

Don't Let the University Interfere With Your Education!

An Open Letter in Support of the March 4 Strike and Day of Action

The March Forth Movement promises to unite students, faculty, and workers in the UC, CSU, and Community College with students, teachers, staff, and parents in the public K-12 systems. Strikes and other actions will occur throughout California, the nation, and even internationally. Although our focus is on public education, our movement explicitly seeks to unite with broader social movements to end the war, establish a single-payer health care system, and protect the environment. Clearly, it is not enough to reduce student fees and increase the education budget, it is essential to go on and rethink the University itself and entire structure of schooling in our society as the first step in rethinking the way our society itself is structured.

CAPITALISM OR SOCIALISM? Ultimately, the solution to the crisis in public education in California lies in the socialist transformation of the global economy, based on the principles of peace, democracy, equality, and ecology. Our problems will continue until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the Earth and the machinery of production, abolish capitalism, and build a new socialist world where all people are well fed, clothed and housed, where all women and men are equal, where everyone can live in harmony with each other and the Earth, and where, in the words of Marx & Engels, "In place of the old bourgeois society, with its classes and class antagonisms, we shall have an association, in which the free development of each is the condition for the free development of all."

The first steps in creating this new world involve addressing the problems created by present day capitalism. By organizing around such specific issues as the following, students and workers will be creating a new world within the womb of the old.

SHUT DOWN THE WAR MACHINE! End the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, put the Merchants of Death out of business, abolish nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. The vast apparatus of death and destruction does not protect the freedom and well being of working class Americans. It protects the profits of the capitalists and transnational corporations. Shutting down the war machine is a practical demonstration of our solidarity with workers, peasants, and indigenous peoples around the world.

SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE! Just as we need to get all U.S. troops and mercenaries out of the Middle East, so we need to get U.S. Health Insurance Corporations out of Health Care. Recognize that health care is a human right, not a commodity to create profits. Establish a universal health care system, providing free health care for all, as every other industrial nation has.

GUARANTEED JOBS AT A LIVING WAGE! This right is guaranteed by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Even with a college education, millions are excluded from finding employment by the wages system, in which capitalists "create" jobs only if they can increase profits by doing so. Everyone who wants to work should be able to find work.

FREE QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL! The California State Constitution guarantees this. We need to end Obama's "Race to the Top" and provide full and equal funding for every student in America, from preschool through graduate school.

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DEFEND OUR MOTHER EARTH. Stop treating the Earth as raw material for the profit system. End our dependence on fossil fuels and move to sustainable energy systems. Stop pollution for profit. Build a free and comfortable mass transit system. Think eco-socialism and solar communism.

LEGALIZE MARIJUANA! Raise funds through a sales tax on marijuana, and free all non-violent drug offenders from California prisons.

REFORM THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET! Adopt measures such as the following: Impose an oil severance tax of 25% on all oil produced in California; develop a split-roll tax system, protecting Prop 13 tax levels for homeowners while requiring businesses and corporations to pay their fair share of state taxes; pass state budgets by majority vote, Federal bailout of state and local governments comparable to the bailout of banks. It is not a question of resources, it is a question of priorities and power.

ABOLISH THE TWO-PARTY SYSTEM! In 2008, Americans rejected the failed policies of the Bush administration and gave our first Black President a clear mandate for change, with Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress. The change we hoped for has not happened. In almost every arena, from the war in the Middle East to the issues of health care, global warming, and state torture, the Obama administration and Democrats have followed the policies of Bush and the Republicans. This demonstrates the political bankruptcy of the two-party system. It's time to reject the Democrats and Republicans, the twin parties of the rich and the corporations, and build a party run by and for working class people. In California, you can register in the Peace and Freedom Party, the only party on the ballot that stands for changing our capitalist system of profit and greed into a socialist system based on democracy and cooperation.

REGISTER, VOTE, & ORGANIZE WITH THE PEACE & FREEDOM PARTY! As the only working class, socialist party on the California ballot, the Peace & Freedom Party is the only real alternative to the Democrats and Republicans and the capitalist system both support. It is the electoral arm of the working class struggle for peace, social justice, and ecological sanity. We recognize that our aims cannot be attained through electoral means alone, but neither can they be reached and maintained without an electoral process. By registering and supporting the Peace & Freedom Party, you are letting the ruling class know that you believe another world is possible and another U.S. is necessary. The 2010 midterm elections offer Americans one chance to hold the Democrats accountable. It is important that there be a left alternative, so people don't have to turn to the Republicans and the self-styled "Tea Party Patriots" to express their concerns.

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For more information, go to:
WWW.RUYLEFORCONGRESS.NET

The Peace and Freedom Party, founded in 1967, is committed to socialism, democracy, ecology, feminism and racial equality.
<http://peaceandfreedom.org/>



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