



And so you asked...

Property Update

By Al Zullo
President-Business Representative



Laidlaw Lift Beaverton: Last night (Thursday, July 21, 2005), the membership ratified their new contract. As soon as we are able to incorporate the new provisions into the old contract, it will be printed and sent to the membership at Laidlaw Lift.

RVTD: I understand there is a problem in receiving your medical reimbursements. At this time, we are checking into it. As yet we have no answers. When we do get some answers, we will be in touch with you.

Lane Transit District: It appears that the garbage service in Eugene may be going on strike. As you know, they heavily supported Lane Transit members during our recent one-week strike. If they do go on strike, we need to support them in every way we can, including walking their picket lines with them. Please remember, however, to not wear your uniform should you walk a picket line.

WHEELS: John Harvey has been doing a good job there working for the membership. It appears he may have settled a problem for one of the operators. He has been working with Jay very closely on it. We're not positive that it's settled yet, but hopefully it will be settled in the operator's favor.

TriMet: It appears that wrong road relief pays were printed in the new contract. We are working on that right now. The transportation officers are into the middle of it. We've got our paperwork corrected. Hopefully, there will be no problem for the District to correct them.

C-TRAN: We know where we are. Hopefully, the new initiative will pass and we will be able to continue our relationship with all of the members. You are receiving lots of help from all around. A letter is being sent to all ATU Washington Locals requesting their help as they did last time.

Work in progress: The Portland Public Schools contract still needs to be finished up. We also have the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods contract to finish up. Then, we'll be going into the Laidlaw Education Services Portland Yard contract, which is now open.

It appears that the summer will be very warm as it has been this last week. Drink lots of water. If you're driving a bus that is not air conditioned, take extra care of yourself. If you'll talk with some of the other operators, they may suggest that you put wet towels around your neck and other ways to keep yourself cool.

ATU Local 757 Officer reports

Vice President's report
By Jon Hunt



Portland Public Schools:

The last negotiations did not go well. The employer is not willing to come to the table with a counter-offer. This next school year's

startup does not look good. We will keep you informed as the new negotiations develop, but at this time with the reductions in your medical plan and the work rule changes that we can't live with, I don't see these negotiations coming to an end at any time soon.

Laidlaw Schoolbus Portland: We are continuing to have problems with the manager Kevin Mest not wanting to set up and attend meetings at Step 3. If we don't hear from him by the time we go to our first negotiating session, the four outstanding Step 3 grievances will be the first order of business at negotiations.

AMR: Jamie Williams and I have been out doing quarters inspections. We will be taking our concerns and complaints to the Quarters Committee where we will be requesting that our findings be addressed and all complaints be taken care of immediately. If you are asked to see management on a disciplinary matter, make sure you request your representative — first, your liaison; second, Jamie; and if you are unable to reach either one in a timely fashion, call the Union office at 503-232-9144 and ask for Jon Hunt, or call my cell at 503-780-2263.

TriMet: Attention all members who use chiropractic service. You may have received a letter in the mail from your chiropractor informing you that your benefits are in jeopardy, specifically the massage therapy part of your visit. If you have not received such a

letter, please let us know at the Union office at 503-232-9144. A grievance has been filed. Blue Cross Blue Shield has apparently conducted some audits with TriMet Union members' chiropractors. They are stating that the chiropractors have been coding the visits improperly and want the chiropractors to pay back all funds. I believe this is a change in the level of benefits that we have had. I am not sure of what the outcome will be, so until then please be aware that you might be charged for the massage part of your treatment.

Sunday, Aug. 14 is our ATU Annual Picnic. Please bring your family for a great day of fun.

MV Transportation

As reported by
TODD WATSON

I have been asked by a few operators this past week about when and for what reasons the Family and Medical Leave Act can be used. I will try to explain it in a condensed version, so here it goes.

When it was signed into law by President Clinton in 1993, it was largely ignored by the unions in this country, who believed it applied only to maternity leave. Over the years, though, it has developed into significant job protection to workers with chronic health conditions. It gives employees the right to be absent from work for a total of 12 weeks a year for three specific purposes: medical disability, family medical care and newborn care. Leave can be taken in consecutive days or weeks or on an intermittent basis.

During the employee's absence, medical insurance coverage must continue in force as before, as required by the federal law. Oregon's FMLA is a little different from the federal law. In most cases, it is the most favorable law of the two. Remember that in both cases leave is on an unpaid basis, although employees are entitled to use accumulated vacation leave and sick leave if their use is consistent with policy.

I hope this helps a little for everyone who inquired about this law. I am sure that BOLI has a pamphlet on this. Call or e-mail them.

TriMet Powell
As reported by
SAM SCHWARZ



The grievance process is slowing down with the new pre-filing step. This is because TriMet supervisors are not responding to the requests. We currently show

TriMet supervisors are overdue on more than 100 pre-filing requests. In some cases the grievance is heard two to three months after a request is filed. Do not get discouraged. I will do my best to keep on top of the grievance you or I have filed.

The new shop stewards at Powell garage are Michelle Lawrence, Jeff Muceus and Barry Page. They will keep the members informed of any changes in old policies and will have information available on current policies.

Many operators have complained about assistant managers not backing them up on collecting fares. The Union takes the position that even though the bus operators guide (BOG) states that you can ask the passenger to leave the bus and that you can withhold a transfer from one who pays less than the correct fare, the District has demonstrated time after time they will back up the passenger, not the operator! Do not try to collect! Fare inspectors enforce fares; bus operators drive the bus.

The assistant managers who choose to degrade operators on their work performance based on CSIs are creating a hostile work environment. Some of these managers go so far as to actually visit the operator on their run and occupy their entire break talking about a

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Summer picnics

Portland ATU annual picnic: Sunday, Aug. 14 at Oaks Park
Eugene: Sunday, Aug. 28 at Jasper Park

What IS this?

The four outside pages are news from and about your Union. The inside pages are produced by the Northwest Labor Press, and cover the labor movement as a whole.

Amalgamated Transit Union
Division 757

Representing working men and women in Oregon and Washington at:

TriMet • Lane Transit District • Rogue Valley Transportation District • Portland Public Schools • Obie Media Corporation • Valley Transit Association • Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift, Portland) • American Medical Response Northwest (Multnomah, Clackamas and Josephine Counties, Oregon, and Clark and Cowlitz Counties, Washington) • Laidlaw Education Services (Portland Public Schools, Corvallis School District, Corvallis City Transit) • MV Transportation, Inc. • C-TRAN/C-VAN • Salem Area Transit • WHEELS • Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods, Inc. • Tillamook County Transportation District • ATU Retired Member Chapter



ATU Local 757 Officer Reports

(From Page 1)

CSI. The policy is clear. If this happens to you, call the Union immediately and ask for representation. If this upsets you to the point you cannot operate the bus safely, pull over and take the time to calm down. Call dispatch and let them know when you are ready to continue. Now that we have a new break policy negotiated by our president, Al Zullo, the new side letter has a one-year review and evaluation period. So if you are not getting your breaks, it might take a year to correct it.

The ATU picnic is on Aug. 14 at Oaks Park. I will see you there.

TriMet Powell Maintenance

As reported by
DAVE KAY



ATU and the District are plodding through the pile of outstanding grievances. It appears at this time that the new pre-grievance meeting is nothing more

than a smoke screen, as all it seems to accomplish is to string out the grievance procedure even more, especially since TriMet supervisors don't bother to respond. So much for better ideas.

The ATU picnic is scheduled for Aug. 14. I hope to see everyone there for a fine afternoon gathering.

The Local said goodbye on July 22 to Brother Lee Brown, a past officer and active retiree member. He will be missed.

Lane Transit District

As reported by
CAROL ALLRED



I had the opportunity to attend a public employees benefits conference in Portland on July 11, 12 and 13. The conference covered issues dealing with pension trusts and

health insurance. I attended several seminars concerning the future of health insurance, and was pleased to see that others are realizing that the employees are not the problem and the answer to the problem is not to just keep raising deductibles and co-pays. This was so refreshing to hear. Most of the time, I believe, we all pause before using our health insurance. For one thing, with our work schedules, it is difficult to be able to even schedule an appointment with a physician, and if you need tests done, you are really at

the mercy of the people who are doing the tests when it comes to scheduling. Along with the fact that we are all keenly aware of the rising costs and how our usage contributes to that, I believe that, contrary to some opinions, we are, for the most part, responsible consumers of health care.

Hopefully, in the future, all of us will be looking to address the real problems contributing to rising costs. I have to tell you that, last bid that I drove the 7X Symantec route, every time I pulled up in front of the shiny new Pacific Source building, I became angry and sad. Angry that they can justify building a brand-new facility while insisting that premiums go up at an exorbitant rate, and sad that the result of this was that you all had to go out on strike for week, mainly due to the rise in premiums the District was trying to pass on to you.

As some of you know, there were several runs that began at Springfield Station with not enough travel time assigned to actually get there. This problem was resolved quickly — or, quickly in the scheme of things, which was within a few days.

Also, it appeared that the shuttle times to Eugene Station had been cut by two minutes. Any of you who drive or ride a shuttle know that even the 10 minutes they used to allot was not enough. I still have not gotten a straight answer as to why this cut occurred. I don't know if it was just a computer glitch or another of the planning department's deliberate cuts. At any rate, the problem was again resolved relatively quickly in the scheme of things, and all shuttles should be back to 10 minutes.

I am hoping that by the time you read this we will actually have a signed labor agreement and it will be on its way to the printer.

Many of you may have noticed the new "The Bus" signs that are being installed on the Lane Transit fleet. Do any of you question why we need to change logos and marketing tools yet again? It seems that we just changed logos and colors about five or so years ago. Do any of you wonder why in tough economic times we need to change again?

Do any of you wonder why LTD even needs to market itself at all? We can't move the passengers in a timely manner as it is. Do you wonder why we would be trying to get even more passengers to ride, if that is the purpose of this marketing tool?

Do you wonder about the advisability of spending money like this when we just had to go out on strike for a week to prevent taking severe cuts? Do you wonder where the money to pay for all of this came from when less than six months ago, the District tried to force you out the door saying they had no money?

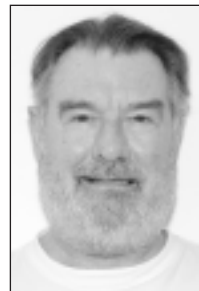
And finally, do you wonder why, if we just had to do this, could we at least not be original? Why did we not come

up with a really great, original name for ourselves rather than copying another District's name for itself? Check out Oahu Transit online and you will see what I am talking about. Maybe all the rumors about the general manager applying for a job in Hawaii were true! Is that how we came up with the name "The Bus"? It will be interesting to know where the idea for this name came from and why the District chose to copy rather than be original.

Have a safe and happy summer. Remember to hydrate yourself and use the restroom when you need to.

TriMet Light Rail Transportation

As reported by
MICHAEL T. OLIVER



The big news this report has to be the fall run cut — big changes and not all of them good. We have lost seven weekday runs at Ruby, which

translates into losing three weekend RDOs. This also causes the use of four split RDOs, Wed-Fri. This is not the optimum situation, but it was the best I could do under the circumstances. We will have road reliefs at the Rose Quarter on Sunday, and all but one Yellow Line train will be single-car consists. On the other hand, the Red Line will be all, except one, two-car consists. We will have 19-minute breaks at PDX, nine minutes at the Beaverton Transit Center (BTC), and will keep the same equipment all day. The good, the bad and the ugly. We can live with anything for 90 days, and you have my word that this split-day affair will last only for this sign-up. The scheduling department already knows how to fix this problem, but did not have the leeway to accomplish it.

"Happy birthday" to Nancy Dispasuale, and "Happy twins" to Brandi Monks; that makes Kathy Monks a new grandmom.

We have seen movement at the new Yahoo Building at Hawthorne Farms. The sign's up, and lots and lots of electrical equipment is being installed. That area should start jumping pretty soon.

A grievance has just been settled with the operations division concerning the extra board. Controllers will make sure that any extra work goes to the board. There has been some slippage, with controllers assigning work to regular operators when it should have been held for the board. If you are asked to work, it will help everybody out if you ask the question, "Has the board been exhausted?" The folks on the board put up with all the inconveniences in order to make the extra buck, and we should cooperate

with them. Thank you.

Congrats to John and Judy. John cleans our trains at BTC, and Judy does a bang-up job at Cleveland Avenue. Thanks for all your work, and please keep it up. E-mail to oliverm@trimet.org.

Portland Public Schools

As reported by
SMOKEY STOVER



The Union is trying really hard to get a good deal for you. Ron Heintzman was asked to help you on the medical part by having money go into a fund

to help us. Since we are part-time, it is twice more to us than people who are working eight hours five days a week. The District is still saying no. The District asked for a response on the last draft, so the Union, with Jon Hunt, Annette and Smokey, sent a draft via e-mail June 30 at 1:58 p.m. When Jon Hunt, Ron Heintzman and Al Zullo went to the contract meeting on Tuesday, July 12 they got no response from the District.

I heard the District bought 12 buses for the schools to use on sports. We will see how to proceed on this as drivers.

TriMet Salaried Employees

As reported by
SHIRLEY BLOCK



This is a wait-and-see month for just about everyone. Rumors are flying and tension/stress levels are up. Does the management team have their ears

on? Are we forever going to be in the react mode when s--- hits the fan or in a defense mode waiting to take care of business on a daily approach? After all, we are the transportation hub of the metropolitan district of the great City of Roses.

We had yet another dispatcher retire. Rod Smith: Enjoy your retirement. Please say a prayer for those you left behind. We are now down to 13. I'm not hating on those people who are lucky enough to get out of the door in good health with time to enjoy the remaining luster of their hard work. I would like to thank all of the employees who took the time to say thank you for my June article to inform us why, when we call dispatch, it sometimes takes so long to get back to

us. Many operators told me that they understand now why the poor people in dispatch are sometimes short and to the point with almost anger in their voices. The management team said they are going to post to hire the well needed people to put in dispatch. We are waiting for the posting to go up at the garages. I have put management on notice that there is a need to get this done as soon as possible because of the possibility of even more retirements that can come up within the next few months. I don't want to see the few we have struggling even harder to keep on task. Neither do I want to hear from them we didn't know they were going to retire.

I just wanted to touch a little on the people that work in the finance department ... you know, the hard-working ladies in payroll. It would seem to me that if you have someone that you pay to watch your money and how it is being given out, you would try to do the best you could to keep these people happy, content, and do well by them, maybe even add incentives. I am trying to be a little laid back, giving any one of the big three the opportunity to let's talk, but bear in mind we have hot August nights coming and coming fast. I will be knocking at your door.

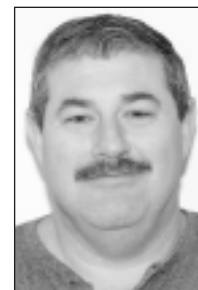
TriMet Lift

As reported by
LES GREEN

No report given.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

As reported by
ROY JENNINGS



As you probably already know, the C - T R A N board of directors on June 14, 2005 voted to take the initiative out to the citizens of Clark County

on Sept. 20, 2005. If this initiative does not pass, fixed route will be reduced to 78 full-time positions (70 runs plus 8 extra board) and eight part-time runs. At this time, it is unknown as to how many part-time floater positions there will be. The layoffs of our fellow Union members will take effect on Sept. 25, 2005. The only way to stop these layoffs is with the passing of our initiative on Sept. 20.

On July 8, I had the opportunity to attend the first meeting of the Committee to Save C-TRAN. I am happy to announce that out of the 20 people in attendance, 11 were from C-TRAN, both Union members and management. Way to go, C-TRAN. Another big change over last year's committee was the variety of organizations represented. We had represent-

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ATU Officer Reports

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tatives from both the Democratic and Republican parties, along with representatives from developers and businesses. I would like to thank everyone who took time to attend. It's going to take all of us working together to make sure that this initiative passes.

There are many activities planned to get the word out about the upcoming initiative, such as signage, direct mail, door knocking and phone banking. You will be happy to know that the concerns many of you voiced concerning last year's fact finding piece did not fall on deaf ears. C-TRAN heard you, because this time the fact finding piece is smaller and not as crowded.

You can make a difference. Contact the Committee to Save C-TRAN to volunteer your time by calling 921-9314, or e-mail savectran@yahoo.com.

I hope to see everyone at this year's Union picnic.

Salem Area Transit

As reported by
GARY SPORE



No report given.

AMR Northwest

As reported by
JAMIE WILLIAMS



ATUEMS.org: Within 15-or-so days, the ATU will be hosting a Web site for an upgrade on getting and obtaining the information that is important to our ATU EMS workers and to begin the process of building our proposals for the next contract. The Web site will accept proposals from the members on the various contract items. Additionally, we will still be soliciting and accepting oral and written proposals. We'd also like to publish EMS members' thoughts, comments, writings and poems and will have a contact button for those submissions.

Brian Henrichs, new Clackamas/SSD liaison: The ATU would like to introduce Brian Henrichs as the newest addition to represent the membership in Clackamas County. The assignment will be proposed to the Executive Board and will be recommended for membership approval. Brian has worked for AMR as a paramedic for past eight years, having worked his way through SSD while getting his

paramedic certification. Join me in thanking Brian for his willingness to serve the membership.

TriMet Light Rail Maintenance

As reported by
MICHAEL CONNER



Happy summer to all. As I was sitting down one day relaxing and thinking about a few of the members who are unhappy and what could I have done to make things better for them, I wondered: When do people who are not living with Union issues (like those of us who are officers) think about the Union? It may be when they have a problem such as unfair discipline, or when they or someone in their family needs the use of medical benefits for a serious illness. Maybe they think about the Union when they read in the news that corporate America has stolen someone's pension to line some fat cat's pocket. Perhaps they think about it when they worry that millionaire politicians don't care if you eat generic cat food or will you be able to afford Nine Lives while they try to give their friends at Merrill Lynch a cut of your Social Security money and make some guy who has never done an honest day's work collect a commission on your low-earning deferred comp account. Maybe they think about it when they look at the line on their check that shows the dues they've paid this month or when they are thinking of retirement as they approach the magic 58-year-old mark.

The truth is that you probably don't think much about the Union because much of the time things are going well. But one thing I have learned in doing this job is that when things go bad, then people do think about the Union. Much of the time, many hours go into just keeping the status quo. Sometimes, many hours and much of the Union's dollar resources go into small things that nobody notices but may be of major importance to keeping a right we have now! You probably don't think about the Union when you are ready to go home and watch your child play baseball and get to enjoy the fact you can do this because the Union has in so many instances fought mandatory overtime and your supervisor cannot make you stay when you really want to go. This would not happen at good ol' TriMet without the Union constantly taking the District to task when they want to make a change. Many times, the membership really does not understand the process in keeping these seemingly small benefits intact.

My point with all this is to let you

know the Union does many things, and they are all to benefit the members. We try to make it good for the membership at large, not just for special groups. Sometimes, to benefit the majority there may be some unpopular choices that have to be made. We don't do this to screw a work group or to not represent them. We just have to think of the long term! I want you, the member, to get the most bang for your buck in the time you spend at work, and even though some of the decisions that are made may seem sometimes like it is not the best thing, the spirit they are made in is to benefit you, the member.

Now, get back to your summer fun and remember weekends and vacation times are one of the great benefits we want you to enjoy, and we will work hard to fight when they — the District — wants to take them away!

Rogue Valley Transportation District

As reported by
TOM HENNEY



Carrie and I were very happy to be invited to the training conference in Portland June 2 to 5. It was very informative and productive. Thank you to everyone at the Portland office for all of your help and hospitality.

The door prize at our June meeting went to Roger. Attendance could have been stronger. We will probably suspend the July and August meetings, unless some new business comes up that needs addressing.

The annual ATU-sponsored picnic was Saturday, June 25 at Emigrant Lake. It was well attended. Fun was had by all. There was good food, good company and great conversation. Kerry Keaton won the big prize of the day. Thank you to everyone for attending. A very special thank you to Tom and Linda Wallace and to Al and Judy Zullo for coming down from Portland to host the festivities.

TriMet Center Maintenance

As reported by
CHAD MATHER



I have been working on an arbitration this last month. One thing has become very clear to me, TriMet will do anything possible to make an employee look bad. After this experience I will recommend to all of our brothers and sisters

that they request to see their employee files. Human resources will have a file. Your manager will have a traveling file that moves with you from location to location. Your supervisor may also have a file. This is where a lot of surprises come from. You never know what is in these files. I would suggest that we all request to see our files annually on or around our anniversary date. This way you will not be surprised if and when they pull some document out of the air and try to use it against you.

Congratulations, Jim Kelly. I hope you have a great retirement and your boat does not sink. We will miss you.

TriMet Center Transportation

As reported by
ALAN EISENBERG



Hi. It was nice to be at the garage and see many whom I haven't seen in a long time. To make a long story short, I was at a red light in my car when an amateur made a left turn in front of traffic on Division and 76th. A car hit her and both drove into me. Now, let's get on with it. (Turn to Page 20)

ATU Local 757 Officers

AL ZULLO.....President-Business Representative
JON HUNT.....Vice President-Assistant Business Representative
TOM WALLACE.....Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Recording Secretary

Executive Board Officers

TriMet Center Maintenance.....CHAD MATHER
TriMet Center Transportation.....ALAN EISENBERG
TriMet Powell Maintenance.....DAVID KAY
TriMet Powell Transportation.....SAM SCHWARZ
TriMet Merlo Maintenance.....KEVIN KINOSHITA
TriMet Merlo Transportation.....GREG MCGREW
TriMet LRT Maintenance.....MIKE CONNER
TriMet LRT Transportation.....MICHAEL T. OLIVER
TriMet Monthly Rated Employees.....SHIRLEY BLOCK
Lane Transit District (LTD).....CAROL ALLRED
Portland Public Schools.....SMOKEY STOVER
Laidlaw Education Services.....KATHY MITCHELL
C-TRAN.....ROY JENNINGS
Salem Area Mass Transit District.....GARY SPORE
AMR Northwest.....JAMIE WILLIAMS

Liaison Officers

TriMet Merlo Extra Board.....TERRY McMURRY
TriMet Center Extra Board.....DAVE MATTHEWS
TriMet Powell Extra Board.....BRUCE DUNCAN
TriMet Ruby Junction Extra Board.....OPEN POSITION
TriMet Elmonica Extra Board.....JASON CHOI
TriMet Elmonica Maintenance.....SHAYNE JENKERSON
SAT Maintenance.....DON ELZNIC
LTD Chairman.....WALT BOYNTON
LTD Secretary.....CARLA AGUILAR
LTD Maintenance.....LEE LASSE
LTD Extra Board.....DEB BITTERLICH
Rogue Valley Transportation District.....THOMAS HENNEY
Valley Transit.....NICK NOTARAS
AMR Southern Oregon-Josephine County (Acting).....SEAN GARTLAN
Laidlaw Educ. Services (Portland School Bus).....RAYMOND GIBSON
Laidlaw Transit Services, Inc. (TriMet Lift).....LES GREEN
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis City Transit).....BOB MCGUIRE
Laidlaw Transit, Inc. (Corvallis Schools).....CHRIS GROOMS
MV Transportation, Inc.....TODD WATSON
C-TRAN.....JOHN SANNES
AMR Northwest-Clackamas County.....BRIAN HENRICHS
AMR Northwest-Clark County.....JASON KRAVITZ
AMR Northwest-Cowlitz County.....DEREK KYNASTON
AMR Northwest-Multnomah County.....LANNIE HASZARD
AMR Northwest-Washington County.....LANNIE HASZARD
AMR Northwest-Communications Division.....CHRIS LUCAS
AMR Northwest-Special Services Division.....BRIAN HENRICHS
C-VAN.....LARRY "BUD" WOLTER
WHEELS.....JOHN HARVEY
Tillamook County Transportation District.....PAT OSTRANDER

ATU Officer Reports

(From Page 19)

Uninterrupted lunch breaks will be assigned to runs according to category, so check yours before you sign. This is in a sidebar letter signed by the District and ATU 757 President Al Zullo. So look before you leap. Make sure when signing that you check for off lines, too!

The situation with the staffing shortage at dispatch is horrifying. Our safety and that of the public's depends on that vital connection. It's like being kicked out of a plane without a parachute — not bad until you hit the ground.

I assume that our safety and the public's is part of some cost savings program. Well, let me say to Fred, Bob and Michael: How about driving a 72, 8, 6, 4, 75 and a 9 on a Saturday night by yourself, when no one can get back to you and your butt is out there by its lonesome, and some whacked-out hooligan has a 10-inch Bowie and is threatening to slaughter all on board? Fantasy? No way. You try it. You won't like it. I guess life comes cheap.

Extra board operators, and all, if you have a time slip kicked back to you, file for a pre-grievance hearing and make sure that you have a Union officer with you. If you're called on the phone by management, time slip it. Also, remember that your lunch break is to be uninterrupted, so if a manager wants to speak to you on the bus, read 'em your Weingarten rights, have them call you in (time slip again) and have a Union officer with you.

Gosh, I could go on with more about health issues, too! If workers' comp denies you, get a lawyer and appeal it. There is someone who forgot that while he was out on comp with a broken arm, his new job was held open for him. If Sedgwick Claims is nasty to you, call in a CSI on them.

We are tired of being treated like cannon fodder. Wake up, management, because it is in the interest of all parties to solve these and more problems before you scuttle the ship.

I especially want to thank Ellen Fox, Jeff Muceus and Sam Schwarz for their help through my difficult times and to all others of you out there. Stay vigilant, stay sharp and stay alive!

P.S. May we have a moment of silence for our brethren and the people of London.

TriMet Merlo Transportation

As reported by GREG MCGREW



I think most of us have come to believe that the management team at TriMet is receiving its daily ideas and inspiration from the pointy-haired manager in the "Dilbert" cartoon. This was confirmed for me as a fact when I received a copy

of a letter sent to a Merlo operator from Michael Ford. This particular operator has had some time loss over the past few years — nothing spectacular in the way of time loss, but more in the variety of 90 to 120 hours almost, but not quite, annually. If you've read your contract, you know that this much time loss will generate a nasty-gram from the assistant station manager. The letter will warn you that additional time loss will result in further discipline — you know, being put on goals, standards and the like. All of this is clearly delineated in the contract, and this operator has never crossed the threshold for additional discipline.

Out of curiosity, I called Michael to ask him about his interest in this operator. He told me that he had written a long article in the last "Operators Report" on the importance of operators showing up for work. He feels that my operator and nine others need early intervention on their time loss problem, and he wants to know why they are not coming to work and to inspire them to change their ways. Without a doubt, this is one of those laughably absurd situations out of a "Dilbert" cartoon!

First, at a time when runs are being cancelled, we will need to mark this operator off of his work to meet with Michael. Second, we will politely listen to his thinly-veiled threats to punish us if we miss more work. Third, any questions about why we are not coming to work will be answered by a polite "none of your business." What we do with our time outside of a TriMet uniform is private and not subject to any questions by the management of TriMet.

Finally, all of us have seen the message tacked up by the sign-up sheets from Michael Ford telling you that it will be necessary to sign the red book if your work puts you in a pass-up situation. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nowhere in the working and wage agreement is there any mention that you have to sign the red book to get a pass-up. This is Michael "interpreting" the contract. If Michael wants us to sign the red book, he will have to put his negotiating team together and meet with the Union negotiating team and be prepared to do some real "interest-based" negotiating. After both of our interests are met, we'll be happy to memorialize the event.

TriMet Merlo Maintenance

As reported by KEVIN KINOSHITA



Congratulations to 29-year employee Jim Kelly. Jim started as a driver, then transferred to maintenance. There was a big party for Jim at Center Street with Jim receiving a barbecue gas grill.

Happy fishing, Jim!

There was an incident this month where a TriMet Lift (short bus) had a fuel leak and Penske asked our mechanics to take care of their bus. Unfortunately, we don't work on the lift buses, so somewhere in all the mix-up I'll have an ongoing conversation with Tony Bryant to get this issue resolved. Stay tuned for the outcome.

At the joint apprentice training committee meeting in June and July, I brought up the safety of apprentices. The language reads one apprentice to one journeyman. For two apprentices you need an additional third journeyman. This goes for the bus and facilities maintenance program. The days of having multiple apprentices are no more, unless there are enough journeyman mechanics. If you see this happening, let your Executive Board officer know.

The contract and the ATU constitution and general laws have been distributed. If I missed you, let me know through the TriMet e-mail or my cell phone. Just a reminder: If your phone number or address has changed, the Union's number is 503-232-9144. This year, the ATU picnic will be on Sunday, Aug. 14, at Oaks Park.

There was an incident this month where a transit center was shut down for a potential bomb. After fixing/cleaning your bus, double-check for tools, cleaning materials or parts. Take the extra time. At Merlo several items were found — fuel tanks on the 17-1900s have pinhole leaks, and frames on the 2000's in the engine compartment have cracks. Also, if you exchange seats on the low-floor buses, get help; these seats are extremely heavy.

Lastly, the new job at Merlo in the body shop has been working out. Numerous jobs have come through. The best part is that we are keeping jobs in-house.

WHEELS

As reported by JOHN HARVEY



Welcome to all our new employees. WHEELS is growing. To all the long-term employees: Please get acquainted with the new employees. This makes us stronger as a group and as a Union.

The company is installing GPS computers in the buses. These will seem cumbersome at first, but they will make things a lot easier when everyone learns how to use them.

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice weather. I hope to see you at the next meeting.

Laidlaw Portland Public Schools

As reported by KATHY MITCHELL



Drivers, your proposals have been looked at very carefully. Because only a few drivers returned the proposal forms during the school year, the

Union mailed you another one giving you another chance. Negotiations are scheduled for Aug. 9. Please mail in the forms. We need to hear from you. It is contract time. There is no time to waste. See you at the picnic Aug. 14!

Laidlaw Corvallis

As reported by CHRIS GROOMS/BOB MCGUIRE

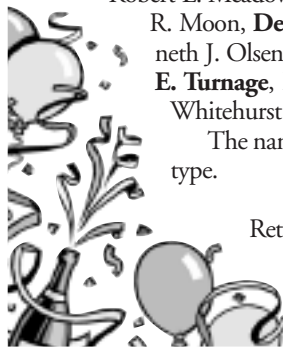
No report given.

Retirees' Corner

The following retirees will celebrate birthdays in August: Leann O. Adams, Kenneth M. Allison, Richard L. Anselm, Luther T. Avery, Lois V. Barbour, **Kenneth K. Barnes**, Donald L. Bateman, Elisabeth A. Broker, Michael D. Burdette, Irvin G. Ching, Doris Y. Cushman, Julian E. Dibbell, Melvin J. Freauff, Neil K. Gibson, William B. Hill, Robert I. Hoover, William J. Hunt, Joree Jackson, Herbert L. Kelley, Cheryl I. Kelly, Thalia A. Kindel, **Kenneth W. Kjersten**, Jesse C. Kraut, John W. Larson, Gary C. Marino, Robert L. Meadows, Winer L. Melonuk, Julie A. Miller, Donald R. Moon, **Delbert H. Olenslager**, Jody P. Olmstead, Kenneth J. Olsen, Albert Rouse, Douglas S. Serniotti, **Richard E. Turnage**, Rollyn M. Turner, Victoria J. Vicari, Patricia Whitehurst and David C. Yule.

The names of the 50-year members are shown in bold type.

Next month's regularly scheduled ATU 757 Retired Member Chapter meeting is Wednesday, Sept. 7, at 9:30 a.m. at Westmoreland's Union Manor, 6404 SE 23rd Ave. Coffee and doughnuts will be served at 9 a.m.



August Meetings

Charter

Charter members meet 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 15, in the Machinists Building, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland. Charter day members meet 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, at Schoppert Hall, 1801 NE Couch, Portland.

Salem Transit/WHEELS

Salem members meet 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 16, at the Red Lion Hotel, 3301 Market St. NE, Salem

Lane Transit

Eugene members meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17, and Eugene day members meet 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 18, at the Woodworkers Local Lodge, 1116 South A St., Springfield.

Corvallis Laidlaw City Transit/Schools

Corvallis members are recessed for the summer to resume in September.

Rogue Valley Transportation

Medford members meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 18 at the Hampton Inn, 1122 Morrow Rd., Medford.

Portland and Laidlaw School Bus Drivers

Portland school bus members are recessed for the summer. Watch for a new meeting place beginning in September.

C-TRAN/C-VAN

Vancouver members meet 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Laborers Hall, 2212 NE Andresen, Vancouver, Wash.

AMR NORTHWEST

AMR Northwest members Washington County members meet 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 8 18000 NW Evergreen Parkway, Beaverton; Clark County members meet 6 to 9 a.m. Monday, Aug. 22, at Starbucks, 7720 NE Hwy 99E, Hazel Dell; and Multnomah/Clackamas members meet 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 22, at Izzy's, 1307 NE 102nd, Gateway District. Note time change through October, night meeting is 7 p.m.

Tillamook County Transportation District

Tillamook members meet 1:00 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Odd Fellows Hall, next door to the Bay City Fire Hall in Bay City.

Valley Transit

See your liaison officer.

PLEASE NOTE: ATU members are invited to attend any of the above-listed meetings.