



## 'We have these Valentines to deliver...'

Above, a group of about 80 activists with Portland Jobs with Justice drop by for an unannounced visit to Portland City Hall Feb. 7, demanding a halt to proposed city worker layoffs and to fines levied against a homeless encampment. The visit was one of seven stops made by two busloads of union supporters during a six-hour roving protest.

At City Hall, "have a heart" was the message delivered to City Commissioner Nick Fish. Fish agreed to an impromptu meeting, and responded, basically, that he *has* a heart; it's his pocketbook that's shriveled up. But Fish told the activists he's all ears when it comes to suggestions on how to avoid the cuts. [A day earlier, ABC News released poll results showing that 72 percent of Americans support raising taxes on incomes over \$1 million. No word on when that proposal will come to City Hall.]

Other stops:

- The First Student school bus yard for the Gresham-Bar-

low School District — school bus drivers there are still trying to get a first contract more than 18 months after they voted to join Oregon School Employees Association.

- The Neighbors United worker center in Gresham, a community organizing space developed by the group We Are Oregon.

- University Station post office, for a rally to save the postal service.

- Legacy Health System HQ, for a short protest against 400 layoffs.

- Aveda Institute Portland and Dosha Salon Spa at NW 23rd and Glisan, to demand a contract for a group of hair stylists, nail techs, and massage therapists. [See Page 1]

The afternoon of protest was part of Portland JwJ's "Portland Rising" campaign, which calls for good jobs and no cuts. It was the group's second bus-borne day of action; the first took place June 30, 2011.

# ...Pressure on at Dosha

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where she says employees are paid and treated better than at Dosha.

Christ says Dosha HR manager Tricia McMackin — the same manager who fired her in September — called Jan. 26 to offer \$500 to \$1,000 if she'd drop her case at the NLRB. If she didn't accept the offer, McMackin told her, going to court could take up to a year to finalize.

"I said, 'No, I want what the NLRB has determined is rightfully mine: my job back plus back pay,'" Christ said.

To help publicize wrongdoing by Dosha, CWA reached out to other unions for support. On Feb. 7, local central labor councils mobilized leafleters in other cities, while in the Portland area, the Oregon AFL-CIO dispatched about 40 unionists for three hours of leafleting outside all five Dosha locations. Leafleters included staff and members of CWA, American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, the Oregon School Employees Association, the Oregon Nurses Association, AFSCME, Machinists, and Working America. They also collected 100 signatures on support petitions.

The day's most heated interaction wasn't at one of the Dosha salons, however, but at Aveda Institute Portland, where a group of about 80 protesters encountered Dosha co-owner Ray Motameni and several managers. For a noisy 10 minutes, the school — many of whose graduates go on to work at Dosha — was invaded by supporters of

Portland Jobs with Justice who were shuttling around the Portland area on buses for an afternoon of protests.

At one point, Elder — the Local 7901 president — addressed students via bullhorn. Several students yelled back that Aveda is not the same as Dosha, while others yelled "let her speak." The problem, Elder tried to explain, was that the students may graduate \$10,000 in debt only to make starting wages at Dosha of not much over minimum wage. CWA is seeking wage increases in its negotiations with Dosha.

Moments into the beauty school takeover, Aveda Institute Portland managers called police, and a squad of five officers arrived as demonstrators were re-boarding their buses. Managers spoke emotionally about "scare tactics," declared that the union should confine itself to the bargaining table, and said they wanted to press charges for trespassing. Protesters, meanwhile, denied that they'd heard any order to leave in the din of chanting and yelling. In the end, no arrests were made.

Elder says Dosha has implemented several union proposals so far, including a safety committee, biohazard training procedures, and hepatitis B vaccinations. And Dosha agreed to reimburse employees for bank fees they incurred after a rash of bounced paychecks in September. Elder said Dosha paychecks bounced for at least 20 workers, and then at least 7 workers two weeks later. Ironically, direct deposit of paychecks was one of the first union proposals in bargaining, to which Dosha did not agree.

In December, the NLRB dismissed a separate charge in which CWA said it was unlawful for Dosha to change its health care plan without the agreement of the workers. CWA is appealing the dismissal of the charge.

[Visit [nwlaborpress.org](http://nwlaborpress.org) for video and images of the protest.]

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