

# Lockheed Protest Winds Down

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**P**rotests at Bonny Doon's Lockheed Missiles and Space Company wound down this Monday after a week of cat-and-mouse non-confrontations between workers and demonstrators—and a total of 150 arrests.

Lockheed workers were advised to stay home during the first two days of the planned protest. And on the remaining days they came in at odd hours, were escorted by convoys from the Sheriff's Tactical Team and often had to wait while armed patrols cleared 20- to 35-member human blockades from the Empire Grade entranceway to the site.

The protest was one action in a string of anti-nuclear activities designed to shut down first-strike weapons-producing facilities throughout the country, what local organizer Peter Lumsdaine described as "much more successful than anyone had expected." Locally, the plant was rendered temporarily ineffective for the two days workers stayed home, and work was delayed on the remaining four. Turnout for the demonstration was also high, with pickets numbering over 200 on three of six days.

But tensions during the protests seemed to embody conflicts between workers and demonstrators rather than those between activists and



**This human blockader was one of 150 anti-nuclear protesters forcibly removed from the Lockheed weapons facility entrance over the course of the week's activities.**

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power sources within the weapons industry. Over the course of the week, protesters and persons remotely involved in the activities reported incidents of worker vandalism ranging from car tires being slashed to late-night crank phone

calls.

Meanwhile, Lockheed management was quick to point out that the protest had very little effect on the company itself and that protesters' only victims were workers. "We were way ahead of schedule already,"

stated spokesperson Bob Burgess. The company also has no plans to reimburse employees for lost work hours and wages, "a direct result of the protest," as Burgess described it. The workers' union contract with Lockheed allows for 15-day layoffs without pay or prior notice, a provision rare in most labor contracts but common in industries closely tied to the military.

Protesters continually voiced concern that the Lockheed management was feeding workers incorrect information about the protest and deliberately spurring worker animosity. "We were really concerned [they] were trying to turn workers against us... especially by withholding pay," said organizer Tim Reed. "It's a multimillion dollar corporation; they could have easily paid, and should have."

According to District Lodge 508 of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers head Ken Benda, the union is considering a law suit against protesters for the lost wages. Although he refused to discuss specifics, he added that the union has no plans to confront the company on the matter: "We can't sue Lockheed; there were protesters blocking the entrance, there's nothing they could have done." ●