



Local 9415

# Live Wire

Issue # 2



## Workers Demand Fair Share As Contract Talks Open

SBC workers took to the streets as bargaining talks opened on February 12th. The themes that echoed throughout the day were spelled out by Greg Ball, President of Local 9421.

"We've gathered here together to Take a Stand for Jobs and HealthCare! This is not just CWA's fight. This is a fight of every Labor Union, as evident by the ongoing struggle of our Brothers and Sisters in the UFCW since last October."

"We're here to send a message. A loud and clear message to SBC and any other employer out there who thinks cost shifting of premiums (to workers) is a good idea to increase their bottom line.

Let me tell you what our bottom line is...Messing with our Health Care is a Sick Idea...And anyone who tries to do it will pay the price!!!"

(Further coverage on page 3)



## Sacramento

### In This Issue

- CWA Rallies
- The Strike
- The Relief Fund
- The Scab
- We Were There
- Grocery Workers



## Oakland

# The Strike: Weapon for Workers

When workers Strike, it's because we've arrived at an insurmountable impasse at the negotiating table. When all indicators point to the need for management to share the wealth that our labor created... yet their intense greed simply won't permit - We Strike, We Shut It Down!

Here @ SBC, it's all about sharing in the \$7.4 Billion extra dollars that our labor created last year. If they refuse to sign a Fair & Just Contract, we simply put down our tools and refuse to work - gentle persuasion. We set up Picket Lines to enforce the Shut-Down.

Of course we don't intend to let anyone come in and take our jobs or do our work; we're not quitting (See 'The Scab').

We will seek to bring every aspect of this enterprise to a screeching halt. As we begin to shut it down, management will begin - over time - to become more accommodating to our needs. They're forced to actually, in order to maintain a successful enterprise.

But we don't stop there. The Strike is but one of the weapons in our War Chest. Besides shutting down the enterprise, we will set about exposing Management Greed for all to see. SBC should understand that we will send a shout-out to all our friends & allies.

We will be joined by millions as we take on this greedy Texas Corporation. Enron got us in the mood. In this Battle for Justice, we'll be joined by our Churches, Families & Communities. SBC customers, other Union members and working people everywhere will stand strong with us. For it's not simply the worker being fleeced by these powerful Texas Bullies.

SBC will seek to portray us as greedy & overpaid - folks provided with some of the best health care given to working people. At the same time, SBC will seek - just as aggressively - to hide the fact that our labor created \$7.4 Billion extra dollars last year (profit 2003).

If SBC wishes, we will shut down the enterprise, and together with our friends & allies we'll Stand and Challenge the SBC Empire... and we will win... or they can just sign.

## CWA MEMBER RELIEF FUND How you can "Afford" to strike!

by Valerie Reyna, Local 9415 President

The major concern of our membership is how they can take care of themselves and their families *if a strike becomes necessary*. This information should alleviate the fear of having no income should we strike.

CWA has a Member Relief Fund with more than \$200 million dollars with contributions continuing by 700,000 members if we are on strike. Strikers who pull their strike assignment, whether it be walking the picket line, serving on a committee or other assignment by the Local will be entitled to \$200.00 per week beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the strike and \$300.00 per week beginning the 29<sup>th</sup> day of a strike.

Each striker is entitled to an additional strike fund check 7 days after the conclusion of the strike. (The rationale of \$200 beginning the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the strike is we will get a paycheck sometime within that 15 day period).

In addition, you may be able to defer mortgage, car and credit card payments. The Local can assist you in calling your creditors and the Local will help find temporary employment through Temp Agencies.

While this may not equal the income you are currently receiving, if you are able to defer some or all of your payments, or pay the interest only, you receive strike payments and you get a temporary job, you can survive during a strike, if one should become necessary.

SBC Team Award will be paid out this month. Put it in the bank in case we are forced to strike, if not, you will have it when the contract is settled. SBC is a profitable company, thanks to our hard work.

Getting a fair contract, one that we deserve, is going to depend on YOU and how well prepared YOU are. We must all send one message to the Company and that is:

**"We are not afraid and we will strike if provoked!"**

### STRIKE <stri:k> verb, ACTION WORD

<struck /'str&ks/; struck also strick-en /'stri:k&nt/; strik-ing /'stri:k(ɪŋɡl)/>  
(1) <a> to aim and usually deliver a blow, stroke, or thrust (as with the hand, a weapon, or a tool) <b> to arrive with detrimental effect <disaster struck> <c> to attempt to undermine or harm something as if by a blow (2) to come into contact forcefully <two ships struck in mid channel> (3) <a> to engage in battle <b> to make a military attack (4) to become ignited (5) to make an impression (6) to stop work in order to force an employer to comply with demands (7) basic weapon in the hands of the workers (8) to engage in a strike against (an employer)

by Jack London - Author (1876-1916)

After God had finished the rattlesnake, the toad, and the vampire, he had some awful substance left with which he made a scab.

A scab is a two legged animal with a corkscrew soul, a water brain, a combination backbone of jelly and glue. Where others have hearts, he carries a tumor of rotten principles.

When a scab comes down the street, men turn their backs and angels weep in heaven, and the devil shuts the gates of hell to keep him out.

No man (or woman) has a right to scab so long as there is a pool of water to drown his carcass in, or a rope long enough to hang his body with. Judas was a gentleman compared to a scab. For betraying his master, he had character enough to hang himself. A scab has not.

Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. Judas sold his Savior for thirty pieces of silver. Benedict Arnold sold his country for a promise of a commission in the British army. The scab sells his birthright, country, his wife, his children and his fellowmen for an unfulfilled promise from his employer.

Esau was a traitor to himself; Judas was a traitor to his God; Benedict Arnold was a traitor to his country; a scab is a traitor to his God, his country, his family and his class.

### The Scab

**Rick DeLao - President - Local 9431**

The membership is ready to do what it takes to get a fair and decent contract. They understand the issues and they're ready to do what it takes to get a good contract... The truth was spoken here. Healthcare is a major issue with our membership, it's a major issue for the Nation, and the State of California... I think that SBC has underestimated our resolve.



**Valerie Reyna - President - Local 9415**

We opened up bargaining against a company that, as everybody has told you has made billions of dollars last year. And the only way that we're going to get a fair contract is if we continue the momentum that we've started today... We have to show the company that we will strike if provoked!

**Negotiations Have Begun**  
February 12, 2004

**Joseph "Tiger" Garcia  
Organizer - Local 9421**



"I feel very strongly that we have to basically take the bull by the horns, I mean they're from Texas so we gotta show this company that we mean business..."

**Question:** If you could shape the message being sent to SBC today, what would it be?  
"Hold onto your shorts and stay in Texas."



**Yonah Diamond  
Organizer - Local 9415**

**Question:** What do you think about tonight's event in Oakland?  
"It was ROCKIN! This event was the bomb, I mean you can still hear it (cars beeping). People are goin crazy; we had like 200 people. People were live and psyched to be here. Great energy, and the people are ready to fight, so let's fight."

**Question:** Do you feel the grocery workers strike is related to your struggle here today?  
"I mean it looks to me like it's exactly the same thing... we got an extremely profitable company that for no other reason than greed wants to take things from the workers that created that profit. We don't know exactly what SBC is going to do in the negotiations, but it looks to me like it's going to be the same exact story."

**Question:** Do you think that SBC has underestimated us?  
"I don't know what SBC thinks about us, but I'll just let em know that we're strong and we're gonna fight like hell, and we're not only not going to take any cut backs: we're goin forward... We have 100,000 workers in 13 states that are together and we're solid, and we're movin forward together with our co-workers, with our neighbors, with our family, with the grocery workers, with everybody who works in this country, and we're all movin together and they better watch out."

**We Were There**

**By Cory Salter, Local 9415**  
We were there: When SBC said they're headed west. Stockholders felt blessed and customers stressed. We convinced them its' fine you can easily rest. It is just a name change no more or no less.

We were there: When they said you're just too big for cally and were ready to curse, scream, riot and rally, we stood up, every James, Tom, Cindy, and Sally insisting it's okay, calm down. Don't worry be happy.

We were there: When the PUC opened up toll saying "just look outside, it is still us on that poll. We still got you covered just want you to know your home is with us, there is no need to go".

We were there: When the calls came and doubt became fear, when our long standing rep suddenly became smeared, and reports came Pacific Bells future unclear, companies fall 1 by 1 certainly end is near, it was us that changed that angry chant to a cheer and said "we built this tunnel, follow us, the light's here."

We were there: When you got here, isn't that why you came, SBC was just letters, we made it a name, we created, played then re-invented the game, we painted this picture, you just bought a frame.

We were there: When everything started to change.

We were there: When things went from different to strange.

We were there: When California needed to be reassured.

We were there: The same way that we had been before when no one knew what you had in store climbing, driving, typing, talking, confident and steady though they're gaucking, we build networks, relationships, bonds, and rapport, and now I sit wondering what was it for?

Seems us city folks have a lesson that you need to learn, not gone, but know the bridge has a slow burn, you preach values, we gave loyalty that you've yet to learn, SBC, we were there, now its' your turn!

**Now Its' Your Turn!**

## Grocery Workers Return To Work

UFCW members in Southern California voted 86 percent to ratify a new agreement affecting 70,000 grocery workers at almost 900 stores, with three supermarket companies, Safeway, Kroger and Albertsons, on February 26, 2004.

After 20 weeks without paychecks, workers won their fight to protect affordable health care, their pensions and job security. The companies demanded separate health and pension plans for current and future employees which would have resulted in the effective elimination of health care and retirement security benefits for workers.

The support and solidarity of millions of people and organizations across the country was essential to the workers. From the first day on, customers refused to cross the lines with an average of 75% of customers shopping elsewhere, amounting to estimated loses of more than \$2 billion for the companies. Workers spirits were also lifted by community support including rallies and hundreds of thousands of dollars in food and financial aid. Many national and local political, faith and labor leaders put their bodies on the line to defend the grocery workers...

## Boycott Lifted For Now...



## CWA Local 9415 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

[www.cwa9415.org](http://www.cwa9415.org)

March 16  
6:30 PM  
1831 Park Bl.  
Oakland

opeiu-29-afl-cio-sc

a 9415 production edited by randy christensen  
photography and assistance by jesse christensen  
send questions, articles, poems, etc to [LiveWire9415@yahoo.com](mailto:LiveWire9415@yahoo.com)

Could it come to this???

**CWA's Flying Squadron Wants YOU!**

Picket the Poles...



Follow the Work

**Win the Strike!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL YOUR LOCAL

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30

February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March