

# Bosses Reorganize Community Colleges for War

## **COMMUNISM WILL UNITE “HEAD” AND “HAND” IN WORK, EDUCATION**

LOS ANGELES—Hundreds of students dash from college to college, trying to “crash” classes that filled up long ago. They are desperate to finish degrees that might get them jobs. Meanwhile new California-wide and federal regulations will force out many who are trying to balance school, work, and family, or who were victims of the racist mis-education system.

Halfway around the globe, thousands of prospective students and their parents massed outside the University of Johannesburg, South Africa, last month, seeking a last chance for admission. When the gates opened and the crowd surged, a woman was trampled to death. Public South African universities turn away over half their applicants. The government pushes students toward vocational schools (F.E.T. colleges) to remedy its “dire skills shortage.” But F.E.T. colleges, like US two-year colleges, have a huge drop-out rate. Even graduates often can’t find jobs.

During the long and militant 1999 strike at the huge National Autonomous University of Mexico, many students complained that massive fee hikes would force working-class youth into vocational rather than academic programs. Communists replied that students should unite with industrial workers, key to revolution, instead of trying vainly to escape the working class.

A similar struggle is now going on in California, where new regulations are transforming public two-year colleges to intensify the tracking of students into vocational or college-prep programs. All schooling prepares youth for their place in the system of production. In racist capitalism, that mostly means wage slavery, whether in white-collar jobs that require college degrees or in the factories.

Academic programs push pro-boss ideas and train students to jump endlessly through hoops. Those who make it are encouraged to think of themselves as superior, and those who don’t are made to feel like failures. The real failure is capitalism.

The opposition of academic and vocational education is a feature of class society that will disappear under communism. We’ll all work, including manual labor, and we’ll all study. We’ll learn languages to communicate globally, dialectic

materialist philosophy to analyze and change the world, and everything else that will help us build the world we want and need.

### **Rulers Take Advantage of Budget Crisis**

Colleges are scrambling to replace lost funding with contracts, grants, and industry/government partnerships. The ruling class intervenes more directly in what gets taught, to whom, and how.

For example, war contractor Caterpillar is moving production from Canada to North Carolina, where wages are lower because of a long history of racism. The company isn’t paying for on-the-job training. Instead it turns to Forsyth Tech, where “Assemblers do assembly training ... machinists do machining training,” according to an instructor. Many students pay \$thousands getting trained for \$10/hour jobs that they may or may not get.

Many community colleges administer the NCRC-Plus “career readiness” test. The “Plus” tests “soft skills” like “discipline, dependability, attitude/optimism, and teamwork.” Companies like Boeing hope to use such tests to weed out rebellious workers. It won’t work!

Youth must optimistically join the Voc Ed programs, the factories, and the barracks, confident that the masses can be mobilized for communism. We must develop that dependability, discipline, and teamwork to build the International Communist Workers’ Party – learning much more in the process.

### **Communism Will Unite Work and Study to Serve the Masses**

Capitalist managers are supposed to be “thinkers” and workers the “doers,” treated like beasts of burden. So vocational training generally ignores the complex cognitive skills involved in all work. Instead, students are shown “how” with very little “why.”

The same is true in academic classes. Colleges talk about “critical thinking” but workers and students aren’t schooled to

think critically about anything. That’s one thing the rulers really can’t afford!

The “head versus hand” division serves to justify capitalist rule over us, the working class who produce everything. Class society can’t provide meaningful work or meaningful education, because it separates the two in the service of exploitation.

Communism, in contrast, will unite planning and doing, learning and producing, as we work collectively to serve the needs of the masses. The Chinese Cultural Revolution provides some helpful examples, such as the Wukou Tea-Growing Middle School in 1968. Plantation workers, tea-growing peasants, and technical workers became teachers. Workshops, tea gardens, and fields became classrooms. “We have learnt from our worker-peasant teachers what we could never have learnt in the classroom before,” students declared.

Today, communist class struggle is our “classroom” as we organize for communist revolution and prepare to build communist society. Every *Red Flag* reader must become a teacher as well as a learner! Read, discuss, support, distribute, and write for our “textbook,” *Red Flag*!



**LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA, Jan. 21—Caterpillar Inc locked out workers and threatened to move to the US after they rejected a contract offer that would have slashed wages in half and cut benefits while the company reports record profits.**