



# Holding the Line

Strike Update for  
Sunday,  
October 19, 2003

## Show Us Where it Says You Won't Cut Benefits

It's the people who have been here for 20 years who stand to lose most—the health care they've worked hard for years to protect.

—Jenna Norton,  
Vons courtesy clerk,  
La Habra

Our employers and their friends on talk radio are demanding that we show them where it says in companies' contract proposal that benefits would be cut by 50 percent.

**Where does it say that the employers WON'T cut benefits by 50 percent?**

Our employers are refusing to sign an agreement that would protect our benefits from future cuts. And, under the employers' proposal, contributions to the health care fund won't be enough to cover our current benefits.

Don't be fooled by the companies' cover-up and talk radio hosts' rhetoric.

Call KFI Talk radio at (800) 520-1534 and broadcast the truth behind the fight to save affordable health care.



*Teamsters, ILWU, and SEIU members joined Vons workers at a community support rally in La Habra.*



# Customer Messages

## Supporters Speak Out

*To Whom it May Concern:*

For the past several years, I have been a regular customer at the Vons in Redlands. While Vons prices are competitive, they are not significantly different from other markets. So why would I choose Vons over these other choices?

The answer is the people who work there. I have found them to be extraordinarily efficient, cheerful, and helpful. They are outstanding workers, pleasant to deal with, and good neighbors. This is why I feel compelled to express my absolute outrage at the latest reports of your contract negotiations. I cannot in good conscience continue to shop at Vons or any of the markets which are involved. Rarely does one see such a blatant example of unmitigated greed. To treat such good people so shabbily is immoral and unethical. I will not give tacit approval by continuing to patronize Vons (or its partners in crime). I, therefore, sever

my connection with your organization until such time as you begin to treat your employees like the valuable assets that they are.

*James N. Bowers*



*Local 1428 members picket at Ralphs*

## From the Picket Line

**Got milk?** At Vons in Monrovia, a scab truck driver slammed on the brakes, causing pellets to overturn, and milk to flood down the drain.

- Vons # 17 in Palmdale: No deliveries have been made since the strike began.
- Vons # 161 in Mission Hills: The Community Block Party has pledged it's support—saving all receipts from other markets to send to Safeway, Albertsons, and Kroger corporate offices each week.
- Vons # 200: A customer returned to apologize for crossing the picket line. He read the flyers strikers handed out and promised not to return until the strike is over.
- The Kaiser Permanente Coalition of Labor Unions have sent letters to their membership in support of UFCW striking workers. These unions include: SEIU, UNAC, KNAPP, Steelworkers, and OPEIU.