

Speak Out Now! at AC Transit 4/22/2024

Work Till You Drop?

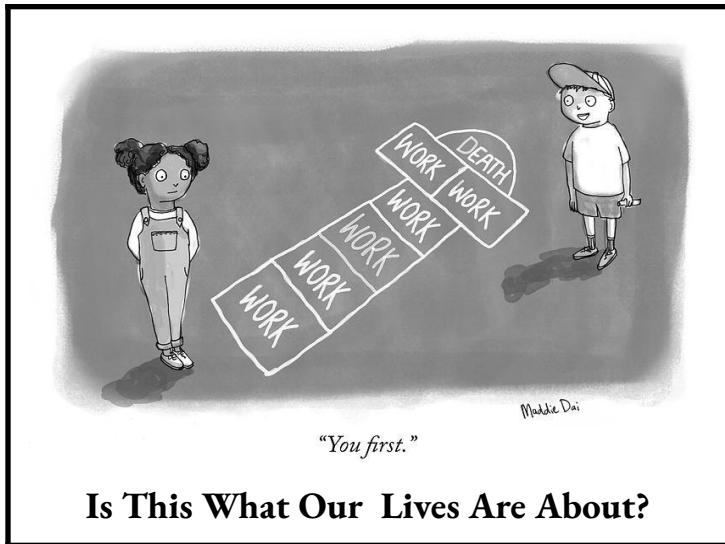
The word is that several people at AC who are close to retiring or recently retired have passed away. What does it say about the nature of this job? Put in years and years of service behind the wheel but do not get to enjoy the later years of retirement that they earned? Bus operators on average have higher rates of all sorts of medical problems than the rest of the population, whether it be high blood pressure, respiratory problems, diabetes or more.

Why should we have to accept years being subtracted from our lives because we work in public transportation? This is insane!

We can see what our lives are worth to AC Transit and this system more generally. But more importantly, what are our lives worth to us?

If you had a voice about how work at AC was organized, what would you change so that workers could have healthier lives?:

Share your response on Instagram @sonsocialists



You're In Good Hands

You are not imagining it, car insurance rates are the latest thing to go way up. They are up 21% from a year ago, which is the highest increase in almost 50 years. If it makes you feel better, the insurance companies seem to be doing alright. Progressive's quarterly profit is reported to be more than double from last year. Allstate's stock prices are up more than 50% from last summer. It's almost as if this whole thing is an extortion racket...

All Of Us Or None Of Us

Since the beginning of February, bus operators in Germany have engaged in one and two-day strikes. The problems that they face are sadly familiar to many of us - wages that don't keep up with the cost of living, inadequate break times, lack of access to clean restrooms, and more. One thing that is unique about the bus drivers' fightback is that for the first time, they are bargaining and striking, not just one agency but all together across the country to demand "minimum standards" to lift the workers who have the lowest wages and worst working conditions in the country. What could we learn from this struggle?

The Fight For Good Transit Jobs = The Fight For A Clean Environment

Another thing that is important about the struggle of the German bus drivers is that they have begun to build alliances with environmental activists. Climate activists listened to the experiences of bus drivers, helped collect signatures for petitions in support of workers, and demanded more funding for transit. With the looming threats of climate change, public transit must be massively invested in, as a way to take as many cars off the road as possible to minimize carbon emissions. For that to happen, transit workers cannot be an afterthought as they currently are regarded by those in charge. When looking at the problems that we face, we cannot afford to be walled off and isolated from the rest of society, especially when we consider how important we are to ensure a cleaner future!

Gas Prices Go To The Moon

It's no wonder why we come to work, we have to pay our housing note, our car note, our gas note, and all the other bills that come up. Wait a sec, our 'Gas Note??' Just like a rocket, gas prices have lifted into the atmosphere, and there seems to be little hope of bringing them down. Sure, there are electric vehicle options, if you can afford one and have the ability to charge, but the majority of us still rely heavily on gas. Imagine if our transit systems worked the way they were supposed to, and we could actually use them to ride to work. Then maybe, we wouldn't be stuck paying a gas note in order just to get to work.



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