

# ***STUDENTS AND WORKERS UNITE: STOP WORKERS FROM GETTING THE AXE!***

The Administration is planning to lay off close to 50 cafeteria workers, some of whom have given 16 years of their lives to serving students at this school. The workers need student support. **We have to fight back to save their jobs—EVERY SINGLE JOB. Now is the time to construct worker and student power on campus.**

The Administration is using the tactic of **division** to carry out the mass layoff. It is **dividing** the people: **dividing** students against workers and **dividing** the workers themselves.

The Administration is telling students that new low-paid student jobs, without benefits, will be created in the cafeteria, including some positions that require data and finance management skills. They are appealing to the **base self-interest** of students to attack the jobs, health care and pensions of the cafeteria workers. At the same time, they want to use intellectual labor to increase their profits. **Students—science and knowledge in general—should not be used as weapons against the working class.**

At the same time, the Administration is pitting the cafeteria workers against each other in a competition to suck up to the boss for priority during the rehiring process.

However, **no one is guaranteed a job after May**. The only thing that **IS** guaranteed is that workers will lose everything they have now, **unless every worker unites and fights back with the students acting as their reinforcements.**

While the union has circulated a petition—which has not even gotten a response from the Administration—one union staffer we spoke with made clear her intention to depend on the **individual rehiring** of the workers **after they are laid off**, rather than the **collective resistance** of the workers **now backed by mass student action**. Why? Concern for the union's relationship with Chartwell, concern for maintaining a "good relationship" with the Administration, fear of being "sued for defamation," the notion that "diplomatic language" is best. She demanded no emails, leaflets or actions be planned without her approval and that we not use strong language. This attitude will lead to defeat.

**Rather than reinforcing the interests of individuals, the workers and the students need to organize a collective fight, based on the principle "all of us or none". We need to construct a unified and combative camp around the workers.**

## WHY COMMUNIST STUDENTS SUPPORT THE WORKERS

Students at the New School are divided—we know this after speaking to roughly twenty classes and hundreds of students about the need to fight on the side of the cafeteria workers.

What are the groupings among students?

There are **anti-worker** students. They vocally support VP Stephen Stabile and the mass layoff of the cafeteria workers. They express contempt for the workers and care only for their own bourgeois class aspirations.

There are **indifferent** students. They retreat—for now—to their individual concerns and think that their own private world exists outside and beyond class society.

Finally, there are the **pro-worker** students. They feel the injustice of the mass layoff and ask “what can I do to support the workers’ struggle with deeds.” They are growing in number, but many more are needed to **construct** worker and student power on the campus, in order to fight for **EVERY SINGLE JOB**.

Among the **pro-worker** students, **Communist** students in particular—militants of the **Communist Student Group**—have taken the initiative to draft leaflets, talk with workers at the cafeteria, bring news of the layoffs to the maintenance and security workers, and build support among as many students as possible for the struggle.

**We—the Communist students—support the workers BECAUSE WE ARE COMMUNISTS.**

We want to a **mass and militant fight**, uniting all who can be united to form the broadest camp possible, to save **EVERY SINGLE JOB**. In the words of Tay-K the rapper. We will expose the exploitative nature of the Administration with whatever language we see fit. Our obligation is to the workers.

## WHAT THE COMMUNIST STUDENTS WANT

What does it mean to be a **Communist**? Communism is the theory for the liberation of the working class and all of humanity. We want a society where political power is in the hands of the working class and the people.

Society is irreconcilably divided into classes, the working class (represented by the cafeteria workers in this struggle) and the exploiting class (represented by the hedgefund managers, bankers, CEOs, etc. who serve on the Board of Trustees). The ruling class has their own State—army, political parties, universities, etc. These are the tools they use to preserve their power. We need to construct our Party to wrest that power away from them, and place it in the hands of the people.

The **Communist Student Group** at the New School was founded to contribute, with other revolutionaries throughout this country, to the construction of a **revolutionary political Party of the working class**, through participating in the everyday struggles of the people: for jobs, for housing, and so on, and through studying Marxist theory in order to interpret our present situation. Our aim is to weld ourselves into something new: a unified, capable organism. As students, we believe our role is to serve as the rear-detachment of the working class, to be their reinforcements, and the point of their spear.

Unions restrict workers to **economic** struggles (demands for higher wages, better working conditions, etc.). But, the whole economic and political system is complicit in the activity of the ruling class and their exploitation, layoffs, evictions, and incarceration of working people. Workers everywhere must unite to struggle against not only their direct bosses for economic demands, but they must struggle against the whole economic and political system. We believe unions cannot be relied upon. The workers can count on only their own **political** organization: the revolutionary Party of the future.

In struggle and solidarity,  
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- The Union is mobilizing a small contingent of students (3-4), a handful of workers, and paid union reps to “embarrass the university” by handing out pamphlets with “polite and diplomatic language, only stating the bare facts: that workers are getting laid off” at events where wealthy donors and patrons of the New School will be in attendance.
- They launched a petition campaign and garnered 1000 signatures, to be delivered to the president. The president did not even respond to this futile attempt to appeal to his morality. The ruling class does not think in terms of morality, but in terms of the maximizing profitability, no matter the human cost.
- The Union is “seeking allies in the board of trustees and administration by appealing to their ‘progressive politics’ and moral spirit” of the enemy.
- They want to compromise with the administration, they have asked us to be as diplomatic toward them as possible to keep a good relationship in hopes that some workers will be rehired.
- They are helping workers reapply for jobs essentially asking them to beg for their jobs back knowing the vast majority will not be rehired, they also plan to let them get fired and then try to fight it in the courts by suing for discrimination for the workers who are not rehired.
- They have attempted to reign in the students by restricting their speech to “diplomatic language” in fear of being sued for defamation by association with us
- When asked what the workers had to lose by going on a wild cat strike they said “Nothing. But it would damage our relationship with Chartwell (they are more aligned with the boss than the workers)

—(1) We view the struggle as fundamentally a question of power, and so we need to construct a unified and combative camp around the workers. The union views the struggle in terms of

- (i) appealing to the moral instincts of the enemy (those who are laying off the workers) (ii) legal battles.

For the union, the activity of the workers and the construction of a unified camp of struggle plays no role.

—(2) The union approach actively impedes the formation of a unified camp of struggle by sacrificing some workers in order to maintain good relations with the enemy (helping the workers re-apply, knowing that only a small part of them will in fact be re-hired.)

### **Collective Struggle vs. individualism**

Economism

Support bourgeois political parties

No strike clauses, history

Teachers wild cat strikes