



## **Rampaging Lakers Fans Vandalize 8 Metro Buses, No Employees Hurt**

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(June 20) Fans who turned a celebration of the Lakers' NBA championship victory into a destructive rampage, Monday night, severely damaged one Metro Bus and broke windows in seven others in the downtown area. No MTA employees were hurt, but one Transit Operations official gave a preliminary estimate of \$5,000 to \$10,000 in damage to the buses.

Bus service was suspended from 11 p.m. until about 2 a.m. in a downtown area bounded by Sunset on the north, Jefferson on the south, Alameda on the east and Alvarado on the west.

Rail Operations Control stopped northbound Metro Blue Line service into downtown at 9:14 p.m., halting trains at San Pedro station. A southbound train was allowed to depart 7th and Metro Center at 11:48 p.m. with an eight-member team of Sheriff's Deputies aboard for security. Another team of deputies was stationed at San Pedro station.

Trains sustained only superficial damage from rocks and no passengers or operators were injured, officials said. At Pico station, however, vandals damaged one of two closed circuit TV cameras.

### **Division 1 bus heavily damaged**

The most heavily damaged Metro Bus was No. 1171 assigned to Division 1, according to John Roberts, maintenance superintendent. Vandals smashed both windshields, broke 10 side windows, pulled out the radio and burned a seat. The bus had been standing at a layover zone at 11th and Hope, not far from the Staples Center.

Vandals also broke windows in three Division 3 buses, three Division 9 buses and one Division 2 bus, Roberts said. The undercarriage of one bus was damaged when it ran over a trash can thrown into the street. Two runs were cancelled because the operators feared for their safety and that of their passengers.

"I'm embarrassed for Los Angeles," Sheriff's Lt. John Witt commented on the night's disorders. "I had hoped we could show Detroit and some of the other cities how we could conduct ourselves."

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