

# DESERT EDGE

## UFCW LOCAL 1167

a VOICE for working America

Official Publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers Union

August 2011



Members of UFCW Local 1167 show their colors to the companies.

## Grocery workers take message to headquarters of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons

Clergy and labor allies join rallies in Arcadia, Fullerton and Compton on June 28

See page 4

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### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## Public lines up with grocery workers

**O**ur contract negotiations with representatives of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons are continuing, with more talks scheduled through the middle of August.

Unfortunately, progress remains slow as the employers continue to insist on shifting health care costs to our members.

In the meantime, the companies have expanded their misleading propaganda campaigns directed to our members and the public. Their goal is to reduce anxiety concerning the main sticking point in the negotiations, which is health care.

However, in a recent interview, a Ralphs spokesperson confirmed that the employers' proposal imposes an \$8,000 out-of-pocket maximum on workers each year. When you include premiums and deductibles, the annual cost could exceed \$11,000.

### Out of reach for grocery workers

These amounts are totally out of reach for grocery workers. It's wrong for these companies, which are making billions in profit, to drive the very workers who have made them profitable into poverty.

A recent independent poll commissioned by your union shows that consumers are firmly and overwhelmingly on our side. They have a favorable view of us, recognizing that grocery workers are courteous and reasonable people who work hard to support our families.

The poll indicated that nearly 90 percent of consumers would support a strike if it helped us get a fair contract. This is important, because support from the shopping public is key to our cause.

(Please see page 2)



By Bill Lathrop

## OFFICE CLOSED SEPT. 5 IN HONOR OF LABOR DAY

### Next Quarterly Membership Meeting: Wednesday, September 21, 2011

The meeting will start at 7 p.m. in the UFCW Local 1167 Auditorium,  
855 W. San Bernardino Ave., Bloomington



## JUST RETIRED

First of all, belated congratulations to **Tom Tormey, Georgia de la Pena and Jenine Bell.**

Tom retired in June 2010 after 27 years with Ralphs. Jenine retired in February 2011 after working 38 years with Ralphs. Georgia retired in March after having worked for Vons for 35 years.

We're sorry we missed announcing your retirements earlier, Tom, Jenine and Georgia, and we hope you've been enjoying your retirements.

In July, **Ramona Escobar, Martin Gomez, Teri Hughes, Janice Katuls, Cleo Porterfield, Steve Rafferty, Anita Robinson, James Roselli, Terri Studer** and

**Gail Wait** joined the ranks of the retirees.

Ramona worked for Stater Bros. for 20 years. Martin worked for Stater Bros. for 35 years. Teri worked for Vons for 36 years. Janice worked for Rite Aid for 33 years. Cleo worked 33 years for Stater Bros. Steve worked for Stater Bros. for 40 years. Anita worked in the industry for 32 years with Albertsons and Sav-on. James Roselli worked for 30 years for Lucky and Albertsons. Terri worked for Rite Aid for 14 years. Gail worked for Ralphs and Alpha Beta for 25 years.

Congratulations to all of our new retirees! We wish you many healthy, happy years ahead to enjoy your well-earned retirements.

## JUST MARRIED

Belated congrats to **Rick McRoberts** of Albertsons, who married Karen McGee on March 16, 2010. ... **Alicia Reid** of Ralphs said "I do" to Michael LaRosa on April 9, 2011 at the Fontana Community Church. They couple honeymooned in Palm Springs. ... **Angelica Hernandez** of Vons married Fernando Montelongo on April 23 in Nevada.

Congratulations to all of our newlyweds!

## JUST BORN

**Rita Hernandez**, Food 4 Less, has a new daughter. Giselle Genesis was born on June 7 at 8:07 p.m at San Bernardino Community Hospital. Giselle weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. and measured 19 inches long. ... **Kerry Miller**, Ralphs, welcomed Kayla Hope on June 7. Kayla weighed 8 lbs. 9.5 oz. and measured 20.5 inches long. Her happy mother writes, "We're so excited to welcome our baby girl." ... **Ileen Garcia**, Stater Bros., has a new son. David Ruben Emiliano Young was born on June 9 and weighed 5 lbs. 2.5 oz. ... **Andrea Courreges**, Ralphs, and her husband, Johnny, welcomed twins JoAnn Michele and John David on June 15. ... **Aaron Hernandez**, Stater Bros., is pleased to announce the birth of Madison on July 1. Madison weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz.

Congratulations to all of our new moms and dads!

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Public lines up with workers

(Continued from front page)

We also have strong support from religious leaders, elected officials and members of other labor unions. Hundreds of grocery stores have been adopted by local community groups, churches, labor organizations and individuals who are pledging their support for grocery workers. They are willing to do their part to ensure that the middle class has a future in our communities.

It is critical that we stand united in defending our health care and wages. Until we secure a fair contract, we cannot waver. We must continue to show our solidarity.

Let your fellow workers know, and let management know, that we have the community and consumers on our side in this fight, and it's time to negotiate a fair contract!

## NEGOTIATION UPDATES

Receive special messages and alerts from Local 1167

Text 'VOTE' to 37398 or call the Hotline at (866) 662-0686

## IN MEMORIAM

**Kenneth Brooks Jr.**, a clerk's helper employed by Stater Bros. Markets, died on July 1, 2011, at the age of 21. He had been a continuous member since November 2009.

**Scott Hartmann**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Stater Bros. Markets, died on July 1, 2011, at the age of 55. He had been a member since May 1980.

**Sherry Hoffman**, an affiliated member employed by Rite Aid, died on July 8, 2011, at the age of 68. She had been a member since August 1996.

**Inez Mendoza**, a food clerk formerly employed by Ralphs, died on June 21, 2011, at the age of 43. She had been a continuous member since April 1997.

**Doris Spencer**, a retired food clerk formerly employed by Safeway and Vons, died on Jan. 11, 2011, at the age of 81. She had been a member since January 1960.

*We express our condolences to the families of these deceased members.*

## Your dues are now payable!

If you are one of the few members of the local who are not yet signed up for dues checkoff: AUGUST DUES ARE NOW DUE AND PAYABLE. IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2011, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY SUSPEND YOURSELF.

With dues checkoff, all future dues can be deducted automatically from your pay check. If you do not have an authorization form, call the local and one will be sent to you immediately.

Non-payment or payment of the incorrect amount will automatically suspend you — a costly and inconvenient mistake. Although not required, the local, as a courtesy, normally sends billing notices by first-class mail to those not on dues checkoff. It is the member's obligation to pay dues in a timely manner. Not receiving a notice is not an excuse for failure to pay dues on time.

**Avoid suspension. Authorize dues checkoff today!**



### DESERT EDGE

Bill Lathrop  
Editor

Official monthly publication of Local 1167, United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California.

855 West San Bernardino Ave.  
Bloomington, California  
(Open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m.)  
(Closed Sat., Sun. and holidays)  
P.O. Box 1167  
Bloomington, CA 92316

Telephone Hours: 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Business Telephone:  
(909) 877-5000

Toll-Free Telephone:  
(800) 698-UFCW

Food and Meat Division Insurance:  
(909) 877-1110

Drug & General Sales Division Insurance:  
(909) 877-2331

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## 2011 UFCW & Food Employers Trust Fund Scholarship Awards Winners

Student Name	Award	Participant's Name	Employer
Derek Nelson	\$10,000	Mark Nelson	Albertsons
Roy Bowling	\$5,000	Cheryl Bowling	Stater Bros.
Anelise Costa	\$5,000	Anthony Costa	Vons
Kimberlee Flack	\$5,000	Ramona Flack	Albertsons
Breanne Lamphere	\$5,000	Bryan Lamphere	Albertsons
Adam Prohoroff	\$5,000	Self	Vons
Tiffanie Rehaume	\$5,000	Tamie Rehaume	Stater Bros.
Sidhant Tiwari	\$5,000	Satish Tiwari	Albertsons
Sawan Tiwari	\$5,000	Satish Tiwari	Albertsons
Alexis Alexander	\$2,500	Diana Alexander	Albertsons
Brianna Sargent	\$2,500	Magaly Austin	Vons
Cathleen Barry	\$2,500	Steven Barry	Stater Bros.
Michael Belen	\$2,500	Jose Belen	Albertsons
Matthew Bennett	\$2,500	Self	Stater Bros.
Russell Perry	\$2,500	Sheryl Brown	Stater Bros.
Kaitlyn Campbell	\$2,500	Judy Campbell	Stater Bros.
Maribel Capitan	\$2,500	Alfonso Capitan	Albertsons
Noah Caron	\$2,500	Patricia Caron	Ralphs
Jacob Chappell	\$2,500	Donald Chappell	Vons
Sydney Culler	\$2,500	James Culler	Stater Bros.
Katelynn Davenport	\$2,500	Marilynn Davenport	Stater Bros.
Sean Disalvio	\$2,500	Self	Albertsons
Stephanie Doss	\$2,500	Self	Albertsons
Jeffrey Fujii	\$2,500	Michael Fujii	Ralphs
Jonathan Godinho	\$2,500	Matthew Godinho	Albertsons
Nicole Haight	\$2,500	Self	Ralphs
Nicholas Hein	\$2,500	Larry Hein	Vons
Alexis Hein	\$2,500	Larry Hein	Vons
Niken Hertanto	\$2,500	Lanny Hertanto	Stater Bros.
Lindsay Hickok	\$2,500	William Hickok	Stater Bros.
Danielle Hunt	\$2,500	Self	Albertsons
Jonathan Ilizaliturri	\$2,500	Penni Ilizaliturri	Stater Bros.
Chelsey Jensen	\$2,500	Juli Jensen	Vons
Katelynn Richmond	\$2,500	Tawny Kataoka	Ralphs
Christopher Keele	\$2,500	Vivian Keele	Albertsons
Steven Kelly	\$2,500	Self	Vons
Taylor Berghofer	\$2,500	Debra Loomis	Stater Bros.
Ruben Lopez	\$2,500	Priscilla Lopez	Albertsons
Erika Martin	\$2,500	Joe Martin	Vons
Joshua Martin	\$2,500	Patricia Martin	Stater Bros.
John Morin	\$2,500	Del Morin	Stater Bros.
Kadie Oakleaf	\$2,500	Lori Oakleaf	Albertsons
Brittanie Rehaume	\$2,500	Tamie Rehaume	Stater Bros.
Justin Reich	\$2,500	Self	Ralphs
Spencer Ridenour	\$2,500	Isabel Ridenour	Ralphs
Timothy Rizzi	\$2,500	Self	Ralphs
Bodin Rojanachaichanin	\$2,500	Nopadoln Rojanachaichanin	Albertsons
Mariah Salazar	\$2,500	Katherine Salazar	Albertsons
Kristian Sanchez	\$2,500	Laura Sanchez	Stater Bros.
David Schuknecht	\$2,500	Jeffrey Schuknecht	Ralphs
Christopher Smith	\$2,500	Judy Smith	Ralphs
Evan Stormer	\$2,500	Self	Stater Bros.
Jacy White	\$2,500	Julie White	Ralphs
Leslie Williams	\$2,500	Kathryn Williams	Stater Bros.
Christina Wright	\$2,500	Self	Albertsons
Steven Zamora	\$2,500	Mae Zamora	Albertsons

### UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

# Be smart with social media

## Use Facebook on your own time



By Pete Waasdorp

A few years ago we had to call our friends to see what they were up to. Now we can simply log in to Facebook or follow them on Twitter.

Social networking technology has come far in a short amount of time. When it is used correctly, it can improve our lives in many ways. But with this new technology comes great responsibility.

When you're on the clock, you should be doing one thing: your job. Doing anything else, including checking your mes-

sages on Facebook, can get you in trouble.

Most people don't think about it when they "like" a comment or share a cute picture of their niece or nephew, but all of their activities on Facebook are time-stamped and recorded. Twitter posts are recorded the same way.

That information can provide management all the evidence it needs to get you written up or worse.

Even the things that are said by your friends can get you in trouble.

Take, for example, this scenario: On a member's birthday, his friends wrote on Facebook about the wonderful time they had while downing a few beers with him during his lunch break. Not long after that, his employer asked him if he was drinking on the job.

### Nothing hidden

It's all up there for the world to see: Not only what you said or what was said about you, but when it was said.

It's also wise to use caution in "friending" people, especially those with whom you work. No matter how good a "friend" your manager or co-worker might be, remember that they know where you are and what you've been doing. That's not always a good thing.

If a co-worker reports you for something, as part of the investigation your manager could be required to check on you. Being your "friend" will give him or her extra access to your daily activities.

By all means, keep enjoying your experiences on Facebook, Twitter and other social media. Just be careful about it.

And, for goodness sake, do it on your own time.

When you're on the clock, you should be checking groceries, not your status updates!

## It PAYS to be UNION!

	JULY 2011	2011 TOTAL
Back pay and benefits restored to members	\$5,219.45	\$85,667.01
Members reinstated	23	141
Grievances settled	75	513
Unemployment benefits restored to members	N/A	\$18,771

# Happy Labor Day

From the officers and staff of UFCW Local 1167

# Grocery workers take message to

## Clergy and labor allies join rallies in Arcadia



**C**hanting “Health care, not welfare!” and “We don’t want to strike, but we will if we have to!” thousands of UFCW members delivered a message of unity and defiance to the corporate offices of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons on June 28.

Members representing UFCW local unions in all parts of Southern California gathered in Arcadia, Fullerton and Compton to march, sing labor songs and wave signs at passing motorists. They cheered as speakers urged the companies to agree to a fair contract that preserves access to affordable health care for supermarket workers.

Joining the grocery workers were rabbis, ministers, priests and imams from Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice, as well as volunteers from allied unions and representatives from regional Central Labor Councils, the Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy, Jobs With Justice, SCOPE, Good Jobs L.A. and other groups.

The workers roared as the big blue tractor-trailer of the Food & Drug Council, with the names of its 45 affiliated labor organizations painted on its sides, rolled onto the scene, its air horns blasting a loud statement of solidarity.

Near Ralphs’ vast distribution center in Compton, drivers honked their horns in support as demonstrators presented banners on a bridge that spans the congested 91 Freeway.

Television crews on the ground and

in a hovering helicopter recorded all three of the rallies. Reporters swarmed around clergy members as they marched to the buildings to ask the grocery companies to respect the dignity of their workers.

The day began on Michillinda Avenue in Arcadia, where Vons’ corporate offices share a quiet, tree-lined street with modest homes.

### Empty parking lot

Officers from the Arcadia Police Department watched as several hundred demonstrators marched, noisily but peacefully, about 200 yards from a Ralphs store to the entrance of the Vons complex. The parking lot was empty on this Tuesday morning and the gates were locked.

Grocery workers from Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons wore their company uniforms as they stood on the back of a flatbed truck to address the demonstrators. They described their difficulties in making ends meet and urged their fellow union members to stand strong against company proposals to shift as much as \$11,000 in yearly health care costs onto workers who earn, on average, about twice that amount.

Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, pointed out that the grocery companies made \$5 billion in profits last year and can afford to shoulder an extra 3 percent in costs to preserve current standards of health care for their employees.



# HQs of Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons

## Alhambra, Fullerton and Compton on June 28

Two hours later, similar messages were shared with demonstrators in front of Albertsons' regional offices in Fullerton.

"Their business plan relies on fear and they believe we're too afraid to walk out," 21-year Albertsons checker Kelly Pierce said about the grocery employers. "They don't understand that, for a lot of us, our health care plans are the only things keeping us in this industry."

As Joe Reilly, a 90-year-old veteran of World War II and a proud retiree

**'T**hey don't understand that, for a lot of us, our health care plans are the only things keeping us in this industry.'

member of the Machinists Union, spoke about union solidarity, a delegation of grocery workers walked arm-in-arm with clergy members to deliver a letter to Albertsons management.

The letter, signed by religious leaders, urges the company to negotiate a contract that enables workers to raise their families as members of the middle class.

Security personnel at the entrance to

the empty parking lot directed the delegation to the front door, where a man who identified himself as "Jim" accepted the letter before re-entering the building and closing the door behind him.

The demonstrators assembled for their third and final rally of the day in front of Ralphs' corporate offices and distribution center in Compton.

They met on a narrow, hilly lawn near an iron fence outside the huge complex. Only a small frontage road separated them from the roaring rush hour traffic on the 91 Freeway.

Following testimonies by grocery workers and chants by the demonstrators, a new delegation of religious leaders walked along the fence to the main gates, where a spokeswoman for Ralphs met them. After she accepted their letter, the activists gathered in a circle and prayed for justice for Ralphs workers.

"All faiths believe in justice," said Pastor Bridie C. Roberts, program director of the Los Angeles chapter of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice.

The workers concluded the day with a procession to the Acacia Avenue freeway overpass, where they displayed banners saying "Please Support Grocery Workers."

Many drivers honked their horns to express their sympathy for the workers' cause. Among them were several drivers of Ralphs trucks heading toward their employer's distribution center.



# OUR MEMBERS AT WORK



## Rite Aid 5705



## Ralphs 751



## Rite Aid 6514

# UFCW LOCAL 1167 TICKET PRICES

NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ON ACTIVITY TICKETS

**AQUARIUM OF THE PACIFIC** \$16.95 Adult (\$8.00 savings)  
(562) 590-3100 \$9.95 Child ages 3-11 (\$3.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 11/30/2011**

**BATTLE OF THE DANCE GOLD TICKET DINNER SHOW**  
(714) 740-1045 \$48.00 Adult (\$12.00 Savings)  
2232 S. Harbor Blvd. \$25.00 Adult (\$5.00 Savings)  
Anaheim, CA  
**TIP NOT INCLUDED**

**CASTLE PARK (Rides only)** \$15.99 Over 48" (\$6.00 savings)  
(951) 785-3000 \$11.99 36" to 47" (\$3.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 01/04/2012 — PARKING NOT INCLUDED**

**DAVEY'S LOCKER FISHING EXCURSIONS**  
(949) 673-1434 1/2 DAY ADULT (W Pride) \$35.00  
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED 1/2 DAY JUNIOR \$27.00  
Please call for 3/4 DAY ADULT (Freelance) \$58.00  
specific trip schedules 3/4 DAY JUNIOR \$49.00  
400 Main St., TWILIGHT ADULT \$35.00  
Balboa (Newport Beach) TWILIGHT JUNIOR \$27.00  
'Junior' is age 15 or younger. WHALE WATCHING ADULT \$23.00  
WHALE WATCHING JUNIOR \$18.00

**CONTACT DAVEY'S REGARDING QUESTIONS ABOUT FUEL CHARGES, BAIT, ETC.**

**DISNEYLAND/CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE (1 DAY/1 PARK)**  
(714) 781-4565 \$71.00 Adult (\$9.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 12/31/2011** \$65.00 Child (\$9.00 savings) Ages 3-9  
**PARKING NOT INCLUDED** Under 3 FREE  
**\*\*BLACKOUT DATES APPLY — SEE BACK OF TICKET\*\***

**DISNEYLAND/CALIFORNIA ADVENTURE ONE DAY HOPPER**  
(714) 781-4565 \$91.00 Adult (\$14.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 12/31/2011** \$83.00 Child (\$16.00 savings) Ages 3-9  
**NO BLACKOUT DATES**

**HURRICANE HARBOR** \$19.99 Adult (\$15.00 savings)  
(661) 255-4527 \$15.00 Child under 48" (\$9.99 savings)  
**VALID THRU 9/25/2011**

**LA COUNTY FAIR SEPT. 2 THROUGH OCT. 2**  
(909) 865-4590  
\$10.00 Adults (\$7.00 weekend / \$2.00 weekday savings)  
\$6.00 Child AGE 6-12 (\$6.00 weekend/\$1.00 weekday savings)  
**EXPIRES 10/02/11 — CLOSED MON. & TUES.**  
**\*PRESENT TICKET FOR UNLIMITED RIDE WRISTBAND FOR \$35.00**  
**— SEE DETAILS ON TICKET\***

**MAGIC MOUNTAIN** \$25.99 Adult (\$34.00 savings)  
(661) 255-4106 \$17.50 Under 48" (\$17.49 savings)  
**VALID THRU 12/31/2011— parking not included**

**MEDIEVAL TIMES**  
ADULT TICKETS \$42.74 Adult (\$19.00 savings)  
EXPIRE 09/30/2011 \$31.45 child 3-12 (\$8.00 savings)  
CHILD TICKETS Children under 2 years old free  
DO NOT EXPIRE BUT (on lap/share meal)  
ARE NOT VALID ON  
12/30 OR 12/31

**PIRATE'S DINNER ADVENTURE** \$36.00 Adult (\$20.95 savings)  
(866) 439-2469 \$27.50 Adult (\$10.45 savings)  
**VALID THRU 11/30/2011**

**RAGING WATERS** \$22.99 Adult & Child  
(909) 802-2200 (\$14.00 savings)  
**VALID THRU 9/11/2011**

**SEA WORLD 1 DAY TICKET** \$44.99 Adult (\$25.00 savings)  
(619) 226-3901 (Gen. Info.) \$44.99 Child (\$17.00 savings) Ages 3-9  
**EXPIRES 4/30/2012** Age 2 and under FREE.  
**NO BLACKOUT DATES** Parking not included.

**UNIVERSAL STUDIOS 3 DAY PASS**  
(800) UNIVERSAL \$64.00  
**FIRST USE MUST BE BY 1/31/2012**  
**BLACKOUT DATES APPLY ON 2ND AND 3RD VISIT**

## THEATER TICKETS

**AMC THEATERS SILVER** \$6.00 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
Ontario Mills, Victoria Gardens & Galleria at Tyler

**AMC THEATERS GOLD** \$7.50 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
Ontario Mills, Victoria Gardens & Galleria at Tyler

**CINEMARK THEATERS** \$6.00 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
Cathedral City, Chino, El Centro, Huntington Beach, Lancaster, North Hollywood, Long Beach, Orange, Palmdale, Ventura, Victorville & Rancho Mirage

**HARKINS THEATERS** \$6.00 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
NOT VALID AFTER 6 P.M. FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
22350 Town Circle, Moreno Valley & 3070 Chino Hills, Chino

**REGAL/EDWARDS THEATERS** NO EXPIRATION DATE  
\$6.50 RED (NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS)  
\$7.50 BLUE (VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS)  
Includes Edwards, Regal and United Artists Cinemas  
Hemet, Indio, Irvine, Mira Loma, Ontario, Palm Springs, Rancho Mirage, Riverside, Corona, San Jacinto, Temecula, & West Covina

**KRIKORIAN THEATERS** \$7.50 NO EXPIRATION DATE  
VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS  
Redlands, La Mirada, Downey & Buena Park

## DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE

Medieval Times, Palm Springs Aerial Tram Alpine Club

GROUP ACTIVITY TICKETS NOT VALID FOR SPECIAL ENGAGEMENTS

## SPECIALS AND PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MASTERCARD/VISA DEBIT AND CREDIT CARDS  
NOW ACCEPTED IN LOCAL 1167 OFFICE ONLY.  
ADDITIONAL SURCHARGES AND TRANSACTION FEES MAY APPLY.  
NO CHECKS OVER \$200 WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Updated July 27, 2011

\$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

# Reaching for the skies

## Derek Nelson wants to design machines to take us to the stars

**R**ecently, Atlantis made its final landing, bringing the era of the Space Shuttle to an end.

For many it was a time to reflect on the past and future of America's exploration of new frontiers.

Cal Poly sophomore Derek Nelson chooses to look at the possibilities of the next stage of space transportation and his own role in making it happen.

Does he think he's some kind of rocket scientist? Actually, he is one.

Nelson's prospects as an aerospace engineering student earned him a \$10,000 scholarship in the UFCW & Food Employers Trust Fund Scholarship Contest.

"I was at school in an engineering class when my dad sent me a text message picture of the award letter," Nelson said. "I showed my friend the phone, but we couldn't celebrate because we had to be quiet.

"I was very excited, but also

thankful and grateful for the honor."

### Rocket man

Nelson said he always had an interest in aerospace engineering, with the emphasis on "space."

"My uncles were involved in NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory," he said. "And that's what I'm aiming for when I finish school.

"I'm looking at the major aerospace firms like Boeing and Lockheed-Martin, but I want to work in the structural engineering area with an emphasis on space flight."

Nelson graduated King High School and participated in its five-course pre-engineering program.

"I was really fortunate to have my high school experience," he said. "The program was called 'Lead the Way' and we took basic courses in electronics, prototyping, etc.



**Derek Nelson**

"They taught us the basics, which prepared me for entering college in engineering."

Nelson also participates in the Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program at Cal Poly.

"It's a program for middle and high school students to encourage study in engineering," he said. "We

hold competitions for designing projects like gliders and mousetrap racers here at Cal Poly for members of the program."

### Recognition

His dedication to his field has not gone unnoticed at college. He is a member of the Sigma Gamma Tau National Aerospace Engineering Honor Society and has been on the dean's list for his first three quarters.

"I'd really like to get on the CubeSat Satellite Team," he said. "It's really prestigious and hard to get into."

When he is not at school, Nelson lives with his mom, dad and sister (now a senior at King High).

In high school, he was a member of the cross-country and track teams, "which are the same people, but in different seasons," he said.

"I don't run as much as I used to, but I have a lot more to keep me busy."

# Local 1167 members reach out to public

**What is more important, her health ...**

Once again Albertsons, Ralphs and Vons are celebrating record profits. But instead of sharing their successes, they are asking their employees to accept cuts that would gut their healthcare plan and amount to a \$7,000 per year pay cut. Please fill out the card below to tell these companies to do the right thing.

**VONS Ralphs**

**... Or their wealth?**

**Volunteers gain support from shoppers**

**Above:** Ramon Serrano and Luis Cisneros at Stater Bros. 97.

**Above right:** Ramon Serrano and Amanda Olson at Vons 2371.

**Right:** Vanessa Jerabek and Destiny Hernandez at Stater Bros. 176.

**Grocery workers don't want to strike**

**But they are leaving us no choice**

Thank you for your support in our fight for a fair contract with Ralphs, Vons, and Albertsons.

These highly profitable corporations are trying to add to their bottom line by asking for more sacrifice from their employees. Management is proposing cuts to our healthcare plan so drastic that coverage would be cut off except for most seniors, the vast majority of whom work part-time (with no hope of becoming full-time) and earn less than \$20,000 a year.

We understand times are hard. We are thankful for our jobs and want to keep them. But we can't think about asking for a job wage and all relative health from the our families in too much to ask for from corporations pocketing record-breaking profits.

Your support has made the difference for us in this past year and we're hoping you will help us once again.