

# Speak Out Now at BART (1/16/2023)

## Tenants and Workers: Similar Issues

Last week, the *Oaklandside* wrote an article about how the Coliseum Connections apartment building flooded during the storms on New Year's Eve, forcing all residents to be evacuated.

This apartment building was developed on BART's land at Coliseum station, and in exchange, part of the profits from rent at the building go to BART. In the article, tenants talked about how this is just the latest issue they have faced in the building, with residents complaining of mold, overflowing garbage, and broken heating systems in the past several years.

Tenants living on BART's land seem to have a similar experience to working at BART—lots of issues that aren't dealt with by management.

## Built Under A Bad Sign?

Did Blues musician Albert King sing at the opening of the Richmond Yard back in the day? It almost seems like it. Last week, lightning struck near the control tower creating a power problem for a while, limiting trains. Sound familiar? Weeks before, a pipe broke, flooding the station. Months before, it was problems with one or more substations. And before that, a fire under the control tower...

Just in case you don't know the song "Born Under a Bad Sign," The main lyric goes.... "If I didn't have bad luck, I wouldn't have any luck at all."

## Join us at a SpeakOut online townhall A Coming Economic Crisis? Who Will Pay?

*A discussion with Richard D. Wolff*

**Saturday, January 21 - 4pm PST**

- Inflation is pushing food, transportation and energy costs beyond our reach.
- The corporate drive for profits is pushing more into poverty or over-work.
- To fight back we need to understand the capitalist system we confront today.

Economist, **Richard D. Wolff**, professor of economics and is the host of the weekly program, *Economic Update*, will talk about these important issues, followed by a discussion and Q & A.

Zoom link: [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/JANUARY-TH-23](https://tinyurl.com/january-th-23)

Meeting ID: 821 5880 0683

Passcode: 340756

Or go to <https://speakoutsocialists.org/>



## A Fair Weather System?

The Post Office has the motto "Neither Rain Nor Snow" about the ability to deliver regardless of the weather. Transit systems should be guided by the same idea - getting people where they need to be - on time.

The Fleet of the Future has this thing about rainy weather. The Vehicle Automatic Train Control has algorithms that seem too sensitive, especially when it rains. When two key signals disagree, the car flags a critical fault and goes into Full Service Breaking. Instead of being limited to the one car, that signal is transferred to the whole consist and all the brakes on all the cars lockup. And voila - flats, not just on one car, but the whole consist (unlike the Classics where only one car would be affected).

And with wheel cutting machines out of commission regularly, it takes a lot longer to get cars back on mainline. These cars are under warranty and something should be done about modifying this.

## A Pyramid Scheme?

When the new BART Headquarters (BHQ) was proposed, workers and the public were told it made sense to move out of Lakeside.

But going from 27 floors to 9 means that something has to go. Or a whole lot of things. The training department for example, for the Train Operator classification is one that has been needing a solution. And there are others.

Did the geniuses at the top of the pyramid of incompetence think about this? Why would they? As long as they made the numbers look good and presented them with shiny pictures and artist renderings to the Board Of Directors.

Too bad everyone is stuck with the mess caused by the decisions of a few people.

