



Holding the Line

Strike Update
Issue #17

Giving Thanks for Union Solidarity

Sixty workers extending picket lines to Washington, DC, celebrated Thanksgiving with their union family. Workers took a break from picketing to sit down together for a union-family celebration.

Workers put up picket lines at Washington, DC area Safeway stores on Saturday, November 22—the first extension of lines outside of California. Picket lines are now up at 21 DC stores, as well as Safeway stores in San Francisco, Oakland, Hayward, San Mateo, Contra Costa, and Fresno.



More and more Safeway customers in these areas are choosing to shop elsewhere. In Fresno, Local 1428 members turned away 160 shoppers at one store in just a single day.

Customer Messages Supporters Speak Out

I was a UFCW member at Kroger in Tunica, Mississippi, when I was 15 (yes, I lied about my age but getting off the farm, literally, was worth the risk of eternal damnation and child labor laws.) My Mom was also a UFCW member and the union health insurance was a damn sight better than what I have now. And because the union had bargained for a standard life insurance package equal to her annual wages, they paid for a semester of my college when she died. God bless the UFCW.

—Brad Chism, Tunica, Miss.



From the Picket Line

I am the one with the picket sign that was almost hit in the parking lot by someone's car.

I am the one the grocery store chain locked out of the store from my job and told me not to return until the contract was settled. I did not leave on my own accord.

I am the one you come to on Thanksgiving and Christmas to ring up your groceries so you may go home to enjoy the holidays with your family and seek "good will towards men."

I am the one who smiles at you every day and listens to your complaints about the cost of living and the high prices "they charge."

I am the one who helps you find those items you just can't seem to find.

I am the one that opens up an extra checkstand to get you home faster, even though I am on a break.

I am the one who hugs you when you come through my line, because you just told me your heartbreaking news of your lost loved one.

I am the one who hasn't enjoyed a Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or the Fourth of July with my family in years, because "I am there to serve you."

I am the one who pulls in the grocery carts in the rain.

I am the one who you come to for the special cuts of meat you just have to have to make your meal perfect.

I am the one who works in the middle of the night to fill the shelves while you sleep.

I am the one who makes those beautiful flower arrangements for your Valentine.

I am the one who arrives very early to prepare the rolls, the bread, and meat platters for the funeral or your family event.

I am the one who selects the right watermelon and ripe pineapple for you.

I am the one "they" promised, if I give up all my evenings, all of my weekends, and all of my holidays with my family, "THEY WILL REWARD" me with a decent pension and benefit plan, so I won't need to go on welfare when I am old.

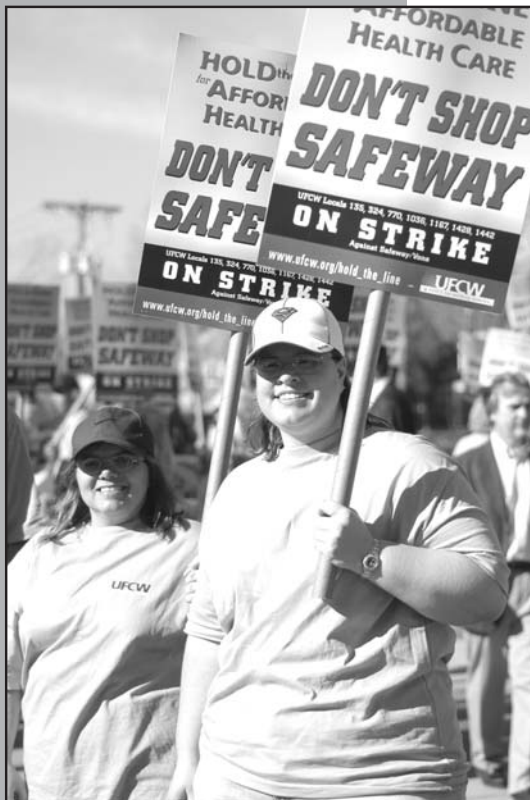
I am the one people yell at and am told to stop whining and get back to work.

I am the one who continues to try to inform the public of the very, very poor contract language.

I am the one who is desperately trying to raise my family and live the American Dream.

I am the one who is standing on the sidewalk with my sign asking you to please respect my picket line, because I THOUGHT I earned the right to expect my company to follow through with its promises.

I am the one who appreciates all your support these last weeks and needs you to stay strong in the weeks ahead.



WITHOUT YOU WE LOSE!!!