

'Midsummer' in March

Madison Ballet production's goal is to make Shakespeare accessible to all | **77 SQUARE**



UW BASKETBALL
Jordan Taylor has grown by watching, listening to others
SPORTS

WISCONSIN

STATE



JOURNAL

★ **THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011**

• Madison's largest reporting team

• Breaking news 24 hours a day at **www.madison.com**

STATE BUDGET CRISIS

CAPITOL SHOCKER

GOP'S QUICK MANEUVERS PUSH BILL THROUGH SENATE

THOUSANDS STORM BUILDING, YELL 'GENERAL STRIKE!'



⤴ **THE GAVEL FALLS** | Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, left, bangs the gavel to adjourn the conference committee meeting on Wednesday while Rep. Peter Barca, D-Kenosha, right, keeps speaking.

M.P. KING - State Journal

ANGRY REACTION

Protesters shout outside the Senate chamber as Republican legislators inside advance the amended version of Gov. Scott Walker's budget repair bill.

JOHN HART - State Journal

LEGISLATION: After a 3-week stalemate, Walker's budget repair bill set for final Assembly vote today.

By **MARY SPICUZZA** and **CLAY BARBOUR**
Wisconsin State Journal

In a surprise move Wednesday, Senate Republicans used a series of parliamentary maneuvers to overcome a three-week stalemate with Democrats and pass an amended version of the governor's controversial budget repair bill.

With a crowd of protesters chanting outside their chamber, Senators approved Gov. Scott Walker's bill, which would strip most collective bargaining rights from public employees. The new bill removes fiscal elements of the proposal but still curbs collective bargaining and increases employee payments to pension and health benefits. The changes would amount to about an 8 percent pay cut for public workers.

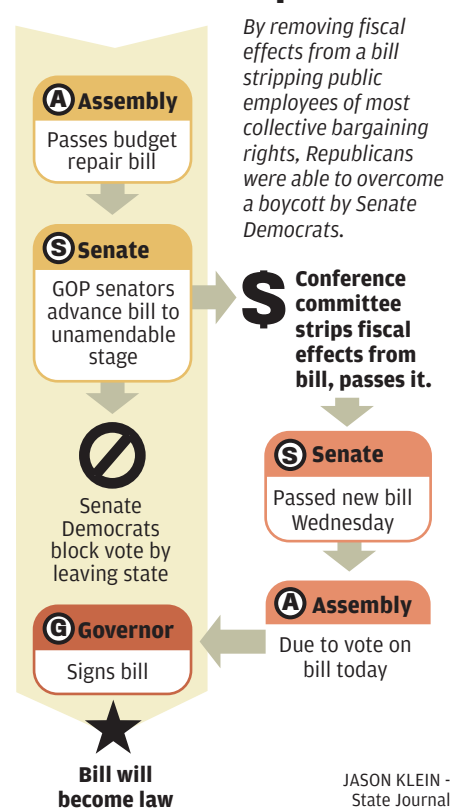
The move gets around a boycott by the Senate's minority Democrats, who fled the state three weeks ago to deny the Senate the 20-member quorum needed to vote on fiscal matters.

After the session, Senate Republicans scattered, leaving no one to explain how they managed to pass legislation that still appears to have some effect on the state budget. In a statement, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald said only that he consulted with the Legislature's attorneys and "every item in tonight's bill follows the letter of the law."

The move ended a bizarre two-and-a-half hour legislative sprint in which the Senate hastily gavelled in and sent the measure to a Senate-Assembly conference committee, which typically works out differences between similar bills passed by the two houses.

Although the Senate hadn't yet passed the bill, Senate rules allow the Senate

How the bill was passed



MORE INSIDE | PAGE A6

BOYCOTTS: Consumers organize to direct their money away from Walker supporters.

CONTRACTS: Union encourages rush to pass new deals before collective bargaining is gutted.

MATC: Facing deep cuts, college will vote on deal for the part-time teachers union.

WEB EXTRA

Videos: Watch the passage of the budget repair bill and the Capitol protests after the votes.

Go to: madison.com



REACTION: Protesters vow to remain in Capitol.

State Journal staff

Thousands of protesters rushed to the state Capitol on Wednesday night, forcing their way through doors, crawling through windows and jamming corridors, as word spread of hastily called votes on Gov. Scott Walker's controversial bill limiting collective bargaining rights for public workers.

Some union leaders interviewed at the Madison Labor Temple said the abrupt passage could lead to strikes. Officials with Madison Teachers Inc. and the Wisconsin Education Association Council urged teachers to show up to work today, despite a call for a mass demonstration

this morning.

"The Senate's improper and illegal action will be challenged in court," predicted John Matthews, MTI's executive director.

Marty Beil, executive director of the Wisconsin State Employees Union, declared the governor and his Senate "cronies" had "turned our proud state of Wisconsin into a banana republic."

"Senate Republicans have exercised the nuclear option to ram through their bill attacking Wisconsin's working families in the dark of night," added Phil Neuenfeldt, president of the Wisconsin State

Please see **REACTION**, Page A7

Please see **SHOCKER**, Page A7



INDEX

BUSINESS D1
COMICS D6
OBITUARIES A4
OPINION A11

SPORTS B1
TAKE FIVE D5
TELEVISION D8
WSJ LEGALS B8

WEATHER

Clouds early, then mostly sunny.
High 37, Low 21



Details on back of section



NATION & WORLD

Libya's oil industry hit hard

Pro-Gadhafi forces set oil installations ablaze as battles rage. **PAGE A9**