

Speak Out Now at BART (3/25/2024)

A Smear Campaign

The Bay Area media jumped on the announcement that three BART employees are being charged with not staying on the job while claiming they were working. The article in the S.F. Chronicle reported that BART Inspector General Claudette Biemeret was “*concerned that time theft could be happening across the transit agency.*” She also said that, “*I don’t have any evidence to suggest that it’s widespread.*” But that wasn’t the story they wanted to tell. BART Management didn’t want to either. It supports their invasion – sending some of their staff out on the lines to do ride and station checks.

The truth didn’t prevent the Chronicle from also quoting this Inspector General who said, “*.... it’s harmful to riders in the sense that if people are claiming to be working, and they’re not, that means their job’s not getting done, and that presents itself with what you see on the trains.*”

It’s a set up story. A pre-contract, lazy, over-paid BART worker story! After reading this, if a passenger sees an empty booth or a spill on the platform, what is their conclusion? That the Agent might be in another part of the station dealing with something? Or that the System Service Worker is cleaning something else or on his or her way? Probably not...

Transit Worker Appreciation Day?

Transit Worker Appreciation Day was Monday, March 18th. Some booths even had signs up displaying this, asking riders to thank Station Agents by “waving hello.” There were also some videos on BART’s social media accounts that highlighted the role transit workers play across the U.S.

Instead of spending time and money on signs and promotional videos, how about management taking real actions to show workers they are appreciated, like prioritizing worker safety or not hassling workers while they are trying to do their jobs?

Mark your calendar! - Sat, April, 13 - 4pm

Join us to hear voices from Sacrifice Zones in the U.S. – areas where workers and their families have been poisoned by corporations but are fighting back

More Info at our webpage:

speakoutsocialists.org

Or DM us on Instagram @sonsocialists

He’s Back

Steve Glazer, the anti-BART worker state senator, is back in the news claiming that there is widespread antisemitism on Berkeley and other university campuses. There is no doubt that the various forms of discrimination that keep people divided in this society exist on college campuses.

But can we really believe that this politician is a defender of people’s rights?

He claims that students who are speaking out against the “**genocide**” in Gaza, a term that is used by the United Nations and World Courts to describe the horror being inflicted on the Palestinian people, is antisemitic. He used an incident where a group of students were protesting a lawyer who says that the genocidal actions of Israel are legally justified. They were prevented from entering the building, there was some pushing and shoving and a door was broken

Glazer is using this situation to threaten funding to the University and any other public colleges or universities where students oppose the genocide – threatening students’ rights to discuss this question openly. Not a big surprise, given his attitude toward workers at BART.

Gotcha?

What’s going on at BHQ? What’s the purpose of sending Management out on the lines to see if they can find what they think is a problem? Maybe they think Station Agents are like doormen at their fancy hotels, System Service Workers are like housekeeping or Train Operators are their chauffeurs? For them, it’s all about appearance. That may be the case at BHQ. But that’s not what makes this system run.

And when they find what they think is a little violation or infraction, it’s “Gotcha” and maybe a discussion. Do they get points when they return to HQ? Or is it just someone’s ego tripping?

We saw this arrogance on display in 2013 and look what that led to.



Management’s favorite game?