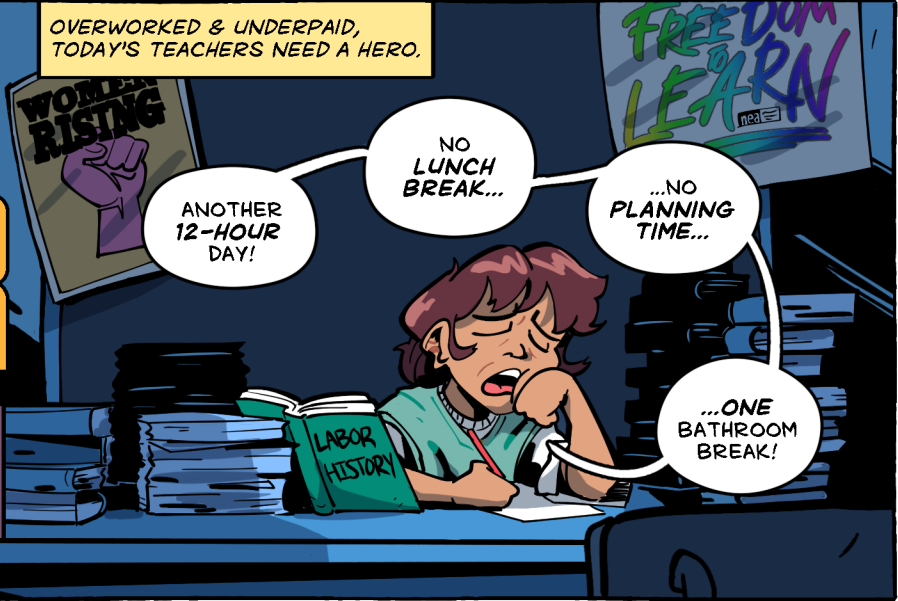


OVERWORKED & UNDERPAID,
TODAY'S TEACHERS NEED A HERO.

"W" IS FOR WORKER

WRITTEN BY JUSTIN CONLEY,
MARY ELLEN FLANNERY,
ERIC LEWIS, AND ANNIE ROSENTHAL
ILLUSTRATED BY NICCOLO PIZARRO

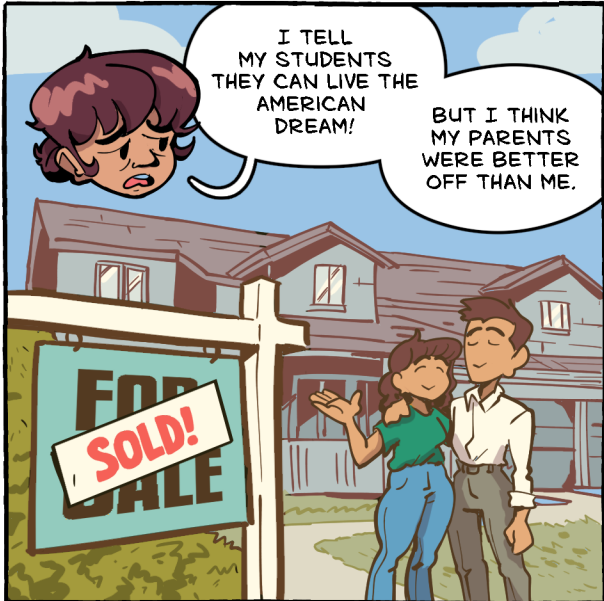


ANOTHER
12-HOUR
DAY!

NO
LUNCH
BREAK...

...NO
PLANNING
TIME...

...ONE
BATHROOM
BREAK!



I TELL
MY STUDENTS
THEY CAN LIVE THE
AMERICAN
DREAM!

BUT I THINK
MY PARENTS
WERE BETTER
OFF THAN ME.



HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

YEAH, HOW
DID THIS
HAPPEN--

ZZZ...



HUH?

IT'S 1942. THE NEW DEAL IS IN FULL SWING, THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT IS A FEW YEARS OLD, AND ONE OUT OF THREE AMERICANS BELONG TO A UNION.

UNIONS ARE BUILDING THE NATION'S NEW MIDDLE CLASS--AND WORKERS ARE WINNING!

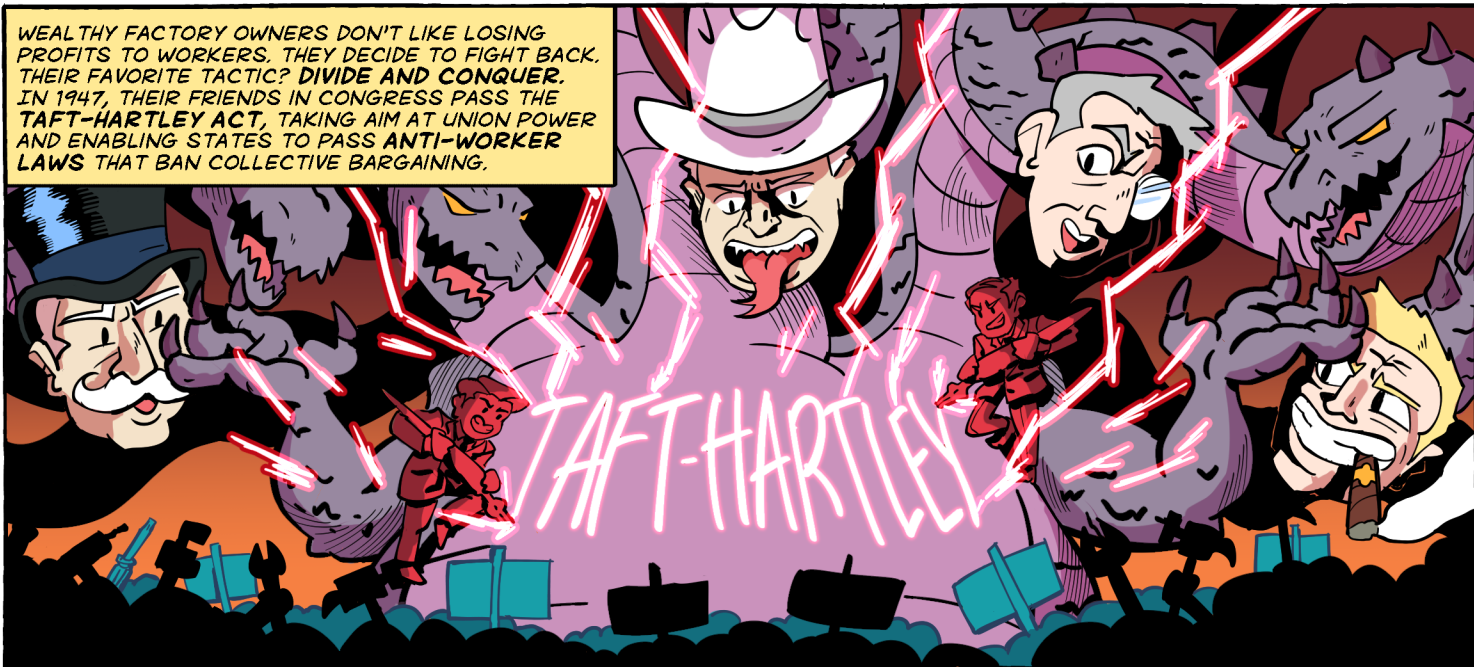


INCREDIBLE!

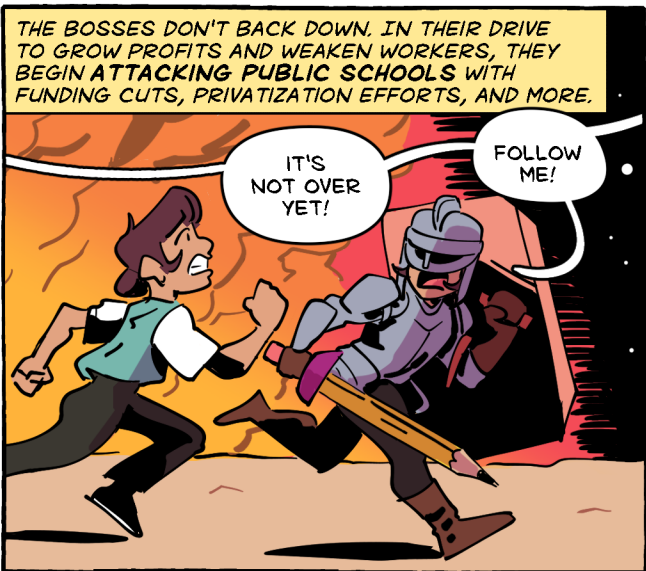
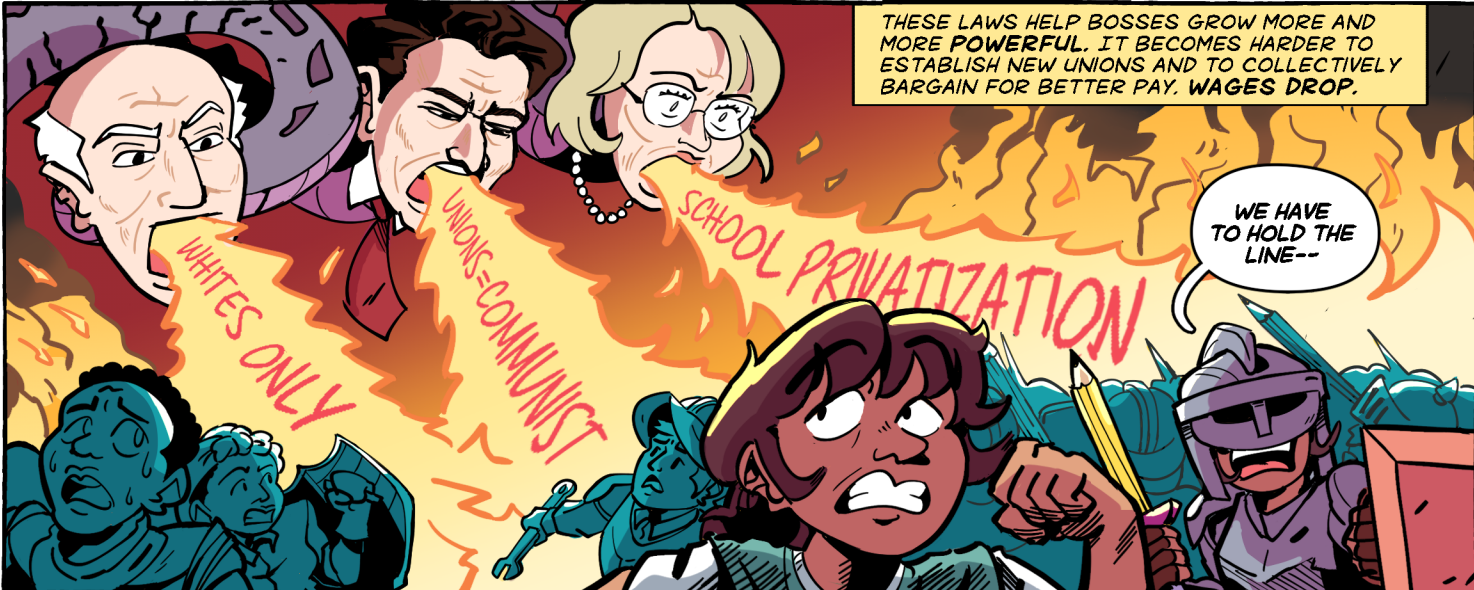
WHILE NOT EVERYTHING IS GREAT FOR EVERY WORKER, THE BOSSES WOULD SOON MAKE IT WORSE FOR ALL.



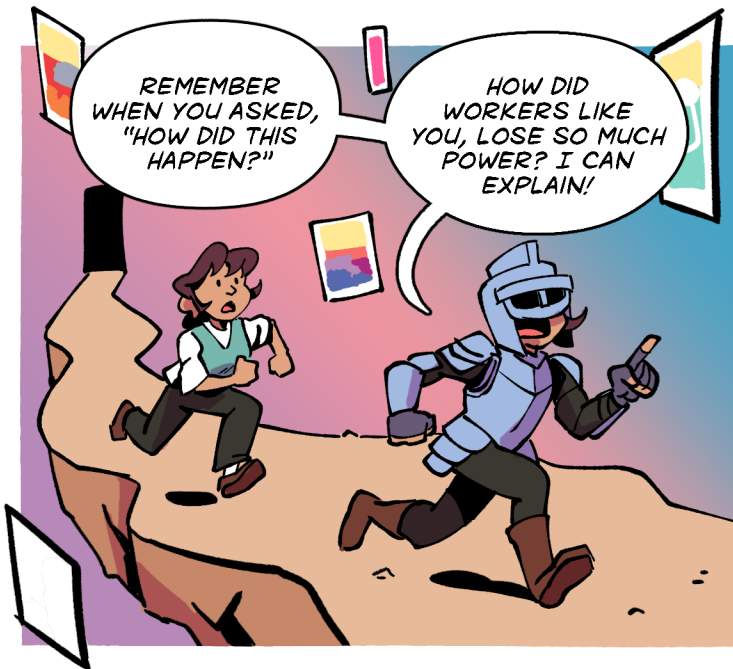
WEALTHY FACTORY OWNERS DON'T LIKE LOSING PROFITS TO WORKERS, THEY DECIDE TO FIGHT BACK. THEIR FAVORITE TACTIC? **DIVIDE AND CONQUER**. IN 1947, THEIR FRIENDS IN CONGRESS PASS THE **TAFT-HARTLEY ACT**, TAKING AIM AT UNION POWER AND ENABLING STATES TO PASS **ANTI-WORKER LAWS** THAT BAN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.



THESE LAWS HELP BOSSES GROW MORE AND MORE POWERFUL. IT BECOMES HARDER TO ESTABLISH NEW UNIONS AND TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN FOR BETTER PAY. **WAGES DROP.**



THE QUEST CONTINUES! SCAN TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!



REMEMBER WHEN YOU ASKED, "HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?"

HOW DID WORKERS LIKE YOU, LOSE SO MUCH POWER? I CAN EXPLAIN!



LET'S GO BACK TO THIS GUY. HIS NAME WAS VANCE MUSE. HE WAS A WEALTHY TEXAN, A LOBBYIST, AND ALSO SUPER RACIST.

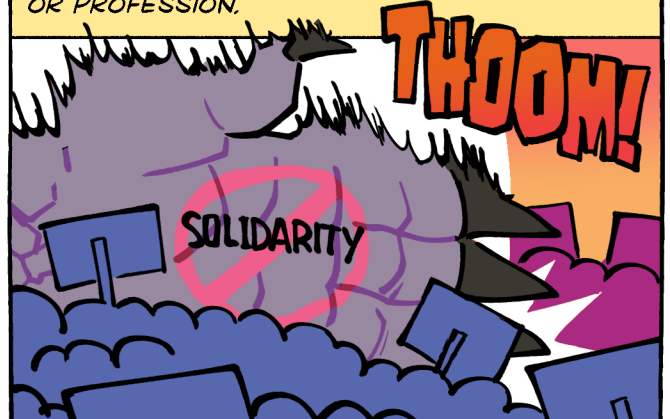
(GOOGLE IT!)

BACK IN THE 40S, HE WAS HIRED BY SOUTHERN INDUSTRIALISTS TO WEAKEN UNIONS AND STOP WORKERS FROM GROWING THEIR POWER.



YES! MORE GREEN!

VANCE IS THE MAN BEHIND THE TAFT-HARTLEY ACT, WHICH AIMED TO STOP UNION PROGRESS AND PUT MONEY BACK INTO BOSSES' POCKETS. FOR ONE THING, IT BANS WORKERS FROM COMING TOGETHER AND GOING ON STRIKE TO SUPPORT WORKERS OUTSIDE THEIR INDUSTRY OR PROFESSION.



FOR ANOTHER, IT ALLOWS STATE LAWMAKERS TO WRITE THEIR OWN ANTI-WORKER LAWS, WHICH THEY DO--FROM MASSACHUSETTS TO FLORIDA TO NEW YORK TO ARKANSAS.



IN SOME STATES, THESE LAWS MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR TEACHERS, FIREFIGHTERS, SANITATION WORKERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN FOR THEIR WAGES.

AROUND THE SAME TIME AS TAFT-HARTLEY, FRIENDS OF VANCE REACT TO THE BROWN V BOARD DECISION BY CREATING PRIVATE SCHOOLS FOR WHITE KIDS, DIVIDING PARENTS AND THE CHILDREN OF WORKERS BY RACE. THIS LAYS THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE VOUCHER SCHEMES AND FOR-PROFIT CHARTERS WE SEE TODAY.



WELL UH, SEE YOU AT WORK!

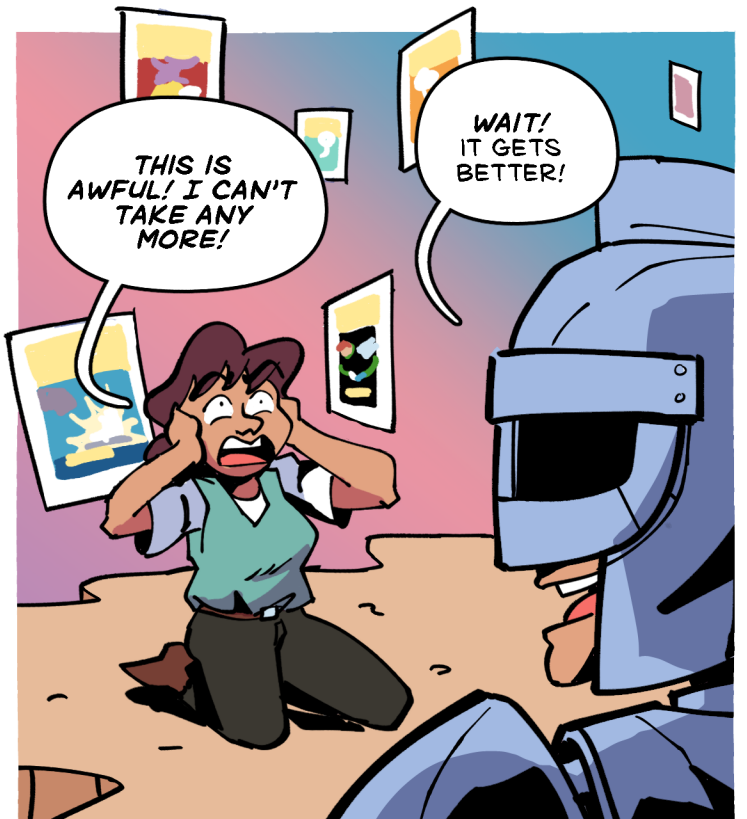
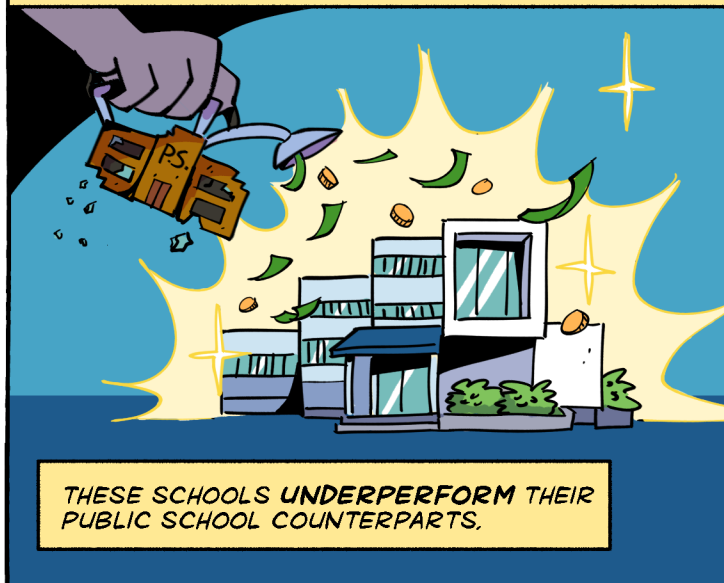
BY THE TIME RONALD REAGAN GETS INTO THE WHITE HOUSE, UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS DECLINED FROM ABOUT 1 IN 3 U.S. WORKERS TO 1 IN 5--AND FROM THERE, IT GETS WORSE. (IT'S ABOUT 1 IN 10 TODAY.) WITHOUT THE PROTECTIONS OF STRONG UNIONS, WORKERS HAVE LITTLE RECOURSE AS THE RICH AND POWERFUL HOARD PROFITS.



THE SHARE OF U.S. WAGES GOING TO THE TOP 1 PERCENT GETS HIGHER AND HIGHER, WHILE WAGES FOR THE REST OF AMERICANS STAGNATE.



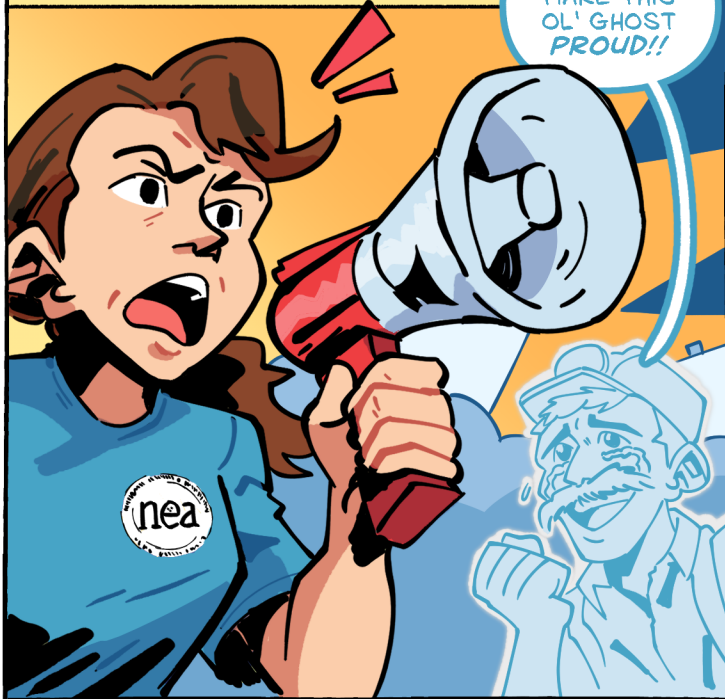
BY THE 1990S, THE BOSSES REALIZE THERE'S A LOT OF CASH TO BE MADE IN EDUCATION. THEY BEGIN STARVING PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF FUNDING. THEY SET UP VOUCHER PROGRAMS, WHICH MOSTLY BENEFIT PEOPLE WHO ALREADY HAVE THEIR KIDS IN PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND THEY CREATE MASSIVE FOR-PROFIT CHARTER SCHOOL SYSTEMS.



TEACHERS LIKE YOU GET FED UP! IN WEST VIRGINIA, THE CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF COAL MINERS ARE TODAY'S TEACHERS. IN 2018, THEY WALK OUT, DEMANDING MORE FUNDS FOR THEIR CLASSROOMS--AND THEY WIN!

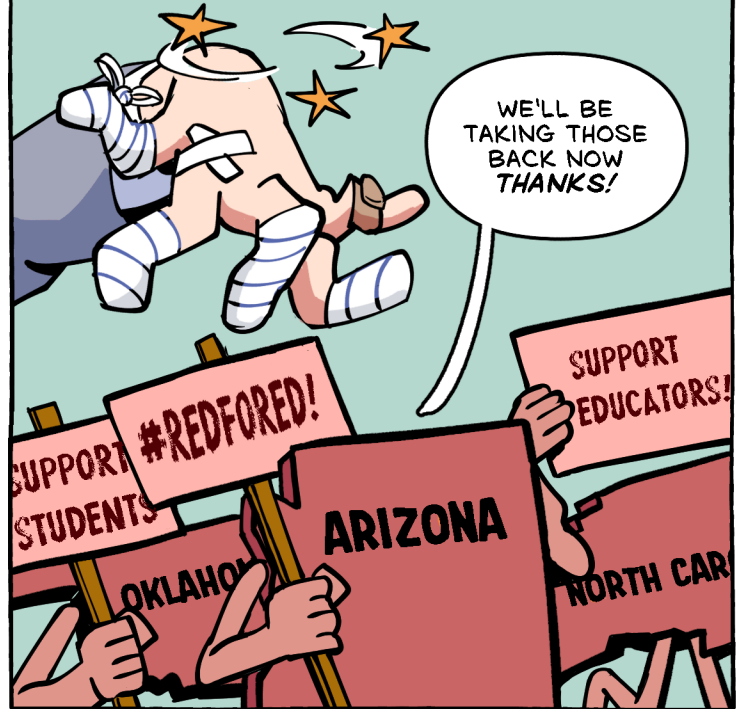
SNIFF

YOU MAKE THIS OL' GHOST PROUD!!



STATEWIDE #REDFORED STRIKES AND WALKOUTS IN ARIZONA, NORTH CAROLINA, KENTUCKY, AND OKLAHOMA FOLLOW. THESE EDUCATORS SHOW WHAT'S POSSIBLE WHEN WORKERS RAISE THEIR VOICES TOGETHER AND DEMAND MORE!

WE'LL BE TAKING THOSE BACK NOW THANKS!



IN LOS ANGELES, MORE THAN 30,000 TEACHERS GO ON STRIKE FOR 6 DAYS IN 2019 AND WIN SMALLER CLASS SIZES AND BIGGER PAY. A MONTH LATER, DENVER TEACHERS STRIKE, TOO--AND WIN 12 PERCENT PAY RAISES.

WE DIDN'T KNOW HOW STRONGLY ALL OF YOU FELT ABOUT THIS!

SUPERINTENDENT LAUSD



IN 2022, LOS ANGELES TEACHERS RETURN TO THE BARGAINING TABLE, AND WIN 21 PERCENT PAY RAISES.

GET UP! WE ALL TOTALLY DESERVE MORE!

WAY MORE!

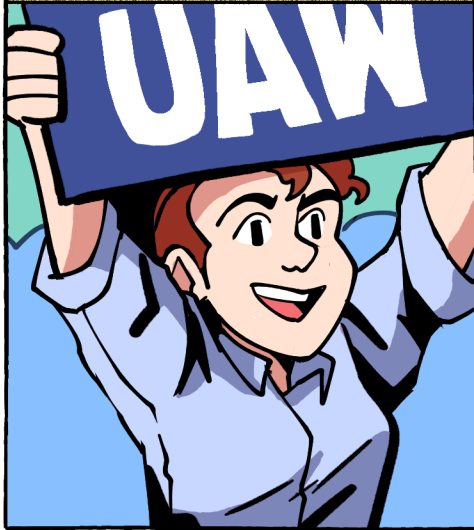
GAH! THAT LAST PANEL WASN'T SOME BAD DREAM?!

WHAM!



THE #REDFORED MOVEMENT CONTINUES TO THIS DAY: FROM ALABAMA TO OREGON, NEA MEMBERS ARE WINNING MORE FUNDING AND IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS AND BUILDING STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR ALL.

AND IT'S NOT JUST EDUCATORS. BY 2024, UNION POPULARITY REACHES ITS HIGHEST POINT IN THREE GENERATIONS. REALLY! POWERFUL STRIKES SWEEP THE NATION, INCLUDING AUTOWORKERS...



HOLLYWOOD WRITERS AND ACTORS...



...AND STARBUCKS WORKERS!



PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE, WANT TO JOIN UNIONS. WE ARE FINALLY BREAKING THROUGH THE BARRIERS BUILT BY THE WEALTHY SO THAT WE CAN DEMAND OUR FAIR SHARE.



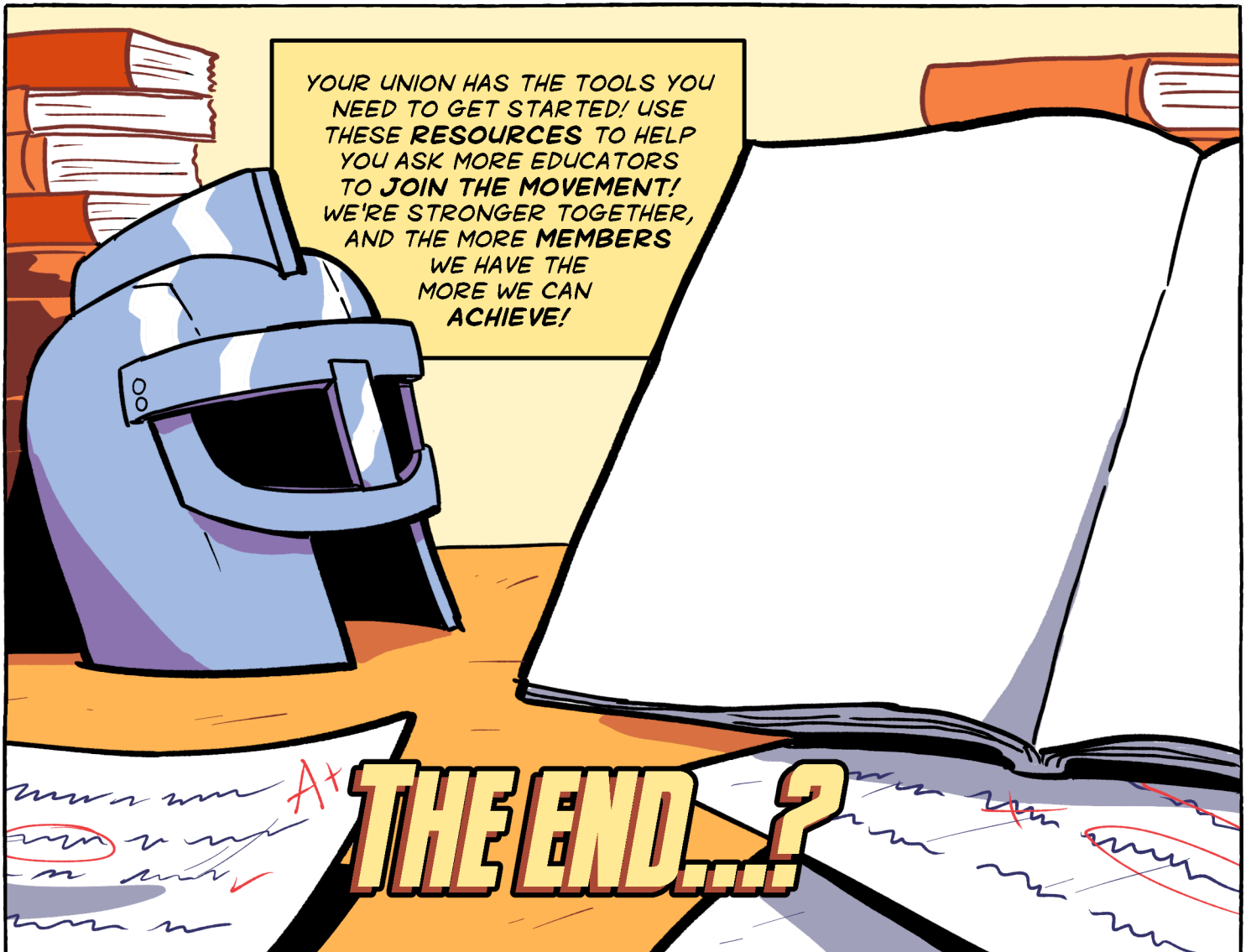




ACK!
HOW LONG
WAS I OUT
FOR?!



BAH! DOESN'T
MATTER! I KNOW
WHAT I HAVE TO
DO! LET'S GET
ORGANIZING!



YOUR UNION HAS THE TOOLS YOU
NEED TO GET STARTED! USE
THESE RESOURCES TO HELP
YOU ASK MORE EDUCATORS
TO JOIN THE MOVEMENT!
WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER,
AND THE MORE MEMBERS
WE HAVE THE
MORE WE CAN
ACHIEVE!

THE END...?