

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 12/4/2023

What If We Could Sign-Up For Real Control Of Our Lives?

A new sign-up has come and gone, when many of us hope to get a slightly better schedule and maybe better pay. For newer drivers, good luck getting anything good!

But imagine a scenario where we could choose to have real control over our lives - where we could work less and make more money. Why couldn't we actually afford to live where we worked so we didn't have to commute long hours? If workers ran AC, why couldn't we organize the schedules so that they made sense with the realities of the road AND the realities of our lives so that we could spend time with families and loved ones? Why shouldn't we have real control over our lives?

All of these things and more are possible! They just depend on us getting ourselves organized to fight for them. Let's commit to "signing up" for this fight!

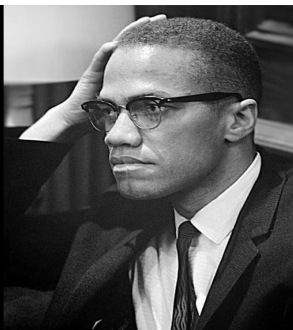
Racism And Bigotry Hurt Us All

As the war against the Palestinian people rages on, the war has begun to come home. There have been a number of violent and hateful incidents here in the United States. A six year old Palestinian boy was stabbed 26 times and killed by his family's landlord in Illinois. More recently, three 20 year old Palestinian college students were shot while walking down a street in Vermont for speaking Arabic and wearing traditional Palestinian scarves. Arab and Jewish organizations have both documented a serious increase in hate crimes throughout the United States.

War, conquest and occupation is not possible without the widespread dehumanization of entire groups of people. This leads to a climate of violence where none of us are safe. When any group of people are dehumanized and we remain silent, it sets a precedent where any of us can be dehumanized next. We must stand against all forms of bigotry in our communities!

If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.

Malcolm X



WE Are The Union

Union elections are wrapping up. Some of us have been really focused on who wins and some of us have been less engaged. For any of the changes that we want to see - better pay and benefits, working conditions, run-time and safety, it is less a matter of having great leaders in the union and really comes down to how organized all of us are. Any real change is up to us!

Newsom Driving Us Out Of A Job?

Several months ago, California Governor Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill that would have required that self-driving trucks needed an actual driver behind the wheel. Right now, self-driving "robo-taxis" are just beginning to hit the streets of San Francisco. Although self-driving trucks are not yet on the road, they appear to be coming soon. Not only does this raise important questions of safety to entrust a AI operated vehicle of over 10,000 pounds, it also threatens the jobs of some 200,000 truck drivers throughout California.

If they can push taxi drivers out of jobs, why couldn't they do it to truck drivers? Why couldn't they do it to bus operators down the line?

Ultimately, why couldn't we use this sort of technology to benefit us rather than the technology being used against us?

Want To Learn More About Palestine?

For many of us, we have been learning about the situation in Palestine and Israel for the first time over the past few months. At times, it can be difficult to make sense of what is what. Check out the resources page at SpeakOutSocialits.org with a range of different background documentaries and articles!



What Do You Notice?