

Speak Out Now At AC Transit (4.10.17)

The AC Transit Skills Challenge

1. Eat a meal in 60 seconds in between runs when you don't get a break.
2. Stay patient with sometimes difficult riders.
3. Turn an empty bus into a personal breakroom when it is raining outside.
4. Maneuver around potholes with unpredictable pedestrians and drivers.
5. Stay sane despite the insanity that we deal with.

The Raiders – Just Chase The Money, Baby!

For many working people in the Bay, The Raiders leaving Oakland to go to Las Vegas can feel like the owners are giving us the finger.

The City of Oakland offered \$350 million for a new stadium to the owners of The Raiders. But this was not enough for them compared to the \$750 million that Las Vegas offered. They still decided to pack up their bags. In addition, Oakland taxpayers are still stuck with a \$95 million debt for stadium repairs. Throughout the NFL, football teams have gotten \$7 billion in public money for stadiums.

With The 49ers moving to Santa Clara and The Warriors moving to San Francisco, the owners of sports teams have no loyalty to the local fans. Their only loyalty is to money. Just like everything else in today's society, everything that matters to us is owned by the rich to make billions.

War Is A Business

The day after the Trump administration ordered missile strikes on Syria, the stocks of Raytheon spiked (the company that produces the \$1.4 million tomahawk missile). In addition, other war industries such as Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and Northrop Grumman all saw their stocks jump. War is a big business. We see who profits. But who really pays the price?



Cutting OUSD Lines Leaves

Students and AC Workers Stranded

It is now likely that service for Oakland students will be cut drastically. With the elimination of service to Montera Middle, Community Day, and all but one of the routes to Skyline High, students are stranded. They are left to figure out getting to and from school, themselves.

If these plans go through, 17 entire routes, 21 morning trips and 31 afternoon trips will be cut by August 2017. More than 933 students and 50 drivers per day will be impacted. AC Transit employees will lose many hours that they are currently working and *could* be working on the busses – cleaning, driving and maintaining them.

Neither AC nor Oakland Unified School District say they have enough funds to cover the budget shortfall. Even if there was no wasteful spending on the part of these agencies, the money certainly does exist in this society. Take Trump's recent missile attack on Syria; the 59 missiles alone cost over \$82.6 million. One night of attacks could cover this bus service for over 33 years!

Students and their families depend on these services for school. Drivers, service workers and mechanics depend on these services for work. We need to come together to say **NO** to the cuts! **YES** to safe, accessible and affordable transit for all!

AC's Board of Directors will make their final decision on the cuts on May 24th. We should say loud and clear to the Board: **Find other funds – why should we pay for your crisis!?**

Moonlight – Check Out This Movie!

The recent Oscar winning movie is about an African American boy who grows up in a rough neighborhood of Miami. Confronted with the harsh realities of poverty, violence, and prejudice against his sexuality, he struggles to find a place for himself in a hostile world. The movie is thought provoking and worth checking out!

Join us for the Speak Out Now May Day Party!

It will be Saturday, May 6th at 6:00pm-9:00pm in Berkeley. Come enjoy good company, good food, good music, activities for children and presentations about workers' struggles. Talk to your Speak Out Now distributor for a \$5 ticket.