

Speak Out Now at BART (10/01/18)

More Guns?

A photo in the S.F. Chronicle showed a line of Homeland Security agents marching through a BART car. If anyone believes that this show of force, this militarization of public transit, provides safety or even the sense of safety to workers and riders, they should think again.

For the most part, the threats to riders and workers are the actions of people who have been pushed to the margins of society – battling the demons of their past and present.

Unfortunately, as with many problems created by this society, the solution provided by those in power is a violent one. This is in line with the overall functioning of their society that produces and maintains the violence of poverty, the violence that keeps women and others in an inferior place.

The people in power are incapable of providing safer conditions for the majority on or off BART. The society and values they defend have created the problems – we can't look to them for solutions.

Working Safer

Recently, more frontline workers have faced assault, but BART's focus is on fare evasion. It's probably true that unstable people who commit assaults have also not paid to get onto the system.

It's clear that BART management doesn't recognize or deny the seriousness of the question of safety. The first steps to creating a safer environment aren't that complex. No person should open or close a station alone. All workers in a station should be able to communicate with each other at all times. And that is just a start.

What makes things safer for workers provides a safer environment for all.

An Apple Visit A Day

The BART Board of Directors just voted to add ten more fare inspectors to the payroll. A good start would be to send them to Apple, Google, and other local companies who have evaded millions of dollars in taxes over the past decade.

Revolutionary University

October 12-14

See you Friday, October 12 at 6:30 pm for a showing of *Attica!*

Come Saturday and Sunday for thought-provoking presentations and discussions.

See other side for more details.

Frankenstein

BART is like the Frankenstein monster – each limb originates from somewhere else. Being a public agency, it has to contract services and equipment from the lowest bidder. But this means that in a competitive market economy, different companies, brands, and technologies are the most cost effective at different times.

Each system at BART, from the fire alarms to Wayside Train Control equipment, has many different brands bought in different time periods and that employ different technologies. They're not designed to work together, and this causes huge challenges and problems.

If it was not for the ingenuity and skill of the workers at BART, this system would have rolled to a stop a long time ago.

42 and Counting

At the Hayward yard, the Fleet of the Future is growing. Hopefully these cars will eventually fill the whole system. But it's October and there are only 42! In this day and age, rockets are circling distant planets and landing on asteroids.

This is a rail system, not inter-planetary travel!

Not One, Not Two, Not Three...

LeBron James once promised to bring "not one, not two, not three...not six, not seven," but eight championships to the Miami Heat.

BART management is applying a similar philosophy in System Service. When we get to work, on some lines we're told that we're responsible for not just one or two stations, but as many as seven or eight stations in one shift!

LeBron might be able to deliver a few championships, but all BART management delivers are dirty stations and stressed out System Service Workers.



BART management understaffs SSW but wants sparkling stations