

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH AN ENGINEERING DEGREE FROM CAL?

Students have historically played key roles in revolutionary movements worldwide, and we believe there are plenty of positive ways that scientific training can and will be put to good use for humanity. But within the capitalist system, big institutions like UC Berkeley will find a million different ways to funnel students towards the same rotten end: maintaining the hegemony of the ruling class.

~~~ We've listed a few here... ~~~


MAINTAIN US GLOBAL HEGEMONY WITH THE US NAVY AND THEIR NUPOC PROGRAM

Where to even begin with the US Navy? They claim to "we defend with honor, courage, and commitment every hour of every day." The Navy "defends" the people of the US by slaughtering the masses in other countries and subjugating them to the interests of the American elite. The US Navy received \$230.8 billion for 2023 – almost as much funding as the second biggest spender, China, puts toward their entire military (293 billion)! Whether it be massacring the Vietnamese people, bombing Afghanistan by drones (the Navy has planes too, do not worry!), or fighting Russia down to the last Ukrainian, the Navy has been moving in lockstep with the interests of the rich from its inception. The Navy also "defends" the people at home – just look at Hawaii! Not only did the Navy spill 20,000 gallons of oil in the water, but the military uses large swaths of native Hawaiian land for yearly war games. During these games, tanks, shelling, and planes destroy the environment and Indigenous burial sites; kill thousands of marine animals through sonar testing and underwater missiles; destroy Coral reefs by amphibious landings (boats that drive onto beaches). The Navy's NUPOC program lures in STEM students with promises of lucrative scholarships, fat paychecks, and job security. In return, you maintain nuclear power infrastructure that keeps warships running without a blip. What are these warships doing? Covertly moving nuclear missiles with the power to take out entire countries, and even end humanity as we know it, in a moment's notice. With career prospects like these, it's no wonder the US Navy has to prey on heavily-indebted young people to furnish its ranks.

made by

UC Berkeley Revolutionary Marxist Students

We hold a study group on campus and are always down to talk about politics. There is a whole world to win and we can only do that by working together. Please reach out!

 marxist_students

 camarxiststudygroup@protonmail.com

PROVIDE AVANT-CARDE ENERGY STORAGE FOR BIG TECH AND THE US MILITARY WITH BLOOM ENERGY

Bloom Energy provides fuel cells powered by natural gas and markets itself as a "green energy company. In 2020, Forbes reported that Bloom Energy had obtained at least some of their natural gas through fracking, and that while initially their fuel cells may be more efficient than a power plant, as they age they become more inefficient. To compound with their increased inefficiency as time goes on is their hazardous waste. In 2014, Bloom disclosed that its filtration systems had filled up with toxic substances like arsenic, benzene, sulfur and lead, which Bloom then shipped out of its center in Delaware to be burned and processed in other ways that violated environmental regulations. When the press asked the company about this, it said it "thought it was exempt. . ." As of 2020, the EPA was still holding out on \$1 million worth of fines for these types of violations by Bloom. When we zoom out, we see that Bloom Energy contracts with big tech companies like Google, AT&T, Yahoo, and IBM, real estate corporations (Hines, JMB), other energy companies like Delmarva Power, BGE, and Washington Gas, Morgan Stanley and most damningly Lockheed-Martin, a major weapons manufacturer in the US. They also support Keysight, a firm which provides many services to aerospace and defense as part of the military industrial complex.

GENTRIFY THE BAY AREA WITH KPFF

One scan through the social media accounts of KPFF San Francisco is enough to verify that they are fully integrated into the popular liberal charade of developing new "affordable housing." An archetypal example of this sham can be found in the HOPE SF scheme, a collaboration between city politicians and their cronies in the big banks and real estate firms to eliminate the last public housing in SF, cram previous poor and working class tenants into a few shoddy high-rise buildings, and turn the rest of the land into market rate units for rich newcomers. As the engineering consultant for the project, KPFF is just one cog in a larger, nation-wide agenda to privatize all public housing in the US -- because "there's no money for needed repairs." But don't ask how the federal government came up with \$60 billion in military aid for the Ukraine War on the turn of a dime, with bipartisan support to boot!

DESIGN SHODDY HIGH-RISES FOR THE RICH WITH DISIMONE CONSULTING ENGINEERS

DiSimone Consulting Engineers holds the dubious title of engineering consultant for the San Francisco Millenium Tower, a luxury condominium skyscraper on the waterfront which is sinking into the earth at an alarming rate. Although some city bureaucrats were raising concerns about the building's structural integrity since 2009, leading SF government officials were apparently reassured when the owner of DiSimone told them that determining the acceptable rate of sinkage "is not an exact science." A dozen years later, the retrofitting required to keep the whole structure from crumbling into the landfill it was built upon will cost a cool \$100 million - \$30 million of which are to come directly from taxpayers. It's clear DiSimone Consulting's record doesn't match up with its claims of "outright innovation," "extremely efficient designs," and "dedication to pursuing and developing superlative structures." But the utter disaster that is the Millenium Tower project highlights an even more profound truth about modern-day American society: the elites can't even get their own shit right a lot of the time. With so much decadence and corruption concentrated within such a small group of people, this shouldn't come as much of a surprise...

GET PAID IN YOUR OWN TUITION DOLLARS BY WEBCOR BUILDERS AND FORELL ELSESSER ENGINEERS

Webcor brags that they have "spent the last 50 years defining the skylines in San Francisco, San Jose, and Los Angeles." What does this mean? Building gentrified housing and luxury football stadiums that increase our tuition and our rents. The folks at Webcor are the geniuses behind the stifling and expensive Blackwell Hall dorms and the costly Memorial Stadium retrofit. Rent for a double at Blackwell Hall is on the highest end of the Berkeley market rate rent, for shoe-box sized rooms with windows that barely open. Forell and Webcor also teamed up on the memorial stadium "retrofit" -- which was really a luxury remodel. Forell and Webcor's remodel included adding a press box with high price views for the Bay Area elite. Now, we the students have a daunting \$445 million of debt to pay off -- the UC in their own debt reports cited tuition as the main "revenue stream" to pay off their luxury remodel. And we have this dynamic duo to thank for the final product!