

...ATI steelworker lockout expected to continue over the holidays

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the picketers cross the road to dry off in front of a propane heater under a canvas canopy on a strip of private land. There are coffee urns and camp chairs, and bark dust to stop the mud. Hand-painted signs give passersby a summary of what's going on: "Locked out. Not walked out."

Close to 2,200 workers at 12 Allegheny Technologies Incorporated (ATI) facilities in six states have been locked out since Aug. 15 — including 180 at the Albany plant. In contract bargaining that began in May, ATI gave the union a sweeping list of demands, including an end to the pension and retiree health insurance for new hires, and a significant increase in what workers would pay out-of-pocket for family health coverage: Premiums would go from zero currently to \$215 a month by the end of the contract, and annual deductibles would rise by up to \$400 a year.

"It was all, 'this is what we want, and you'll take it,'" said Local 7150 president Josh Hall, who served on the union bargaining team. "There was no bargaining in good faith."

When the union didn't jump to take that offer to a vote, ATI locked out all 2,200 union workers in the multi-facility bargaining unit.



SMILE: YOU ARE ABOUT TO BE SHOT — This sign greets picketers at the entrance to ATI Albany.

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

The Steelworkers maintain their picket line, in four-hour shifts, from 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., five days a week, and welcome visits from supporters. But they'll take a break Dec. 18 to Jan. 4. On Dec. 19, the union is sponsoring a family Christmas party at Pix Theater in Albany, followed by bowling at Highland Bowl in Corvallis.

Picketers say they think a strike or lockout was ATI's plan all along. In the weeks leading up to the June 30 expiration of the union contract, the company



EARLY MORNING ON THE ATI PICKETLINE: From left to right: John Goosen, Joe Barton, Shane Jones, Steve Bumgardner, Karl Krupicka, Jeff Thomas, Josh Hall, and Jim Wright.

prepared for picketing by installing fences and cameras and painting a white stripe showing the property line at the Albany mill. Managers even took re-

placement workers through the plant to look around.

"They already had a game plan and they were going to cut our throats regardless," said picketer Greg Shaffer, 57, who's worked 20 years at the plant. "There's no respect at all for the people who work here. They're

heartless sons of bitches."

The National Labor Relations Board is investigating the union's charges that ATI was never serious about negotiating an agreement.

USW international Vice Pres-

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— Greg Shaffer, 20-year employee at the Albany titanium plant

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS TO ORGANIZED LABOR

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Administrators of Employee Benefit Plans

P.O. Box 4148
Portland, Oregon 97208
503-282-5581
www.wcearthart.com

Main office:
3140 NE Broadway, Portland

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From the Faculty and Staff of the Labor Education and Research Center
University of Oregon

1289 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1289 • 541-346-5054
70 NW Couch Street, Suite 353, Portland OR 97209 • 503-412-3721
<http://lerc.uoregon.edu>



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Jason Kaufman | 503.464.4472 | jason.kaufman@usbank.com
Chris Underwood | 206.587.5285 | christina.underwood@usbank.com
Vicki Coleman | 503.464.4473 | Vicki.Coleman@usbank.com

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