, 2011. BCTA Monthly Meeting. 12:00 Noon.
Details to be announced.

Unless otherwise notified, BCTA monthly meetings are held the Third Thursday of each month, 12:00 Noon, at Titledown Brewing Co., 200 Dousman St.

Meetings are open to the public.

BCTA Members, their guests and other interested parties are cordially invited to attend and participate in our open discussions.

COST: \$8.00, Payable at meeting. Includes lunch, tax & tip.
Call Tom Sladek – 499-7701 for information or to leave message.

December, 2010



“An editor is someone who separates the wheat from the chaff, and then prints the chaff.”

. . . Adlai Stevenson

“If we fixed a hangnail the way our government fixes the economy, we'd slam a car door on it.”

. . . Cullen Hightower

SUPPORT THE BCTA

**New Members are Always Welcome. Call 336-6410
Write us at P. O. Box 684
or visit our website**

**www.BCTaxpayers.Org
for Details.**

The Badger State Dream Team.

There is a gross misunderstanding of capitalism afoot in this state, this nation, this globe. There is an inconvenient truth -- a global fiscal climate change. There are at least two generations on the loose who totally fail to apprehend the risk and reward of capitalism, the wants and needs of this global economy.

Sen. Luther Olsen put his finger on it the other day when he said folks are hopping mad over government taxes and spending and shouting, "Cut, cut, cut!" But when a specific program is targeted, they say, "We didn't mean you should cut that." Wait and see how Luther hollers when his precious Corn/Ethanol subsidy comes up for debate-the Luther family is involved in this issue downstate I believe.

Here is an example from across the pond, which is likely to be exported to America in coming months. Thousand of students across the United Kingdom are protesting at government and university buildings over a national austerity budget that cuts funding and increases tuition and fees. In essence, they are demanding money that does not exist to pay for their rightful college education.

Many UW campuses in the past 6 years have seen small student protests over fee and tuition hikes forwarded by the Board of Regents in response to state budget cuts. This reality has magnified over the tenure of Diamond Jim Doyle, as he robbed segregated funds, with disgraceful Republican complicity, to minimize the deficit's impact on union jobs and students.

But students and unions are in for a real shocker as the Walker administration takes the reins. Walker has vowed not to simply stand in the blast crater and wait for erosion to bring the ground down below his chin. And he has vowed not to dig for China with sham investment plans like high-speed rail.

Walker is going to cut state spending and create a tax climate that encourages private sector job growth. How do unions create jobs? They demonstrated their plan outside the Talgo International train factory in Milwaukee, "free Willie Wonka, and more free chocolate!"

They gathered with signs, roused their ire with audaciously hopeful rhetoric, and chanted, "What do we want? Jobs! When do we want them? Now." I know this is the Badger state, but do you create jobs by badgering employers to add liabilities to their payrolls?

Did SC Johnson create more than 12,000 jobs in 72 countries by demanding them into existence? Did John Menard create the nation's third largest home improvement empire by standing outside offices badgering government to build him a store?

NO! They wracked their brains, wrung their hands over business and finance plans, vetted products and manufacturers, sweated over supply networks, pitched proposals to banks and investors and prayed for loans. They stretched their necks over the chopping block to realize their dreams.

But they did it so long ago and have been so publicly successful that subsequent generations forgot the sweat, toil and flirtation with failure that necessarily accompanies capital investment. Most folks under 50 don't know what Bill Gates went through to become Bill Gates. They think Warren Buffet is merely an incarnation of King Midas.

And, unfortunately, through programs like BadgerCare and TARP, many have come to believe government is an ATM from the Bottomless Bank of Abundance. Weaning a larger than imagined cross-section of self-interests from across political and economic strata will be a huge undertaking, but done fairly, shared by all, big and small, union and non-union, it may be the beginnings for a reunification of the citizenry. Dreamer, eh?

Gov. Walker will reset reality on capitalism; restore the badger as a symbol of industry and feisty self-reliance. He will re-establish Wisconsin as a place and a people with the determination to help restore normality to the global fiscal climate. Our very livelihoods rely on this dream becoming more a reality. As I see it this is no longer a dream; it is a necessity. The question remains, will our newly elected conservative dream team come to play?