

# facts for working people

A Publication of Labors Militant Voice Thanksgiving Issue 2009 \$1  
*Building a Democratic Socialist Alternative to the Dictatorship of Capitalism*

## Sign Up

Join more than 550 online subscribers of Facts for Working People  
Contact us at [ffworkingpeople@gmail.com](mailto:ffworkingpeople@gmail.com)

### Healthcare, War, Economy ....

## Bankers Got **Bailed Out** We got **Sold Out**

**Obama Pardons  
Corporate  
Turkey**

**\$800  
BILLION**

Where's OUR bailout?

**One \$800 billion Turkey could -**

- × Hire 1,623,657 teachers in US schools
- × Provide a 4-year free college education for 20 million high school graduates



## Thievin' Bastard of the Month UC Regent Richard C. Blum

*Richard Blum is Chair of American Himalayan Foundation. It builds schools, plants trees, funds hospitals and cares for children and elderly in the Himalayas. But for his day job he's a Thieving Bastard.*

- Blum made millions of dollars from Iraq and Afghanistan defense contracts through his company Perini.
- He holds investments in companies selling medical supplies to the Department of Veteran Affairs.
- Blum holds 111,000 shares of stock in URS Corporation, which is now the top defense contractor in the United States. URS was hired by UC Regents in 2005 to provide "program management services" for the development of a \$200 million Southeast Cam-

pus Integrated project at CAL.

□ On July 15th the UC Board of Regents voted 11-1 to require its employees take unpaid days off to offset cuts in State funding. The Regent who voted against this was NOT Blum.

□ Blum's wife, Senator Dianne Feinstein, introduced legislation to route \$25 billion in taxpayer money to a government agency that had just awarded Blum's real estate firm a lucrative contract to sell foreclosed properties at compensation rates higher than industry norms.

*For Richard Blum, with his \$25 million of assets, too much money is never quite enough.*



## Capitalism is Broken

### Unemployment ..... The Real Numbers

Jobless Nov. 1 <sup>st</sup> 2009:	15,700,000
Long-term jobless*:	2,400,000
Involuntary part-time	9,300,000
Real TOTAL JOBLESS:	27,400,000

\*jobless not counted in Fed stats for not looking for work for 4 weeks

## 27 million OUT of work

### What do People Think of Capitalism?

According to a BBC survey of 29,000 people world-wide -

**only 25%** of people in the US feel capitalism works well and should be left alone

**92%** of people in Mexico feel there should be a more equal distribution of wealth in their country

**43%** of people in France feel capitalism is fatally flawed and should be replaced by a completely different system

## Giving Thanks to Native American Resistance

*Fighting Imperialism  
Since 1492*



The 1736 "Red String Conspiracy" was an attempt by runaway African slaves, European servants and Native Americans to build a communistic society in Georgia. They named it the City of Refuge. Co-conspirators identified each other by a "Red string about the Right Wrist."

from *The Many-Headed Hydra* by Linebaugh & Rediker

[Laborsmilitantvoice.com](http://Laborsmilitantvoice.com)

(510) 595-5545

[weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com](http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com)

facts **EDITORIAL**  
**We can Fight & We Can Win**  
**Learning from Canadian Sisters & Brothers**  
*by a Toronto Nurse*

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Canadian Federation of Students' National Day of Action Against Poverty, the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty (OCAP) organized a March into the Financial District of Toronto. Building on the growing anger at the trillions of dollars spent worldwide to rescue banks and financial institutions, while jobless rates soar, tuition fees go up, and governments at all levels viciously cut welfare entitlements, education, health care and all public services, OCAP was not content to simply rally and point fingers at politicians. Chanting "The Banks Got Bailed Out - We Got Sold Out", hundreds of welfare recipients, students, workers and activists from community organizations across the city and beyond, left a downtown park to march into Bay Street, Canada's Wall Street.

People were inspired when 5 members ran into an elite private Conservative club, forced open windows and denounced the bankers and politicians who have stolen billions of dollars from us. The spirit of resistance grew as the march continued to the tall towers of finance that frame the corridors of power of the capitalist thieves, here in Canada.

**direct action**

After dropping a huge banner from atop the Bank of Montreal, proclaiming CAPITALISM IS BROKEN, the march proceeded up the street to burn a large effigy of the Federal Minister of Finance. Along the way OCAP stopped to give support to Communication and Energy Workers who have been locked out and to the electrical workers in Mexico who are waging a courageous battle against union busting.

With meager resources, OCAP mobilized hundreds to expose the arrogance of politicians who steal our money and hand it over to bankers. OCAP boldly pointed to the real enemy and using direct action tactics demonstrated the shape and nature of resistance and fight back required on the part of working people to throw back the current severe assault on jobs, education and public services.

**bold action**

The capitalist class and their political representatives do not hesitate to take bold and decisive action against us, to shore up their profit-driven system. Without shame or care, they have stolen our homes and jobs and are dismantling our public services. OCAP demonstrated the ability and the need to organize in broad coalitions with direct action to move resistance beyond protest rallies.

Tent cities are cropping up across North America as homelessness escalates. Tuition fees are rising 25-35% to a level no student of a working class family can afford without incurring massive debt. With the real jobless rate at over 20% in the US and 14% in Canada, working people are forced to use credit cards to pay for health care, food and rent. Services for poor people are disappearing, as billions of dollars are injected daily into the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and bankers keep their million dollar bonuses and rewards for economic blunders and crimes.

**Facts For Working People**  
**READ OUR DAILY BLOG**

*From November 13th's blog*

When I was growing up in rural Ireland my mother worked harder than anybody else in the family. As well as cooking, baking, looking after the children, washing all the clothes by hand, milking cows and feeding calves she made and mended our clothes. She owned nothing and was paid nothing. While there is still a long way to go there has been a big change in many women's position, especially those who are now in the paid workforce.

On a world scale eighty per cent of factory workers are women. This is an important step forward in that it brings hundreds of millions of women together and increases their power. Here in the USA women made up between thirty and thirty five per cent of the paid . . .

**read more at [weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com](http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com)**

The real culprits on Bay Street and Wall Street are counting on working people, students and the poor to be divided and confused and to continue to take the blows. They will not stop until we organize from below, in the trade unions and across communities, with the knowledge that the current economic crisis is not an accident or a 'correction in the market' - but a normal feature of the economic system of capitalism.

**strong unified movement**

We are witnessing the refusal of the majority of the leaders of the unions to mobilize their tremendous human and financial resources to build a militant and determined fightback against the employers, politicians and bankers alike. The analysis, strategies and tactics of organizations like OCAP are in stark contrast to the defensive role of our union leaders and the squandered opportunities to build a strong, unified militant working class movement against layoffs, concessions and debilitating attacks on our public services.

For two decades, OCAP has gone on the offensive to organize individuals and communities to fight back. Using direct action case work and public protests they have won back millions of dollars for poor and working people. OCAP uses these victories, strategies and tactics to shout out the real enemy, to point the way forward and shape the mobilizations required to win, and to build an alternative kind of economy and social system that is based on the needs of ordinary working people.

**challenging the failures of the past**

The trade union leadership who promote rallies and "town hall" meetings make only token links with communities. They work to convince workers that we are not ready, not well enough organized, and that we must take "baby steps" to "slowly and gradually" build a movement capable of fighting back and winning.

In sharp contrast, OCAP and their supporters in unions and communities, know that working and poor people, students and immigrants can only learn the extent of their power, the real source of their exploitation and oppression, the real nature of the enemy best, when they join together in struggle, in strikes, on picket lines, to occupy workplaces and spaces of power, visit the homes of the bankers and politicians and disrupt the bosses agenda.

**Only the beginning . . .**

The International Monetary Fund released its forecast for the industrialized world at the beginning of November: **"Ten years of cuts and tax cuts lie ahead."** they predicted.



# "Whose University?"



5,000 students & workers rally for public education

During November 18, 19 and 20th the Trustees of the CSUs and the UC Board of Regents meet to vote on tuition increases of up to 32% and further cuts in classes, staff and faculty. A mobilization has commenced to stop this attack on our education and livelihoods. Students, staff and faculty are calling for strikes and days of action. This is a great step forward! We must continue to push forward by:

**1. Shut Downs.** Shut down the meetings in which the Trustees and Regents are planning to implement further cuts. We cannot allow any talk of reducing our access to education and jobs. Where possible we should shut down schools through strike action. Where strikes take place we should have mass Strike Assemblies to ensure the greatest input by participants. Organize General Assemblies of students and workers at all schools wether there is strike action or not.

**2. Spread the Movement.** Where shutdowns are consolidated, students should spread the strike beyond our college campuses and into our communities. We must reach out to the other public, city, community and high schools and the students, teachers, workers and families that are being affected by these cuts and the greater economic crisis. We should send speakers to address union meetings to talk up action to union members.

**3. Unity and Organization.** We must unite all existing bodies that are mobilizing into a state-wide organization, with elected representatives from all bodies represented. Strengthen the democratic voice and power of the movement.

Up until now the governing bodies of this country have been successful in isolating workers and students who have not come into struggle and those who have. In Philly workers recently shut down transportation in rejection of a crummy contract, yet the mass media said almost nothing, this is because they fear the unity and mobilization among working class people.

## Living in a the facts Rich-ocracy

**237** Number of Members of Congress that are millionaires

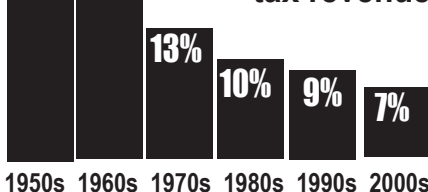
**\$251 million** Assets of Darrell Issa, richest Congressman

**6** Number out of the 7 richest Congressmen that are Democrats

### One Source of the Public Cuts

### How the Rich Have Stopped Paying Taxes

**28%** The gradual decline of corporate taxes as a share of total tax revenue



\*\*\*\*\*



## Global Risings Columbian flower workers

Columbian flower workers have been on strike since September 9th. Before the strike, flower workers were constantly exposed to chemicals and women experienced sexual exploitation from male bosses. Benilda farm is currently being occupied by the workers and they are demanding pension and health care benefits. Solidarity is extended by Columbian labor unions.

### Chinese Teachers

Teachers at Chengdu Foreign Languages School in China have staged a sit in strike on November 5th & 6th demanding higher wages. They have not received raises since the school has been privatized. In addition, they are demanding an apology from school management for accusing teachers of being part of criminal gang. The strike was well supported by the community, parents and most notably students, who were at the school passing out water bottles to teachers. Yuan Guiren, Education Minister "pledged" to increase teachers pay and allocate school funds more equally.

### Canadian steel workers

Unionized Canadian Steelworkers workers in Manitoba Ontario and Newfoundland have been on strike since mid-July. The Brazilian-based mining company, Vale Inc., has insisted that Canadian workers concede wage and benefits. The bosses deny any financial loss from the strike, even though 3rd quarter earnings for the company have declined.

\*\*\*\*\*

## top 10 Ways this THANKSGIVING is different to last

- 10** Must avoid traditional holiday family fight - no-one's got health insurance
- 9** One more place to set - your kids invited their laid-off teacher
- 8** T-day indistinguishable from other furlough days
- 7** The Mayflower shows up, the moving truck - not the ship, to remove you, pilgrims now working at foreclosure dept of Bank of America
- 6** Fight breaks out in meat department over the smallest turkey
- 5** Pumpkin pie in Afghanistan not like mom used to make
- 4** Thankful for camaraderie on unemployment line
- 3** Difficulty applying "More with less" for turkey dinner
- 2** Still check the sales ads for Black Friday shopping, but not going
- 1** Anti-capitalist demonstration a priority over watching football

# **facts for working people**

## **READ OUR DAILY BLOG**

### **at**

#### **[weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com](http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com)**

**from a November 5th blog**  
***Unemployed in Oakland and the \$20,000 Ring***

***Had another dark humor moment in the Union's unemployment line today.***

The cloud hovering over union construction is very dark. A recent San Francisco Chronicle article explained that the return to the commercial building boom of the past decade will be years away. In the first 9 months of 2009 residential building permits for the San Francisco region were down 73%! The bailed-out banks aren't lending and the Bay Area construction loan delinquency rate is 17%.

Four thousand of San Francisco's construction union labor force were out of work, a figure that may be near 30%. It's about the same at my local.

So as we stood around this morning at the union hall, we got talking about the state of our nation. One guy was better off than me, he was eligible for the second Federal unemployment benefit extension. We chatted, then another guy chimed in that he didn't even get the first extension and his money ran out months back. We broached the health-care issue: it cost me two of my four weekly unemployment checks this month to pay for my family's health benefits. But then, the guy with the tooth missing up front, chimed in he was worse off, and as he told his story, he confirmed, he was worse off.

"My health benefits ran out long ago. I am deep, deep in debt. I got a kidney stone. I went to the ER. Shit, by the time I got out two days later, they billed me for \$20,000!"

We all looked at each other, then he added, "they even charged me \$60 for oxygen - they charged me for the f\*\*\*\*\* air I breathed. Hospital f\*\*\*\*\* air." Then someone yelled, "you shoulda brought your own f\*\*\*\*\* air man." Another dude yelled, "f\*\*\*\*\* \$20,000 for a kidney stone, did they at least give you the stone to take home?" To which our friend quickly replied, "No man! I'll tell 'em I ain't paying till they give me what's mine! And f\*\*\* them, let them try collecting that \$20,000."

After a brief silence a guy sitting across the room piped in, "hey if you ever get that kidney stone dude, put it in a ring, that'll be the most expensive ring you've ever owned!" We all smiled and got up to move down the line. . . . Capitalist Health Care: it's just precious.

**read more at [weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com](http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com)**

**Join our fight for Socialism**  
Oakland (510) 595- 4676 (San Diego, Columbus, Las Vegas)  
Chicago: (773) 913-8068 Los Angeles(310) 404-6729  
Toronto(416) 323-0620

## **A Way Forward for Education**

- ◆ **End Poverty**
- Decent housing, food and jobs for all
- All children on a level playing field and able to learn
- ◆ **Full Funding for Schools**
- End property tax-based school funding
- End the mosaic of funding sources to schools - for simple full, federal and consistent funding
- Tax, not bailout, the Rich, Slash Defense Spending
- ◆ **Repeal NCLB**
- ◆ **No to Merit Pay for Teachers**
- ◆ **Unionize all Schools**
- Build a united movement of parents, students, teachers and school workers for No Cuts - Period!
- Free accessible quality education for all
- Every neighborhood to have a fully staffed school with decent facilities
- Take Profit-making out of our Schools
- ◆ **Cancellation of all student debt and extend free education post-high school**
- Education a life-time right through college, technical school, or job training
- ◆ **Maximum Class Size size of 15**
- ◆ **30-hour work week for all School Staff**
- ◆ **Hire 1 million School Teachers/School staff now**
- ◆ **Smaller school districts; end top-heavy bureaucracy**
- ◆ **Bottom Up governing of schools**
- Elected bodies of Parents, teachers, students, school workers to democratically decide local school policy
- Regional and national school bodies to act as advisory authority to local school bodies
- ◆ **Schools as meeting place for community and a venue for community events**
- ◆ **Build School-Community relationships to defend our schools**
- ◆ **Socialist democratically planned economy to end poverty and ensure full funding for all social needs**

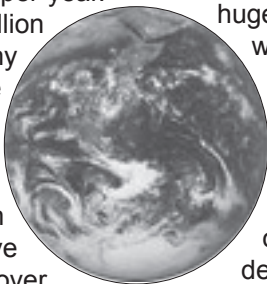
## **Why We're Against Capitalism and for Socialism**

We are against capitalism because it does not work. More than half the world's population are in want or outright starving. The United Nations Development Program estimates that everybody in the world could have access to basic social services, clean water, food, housing, health care, education, for \$80 billion per year. The seven richest people in the world have \$1.54 trillion between them. Capitalism cannot transfer the tiny fraction of the wealth of its richest few that would be necessary to provide everybody with the necessities. Capitalism has forfeited its right to exist.

But it is not only a question of taking the ill-gotten wealth of the billionaires. It is having a system that allows the working people of the world to have access to ownership and then democratic control over

capital, machinery, land, water, energy and power so that we can collectively and democratically plan production distribution throughout the world. Capitalism cannot allow this. The future of the planet can only be rescued when power is wrestled from the rich and when working people can begin to decide through huge debates and discussions a sane direction for the planet which meets the needs of the human race in a sustainable fashion.

Capitalism does not work. We are for a new system where the talents and skills of human society are utilized to ensure all basic needs are met and a world where ordinary people are no longer the pawns of big business or a bureaucratic government. This is a democratic socialist system. This is what we are fighting for. Contact us and we can work together.



**[www.labormilitantvoice.org](http://www.labormilitantvoice.org)**

**[weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com](http://weknowwhatsup.blogspot.com)**