



Holding the Line

Strike Update
Issue #3

From the Picket Line

"Albertson's says workers are the backbone of the company, but if we are, then why are we getting treated like this? The CEOs are making millions of dollars a year but they want to cut costs by taking away from us. I'm a single mom, been with company for 8 years and I'm not on welfare. I'm just trying to get what's right, what's fair.

—Aisha Page,
Albertsons employee
and Local 135 member

Garry Matteson works in the produce department at Albertsons #6515 in Chino Hills. He has worked in retail for 32 years—and four years ago was diagnosed with cancer. Thanks to his health insurance benefits he has worked hard to protect, he has been able to get the treatment he needs. "I am walking the picket line because I know how much will be cut—workers and their families wouldn't be able to afford it if they got sick."

Ralphs #71 in Garden Grove: The store director came out to the picket line to distribute company propaganda and happened to mention to the picketers that there were no deliveries to the store that day. Was it that the teamsters honoring yet another line in Garden Grove? Not exactly. In this case, the scab driver hired to deliver to the store disappeared with the big rig—along with the full load of groceries inside.



*Albertsons #6548
in Ontario,
Local 1428*



Customer Messages

Supporters Speak Out

Dear Albertsons:

I am not a union organizer. I don't belong to a union. I'm not always sympathetic to a union's goals or demands. But I am a long-time Albertsons shopper. This morning I drove to your Hawthorne store to buy my weekly groceries. Your employees were picketing out front. **I did not cross their picket line.**

When your efforts to negotiate with union leaders stalled and a strike was decided on, your response was to ally yourself with your fellow grocers and lock your employees out as well. In doing so, you created a third interest in the collective bargaining process.

Now your customers must choose whether to continue on as Albertsons shoppers or to choose an alternative. My choice will be the latter. The longer this strike lasts, the stronger my relationship will grow with your competitor.

I don't like having to do this. I've been a happy customer of Albertsons—the service is exceptional. But if you think you can let customers be a pawn in this fight, think again.

Respectfully,

M.L. Carothe, Hawthorne, Calif.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Oct. 21,
5 p.m.

Community Support
Rally and March to
Wal-Mart

Vons at
2101 N. Rose Ave.,
Oxnard



"They want us to take a 50% reduction in benefits, freeze our wages and take away a lot of other stuff. The benefit reduction with increased costs is the same as a pay cut since most people count on the benefits we have now. It would put me in a financial bind. I've been loyal, responsible and faithful to this company—never have I been out sick—and this is how they treat us."

—Mona Hernandez, Albertsons
bakery manager

Visit your local union web site or
log on to www.saveourhealthcare.org
for more information.