

# INSIDE MOVES



LOS ANGELES COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION 403 West 8th St., Suite 500, Los Angeles, CA 90014 (213) 626-0370

## The LACTC Staff Newsletter "All the news that's unfit to print"

### COMINGS AND GOINGS

#### COMING ON BOARD...



A new senior staff member joined us in August. He is DICK DOMINGUEZ, director of Finance & Administration. Dick comes to the Commission from the Santa Ana Community Redevelopment Agency where he was Operations & Finance Manager. In his new position, he oversees the finance, personnel, administrative and treasury functions of the agency. Dick was reared in Portland, Oregon and Boise, Idaho and later fled (excuse us ... left) to attend school at UCLA. After being

awarded a bachelor's in economics, he traveled north to U.C. Berkeley where he earned his MBA in urban economics. Dick leads a peaceful life in Placentia where he and wife JoAnne are parents of five children (Christine, Rob, Nathan, Matthew and Heidi) ranging in age from six to 15. Our new director writes that he enjoys the simple life. After-work hours are usually spent playing with the kids, helping them with their studies, advising on their love lives and counseling about their friends. If that doesn't take up all his energies, Dick finds time to run, bicycle, backpack and take family outings. He has run in three marathons and countless 10K runs, and hopes one day to run in the Russian marathon held in Moscow. Dick's favorites include lobster, Dow-Jones editors and works by Adam Smith, pop and classical music, movies with Paul Newman, Dustin Hoffman, Richard Dreyfus, Meryl Streep or the Muppets and driving around the western United States with the family in their van. His pet peeve are things that are late or don't work (so be sure to turn in those time sheets promptly!). Dick's summary philosophy of life? "Live moderately, avoid extremes and do your best, and leave unto the Lord the rest." Also, "Don't take yourself too seriously, no one else does."

PAM MOCK joined the Commission in October as Analyst in the Local Assistance section. A native of West Los Angeles, Pam was graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's in geography. She still lives close to her alma mater from where she commuted until recently to Caltrans' offices as a transportation planner in the public transportation and ridesharing branch. Pam reports to Pat Van Matre and helps 21 cities administer their Local Return transit projects. During her time off, she enjoys calligraphy, sleeping, cycling and shopping. Pam also enjoys cooking and baking, but prefers store bought food the best--especially Haagen Daz mocha chip ice cream. Pam's favorites include rock music by Phil Collins and Huey Lewis and the News, the movies "Stand by Me" and "It's a Wonderful Life" and vacationing in Yosemite National Park and in San Francisco.



Jumping on board at the end of October, just in time to make it into this issue, was new Rail Development Engineer FRANK FLORES, down on the fourth floor. Frank will be working with Mani Churanakoses on the Century project, performing "specific tasks as assigned." But that's the least of his problems--I mean, his responsibilities. He'll also be working with Richard Stanger on Metro Rail; on that project, he'll be responsible for (get this) "managing and controlling cost and schedule." Guess we figured

since LACTC has agreed to pick up half the tab for cost over-runs, we'd better get someone on staff to make sure there weren't any. Good luck with that one, Frank.

Frank grew up in New York, New York, and earned both a B.E. and an M.E. in civil engineering from Manhattan College. Out of many years of heavy experience with various agencies, Frank says his most interesting job prior to joining us was the five



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years he worked at the UMTA regional office in his home state. Frank and his wife Pam and son Mark are presently house-hunting in this area. When he gets settled, he hopes to have time to resume his hobbies: basketball, football, baseball, movies, TV, the arts, eating chocolate chip cookies, and reading novels by James Clavell (Taipan, etc.). When I asked him for a quote, Frank said, "Why can't I have my cake and eat it too?" If you ever figure out how to do that, Frank, let me know.



Oz has come to the Commission, so let's celebrate! But not because he will grant wishes (because he won't), but because he takes over the minutia of maintaining financial records and reports. OZ (short for Oswald) YAP assumes a large portion of Murphy McCalley's responsibilities in the Finance and Administration division. Oz joined us last month from Basic Computer Systems, Inc., in Anaheim where he was a programmer-analyst. Before that, he spent eight years with the Long Beach Unified School District as an accounting officer. A native of the

Phillipines, Oz received his bachelor's in accounting from the University of the East and his diploma in computer systems and programming from the Computer Learning Center. Our new computer and numbers wizard lives in Fountain Valley with his wife Ruby and sons Aaron and Abram. During his off-hours, Oz enjoys Chinese and Japanese cuisine, easy-listening music, watching comedy and futuristic science-fiction movies, and participating in Christmas festivities.

A VERY HEARTY WELCOME TO THESE FOUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

## MOVING UP...

Since the last issue of "Inside Moves," MARIA WHITE has moved up only to go down. Our fifth floor receptionist is now secretary in the Finance & Administration division on the second floor. Maria joined the Commission almost four years ago, and for the past three years patiently accepted a daily flood of phone calls at the switchboard. Then about 18 months ago, Maria began considering a career switch. That's when she started enrolling in secretarial courses to sharpen her skills. (She obviously tired of telling surly callers that this was not the RTD!) Maria's training and hard work paid off. In August, she was accepted into her new job reporting to Annette Mendoza, senior secretary. Maria's newest challenge now is catch an elevator to see her boss, three floors away.



After a mere year and a half, the man with the big grin and the unpronounceable but exotic last name, MANIT CHURANAKOSES, has stepped up from rail transit engineer on the LB-LA project into Ed McSpedon's old position, manager of the Century rail project. Good work, Manit--you got out of the LB-LA project just when things were getting really complicated. (Manit remarks, "If Dan Caufield can do it, why can't I?") Now that he's got Caltrans doing most of his work for the next few years, Manit mainly occupies himself in bugging us (Manit: "charming ladies!") here in Communications about getting the story of his promotion onto the cover of Mass Transit magazine. Somehow the editor there just doesn't agree that this is of international interest in the transit trade; can't imagine why not. (Manit: "They don't have good taste!") You can read all kinds of intimate details about Manit and see his picture in the "Meet Your Co-Workers" feature in this issue.

## MOVING ON...



You keep some, you lose some. After a bit more than a year and a half (he started in Feb. '85), VICTORIO HOSKINS has left his job here as real estate development officer in the External Affairs section of the rail division. The outgoing and good-humored Mr. Hoskins moves into a position for which he is eminently suitable, as I'm sure all who know him will agree: he's become a sales manager of financial investment services with A. L. Williams, Inc., of Altadena, CA. Vic grew up in Chicago, ILL, and Monrovia, CA, then went to Dartmouth College and the Mass. Institute of Technology, where he got degrees in real estate finance and city planning. He considers that his greatest accomplishment here was "getting a smile from everyone at LACTC before leaving." Also, Vic passes along this sage advice: "Buy term life-insurance and invest the difference in a mutual fund." If any of you want to act on that (or just want it explained), call Vic at (818) 794-4803. For those of us who don't see him again, Vic's uncharacteristically glib parting words are, "May God bless all of you."

It was easy to feel sad about the departure of longtime staffer MURPHY McCALLEY in mid-September. Murphy started at the Comish back in July of '82 as an analyst in the Local Assistance section. From there he moved up to manager of Finance & Administration, lastly serving as Acting Director of Finance & Admin. Now he's off to the sunny south to take up the post of director of Finance & Administration for the San Diego Metropolitan Transit Development Board. Murphy diffidently declined the many times I urged him to let us profile him in this newsletter, and he never filled out any of our "Who Are You?" forms. (I did manage to snap his pic, though, the very first time I got my hands on the Communications Section's camera over two years ago.



Comings & Goings,  
continued

Murphy was a dedica-  
ted, seemingly tire-  
less worker, whose  
office was always

impressively full of teetering piles of files. He wore many hats, deftly juggling dozens of projects and priorities. In what must have been previous few off-work hours, he liked to play softball, ride his bicycle, and boogey at nights at Bentley's on the westside. Two of Murphy's biggest accomplishments at LACTC were automating F&A's accounting system and steering the revenue bond sale through the shadowy corridor that leads ideas into reality. He was also well known hereabouts for his elegant and subtle sartorial selections. He says to be sure and look him up at the SDMTDB (pronounced "STUMPED") if ever you're down in San Diego.



Before

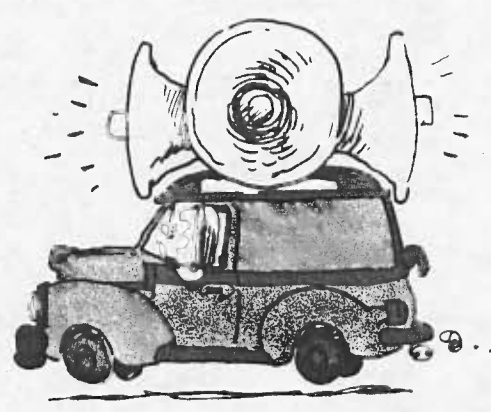


After

Veteran Sunshine Club President GERI BRODIE left the Commission in October for greener pastures--meaning Geri will be traveling to exotic locations as sales representative for a manufacturing firm located in the City of Commerce. Geri was one of our original staffers. She started at the Commission in December 1979 as a supply, reproduction, and file clerk and advanced to secretary in the Transit Development Division. A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Geri received her bachelor's from Cal State L.A. and resided in Culver City. Co-workers describe Geri as a hard and conscientious worker who will be missed. Some of us newcomers, however, will also miss Geri for being able to supply those delicious cakes for general staff meetings. (Geri's photo appears in Olga's "Secretary's Korner" column.)

FOND FAREWELLS AND ALL BEST WISHES TO OUR THREE STAFFERS WHO ARE MOVING ON. ■

# DID YOU KNOW...?



Former Communications staffer Steve Parks (who had the job Usha Viswanathan now holds) recently sweated through a temporary stint at his pre-Comish haunts, the RTD News Bureau. Just after he started there again the bus accident hoopla began, provoking the suspicion that Parks somehow manipulated that whole episode as a way to get his name in all the local papers. Now he's landed a plum of a job, permanent this time, with Commuter Computer....Another former, Parks's buddy John Cosby--who used to work in Ray Maekawa's Paratransit Section until he got lonesome for his old Kentucky home--married his longtime main squeeze Gina on September 20 in Bowling Green, KY....G&PA's Larry Gallagher,

of Graphics, had everyone gasping in surprise (not to say shock) after shaving off his 16-year-old beard. Larry was preparing for an upcoming birthday; he thinks, or at least hopes, that he looks younger now that his grizzled chin-hairs are gone. Do you agree? (See photo.) P.S. Recently you may have noticed that some of his former face-hair has been sneaking back, along Larry's upper lip; gone yesterday and hair today I guess....Meanwhile, Larry's cohort, Leon Cooksey, has opened an art gallery called The Crystal Peacock up in Moorpark, which some of you may recall from our jaunt to the Moorpark Melodrama Theatre. When asked, "Why Moorpark?" Cooksey replied, "Well, the rent's a lot cheaper than on La Cienega, and parking isn't such a problem."...LB-LA Program Director Ed McSpedon was in the same junior-high school class as SCRC's Project Director Simon Zweighafts' brother and sister (twins) in Yonkers, New York (for sure you didn't know that). Of course, the Zweighafts always sat in the last seats in the back row of class ("Z" you see); this was in the 60s.... Did you know that we now have a suggestion box in the lunch-room on the 6th floor? (Bet a lot of you didn't even know we had a lunch-room, right?)....Congratulations are in order to our Affirmative Action/Labor Relations Officer Pam Simmons, who demonstrated her skill at both in early October when she added little Raquel to her family....More congratulations to rail staffer Jim Cohen, who got married on Saturday, September 27, to the former Susan Lee Kurit. Amid the envy of everyone, the couple cruised off to Tahiti for their honeymoon....Probably the only one who didn't complain when the air-conditioning went on the blink for the better part of two weeks in early September was Deana Burton, who got to give her heater a rest and feel comfortable in summer clothes. Deana has taken over as acting senior secretary for the 5th-floor G&PA contingent now that Margarita Ortiz is off on extended maternity leave. Speaking of Margarita, this flash just in: new baby Ortiz was born on November 2 (about time, too), a 9-pound 8-ounce girl--Andrea Christine; mother and daughter doing fine, but Tony is a wreck (just kidding). Welcome to the world, Andrea!...At Margarita's desk until next June is long-term temp Patricia Sims, who quickly picked up on SAMNA word-processing and is now in there with all the rest of us G&PAers fighting over our one machine (hint, hint)....Rail Development's Richard Stanger and Ben Darche, and Community Relations' Steve Lantz, all were awarded LACTC's Purple Axle in September in honor of the unflagging courtesy and diplomacy they demonstrated at certain meetings where the public displayed exactly opposite qualities..

*Deana, Margarita, Susan*

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## Consultants "Who's Who"

### PROFILE: DeLEUW, CATHER

DeLeuw, Cather Engineers Worldwide is to the Century Rail Transit Project what SCRC is to the Long Beach-Los Angeles Project: the general engineering consultant, or GEC. Simply put, they are the designers for the Century project, which is LACTC's 16.5-mile double-track rail line down the middle of the Century Freeway, from Norwalk on the east to the LAX-area on the west.

DeLeuw, Cather's Project Manager Neil Johnson says, "We are responsible for the track alignment, track design, communications system, train-control system, traction-power systems, catenary system--the total operational system of the Century rail project. Right now we are refining a constructability report for the Century project, involving the project's description, scheduling, and costs. We're also doing design work on track alignment and design on traction-power substations and the catenary system."

Johnson explains that the Century project is about two years behind the Long Beach-Los Angeles project, which works to DeLeuw's advantage.

"SCRC has done a lot of the preliminary work. Rather than reinvent the wheel, we will be able to use a great deal of that work by modifying it for the Century project. We're both working to the same set of design criteria, although there are certain exclusive features on Century that do not exist on Long Beach. For instance, the Century line is fully grade separated--that is, it operates above or below

all surface traffic by being in the middle of the freeway."

The DeLeuw, Cather staff makes its home in suite 202, to your left as you step out of the elevator on the second floor. The present staff consists of four people plus a drafting subcontractor (see photo). Johnson says they will be adding a few more people later on.

"To fulfill our current obligations, we would require on the order of three to four more people. We will need an estimator. We will need a scheduler available at least half time. We'll use some part-time people--they don't have to be right here. We can use support from our other offices."

The Century project is less complicated than the Long Beach-Los Angeles project. For one thing, a lot of work is being done by Caltrans as they build the freeway. For another, the exclusive grade-separated right-of-way avoids the extensive coordinating with utility companies, cities' traffic-control departments, rail freight companies such as Southern Pacific, and so on that is required for LB-LA. Even so, the DeLeuw, Cather staff is a small one to handle the workload.

That's the way Johnson likes it. He says he has found over the years that "it's better to work on the lean side and give everybody more than they can really do. It helps everybody. After all, I'm spending Los Angeles's money--mine also. I feel a grave responsibility to keep expenditures to as much of a minimum as we can."

Currently DeLeuw staffers interact mainly with LACTC's Century Rail Transit Project Manager Manit Churanakoses and Project Director

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**The DeLeuw, Cather team:** Back row, L-R: Project Engineer Art Lohrmann; Project Manager Neil Johnson. Front row, L-R: Draftsman Otris Jordan, subcontractor from Jenkins, Gales, & Martinez; Track Alignment Engineer Jennifer Thompson; Engineer & Coordinator Pat McIntyre.



## SECRETARY'S KORNER

by Olga Phillips

Secretary, Community Relations,  
LB-LA Project

### WITH A GRAIN OF SALT

So, have any of you been mistaken for Job lately? (you know, the guy in the biblical story). Well, if you haven't don't worry, after all not many of us can tolerate quite as well as he did.

We all know that patience is a virtue and

secretarial patience is truly a virtue; working for different personalities, meeting deadlines,

answering telephones while doing five or six other tasks at the same time, setting-up, taking down, running here, running there and (ironically), sometimes even waiting for work to fill the in-basket.

With these truths in mind, I thought it might be fun to ask some of our secretaries, "HOW DO YOU TOLERATE SECRETARIAL STRESS?" (and believe me it ain't easy)!

Here are some anonymous, practical, humorous, yet noteworthy responses.

"I let it (guess what) go in one ear and out the other."

"I do my best and overlook the rest, because I feel that nothing is more important than my mental stability."

"I look forward to vacations, weekends and flex days."

"I smoke. Well, if that doesn't kill me the stress and pressure just might."

"I go along with everything from 9 to 5."

"My boss is great and never pressures me, in fact if I have a problem my boss is right there helping out."

"I read Dyanetics."



"I listen to the radio while I work, believe it or not, music does sooth the savage beast, which is what I can sometimes become under secretarial stress."

"I keep my eyes on the workload."

"I've handed in my resignation."

As for YOURS TRULY, "I write SECRETARY'S KORNER" and the rest is history.

Now that we all know that riding the tide isn't ALWAYS easy, how can we better handle our stress without killing ourselves?

Here are some survival tactics, not mentioned above, that I sincerely hope will help you out:

1. **SECRETARIAL STRESS SEMINARS.** These seminars are available through Associated Management Institute, Inc. (AMI) and are structured to **HELP YOU UNDERSTAND AND REDUCE SECRETARIAL STRESS.** According to Martha Dunn, Secretary, Program and Fiscal Analysis, who recently attended a seminar, they are very helpful. Our tuition reimbursement program will handle the cost with your manager's approval. For current seminar dates and locations you can check with Jose Mesa, our Personnel Officer in Finance and Administration or call AMI at their toll free number 1-800-556-7500 and ask for a current catalog. **TAKE ADVANTAGE.** It just might pay off!

2. **REALIZE WHO YOU ARE** and what your contributions are regardless of the credit or acknowledgement you receive. In other words give yourself a pat on the back (if it's warranted). I know, you might say this is not monetary compensation or realistic recognition but remember, motivation is (in this case) 9/10ths of the law.

3. **KNOW YOUR CAPABILITIES** and under no circumstances try to override them. Instead take courses, attend seminars and undertake whatever steps you can to enhance the abilities you already have and to attain new skills.

4. **LISTEN AND TAKE NOTE.** Many unwarranted pressures arise from miscommunication and nothing is worse on the stress level than not knowing what's expected of you.

5. **KNOW WHO YOU WORK FOR.** If you know who you work for and their style of conducting daily office procedures you can always stay **ONE STEP AHEAD** and **ONE WORRY AWAY.** Remember, no two bosses are alike, so please ask if you're not sure.

Well what else can I say comrades, except **HANG IN THERE** and by all means don't stop counting to ten!

### Secretary's Spotlight



This issue of Secretary's Korner spotlights **KATHY TORIGOE**, Executive Secretary to Rick Richmond. Kathy's been with the Commission for just about 10 years (is that patience or what)! And in my estimation she exemplifies the word patience in many ways. However, one in particular sticks in my mind the most.....

Continued on next page

Korner, cont. from previous page

Have you ever needed a conference room in a hurry, or perhaps you just couldn't get to the 5th floor to sign-up for one yourself (o.k., so I'm guilty). You pick up the phone and dial that extension, #531, and..... we all know the rest. I wonder just how many times that call interrupts her day -- well, ask Kathy and she'll say it's all in a days work, not to mention all of her other executive responsibilities. And remember when you took your typing test. If Kathy administered your test you'll remember her encouraging words. Wasn't she patient and supportive, not minding your sweaty palms all over her typewriter. Of course I could go on and on but I'd like to say, on behalf of us all, **KATHY, IT'S REALLY GREAT WORKING WITH YOU!**

AND SPEAKING OF PATIENCE.....



I just couldn't continue this issue without mentioning the **Reproduction Center** on the 2nd floor. I happen to know the wonderful guy who runs the place. Now he's not a secretary but he sure is patient. So here's to you Joe for being so **KIND, PATIENT and EFFICIENT** when we're in a rush for

copies. And speaking of copies, what are you going to do about the machine on the 4th floor?!?

BEFORE I GO.....

I'd like to say good-bye to the sunshine of the Commission, **GERI BRODIE**, former Secretary, Program Control and Contracts, who's last day at the Comish was October 1. Geri, we'll miss your laughter in the hall-ways and your birthday greetings at General Staff Meetings, **BUT WHAT ABOUT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY!** Oh yea, Congratulations on your new career and best of luck from us all. ■



DeLew, cont. from page 4

of Rail Development Richard Stanger. They also work closely with Program Schedule Coordinator Laurence Weldon and with Cost Control Coordinator Don Stiner.

DeLew, Cather's past experience includes the design or the construction management--and in many cases, both--for a large number of rail transit systems: Baltimore's, Cleveland's, Buffalo's, San Diego's, and L.A.'s Metro Rail, to name some. The firm was low bidder on a contract that went into force in early 1985, and which is renewed year by year. The total contract to date has come to \$1.5 million.

"We're hoping to continue our relationship with LACTC right up to the Century line's opening day," says Johnson. "After the design is completed, we'd like to handle the construction management, for which we have extensive background and expertise."

How do LACTC's plans for a countywide rail system compare to what has been and is being done elsewhere? According to Johnson: "I think it's far-seeing and far-reaching. As near as I can tell, being a newcomer to the area, all the major employers are touched by the lines and all the major residential areas will have easy accessibility to them. This is a first-class system, but moderation has been shown in trying to use off-the-shelf items and not getting totally new concepts into the design. LACTC is absolutely on the right track here with its approach. I cannot think of any way that the Commission could have gotten the system any better."

Could you convince some of our public of that, Neil? ■

### NEW SICK LEAVE POLICY

A new sick leave policy became effective last month. From now on, the sickly among us will have to charge excess sick hours against available floating holidays or vacation hours. And if that can't be done, sick hours must appear as leave without pay. Copies of an accrued leave report will be distributed to supervisors during each pay period. ■

### THE "INSIDE MOVES" STAFF

Publisher: Erica Goebel

Editors/Writers: Ann Reeves, Usha Viswanathan

Layout: Ann, with help from Usha and Claudette

Photos: Campout--Bob Minahan; Birthday stripper--Olga Phillips; rest--Ann, Usha.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GUEST WRITERS: BOB VANCE, LAURENCE WELDON, STEVE JUAREZ.

We welcome your submissions. Call us and pitch your story idea. Prominent by-lines given. Volunteers also wanted for "Meet Your Co-Workers." Anyone hired before November 1985 who has not been featured before is eligible.



# LACTC MEETS THE PUC

by Bob Vance

If you thought that the light rail lines being planned, designed and built by LACTC were free from regulations and "strings attached" since they aren't UMTA-funded, guess again! The principal state-level regulatory agency overseeing light rail projects is the California Public Utilities Commission. The Railroad Operations and Safety Branch of PUC's Transportation Division is responsible for oversight of "safety appliances and procedures" of "public transit guideways."

Much of the PUC's role relates to ensuring compliance with General Orders (GO's) issued by PUC. The orders most affecting light rail lines are:

- o GO's 33-B and 127 related to signaling
- o GO's 72-B, 75-C and 88-A related to grade crossings
- o GO 95 related to overhead electric line construction
- o GO 143 covering design, construction and operation of light rail systems, in general. Don Harrison is LACTC's representative on a task force which is proposing revisions to this GO.

In some cases, written PUC approvals must be obtained prior to construction or operation; for example, a formal order is issued regarding plans for railroad-highway grade crossings. In most cases, plans, designs and procedures must be submitted for review but written PUC approval is not required.

The principal LACTC contact with the PUC is Norm Jester, Manager of Rail Transit Systems. Discussions with the PUC on a particular issue are generally initiated with the Los Angeles office, and will also involve the headquarters office in San Francisco if a policy matter or difference of opinion is involved.

(more →)

LACTC and PUC have recently formed a Management Overview Group to provide management-level involvement in the resolution of any problems related to PUC's oversight of LACTC light rail transit projects. This group will attempt to reconcile differing interpretations of general orders, and expedite the review and approval process of LACTC designs and procedures through the PUC organization.

If a case arises in which the PUC, a railroad, or a public entity cannot resolve a major disagreement, the PUC may order a formal hearing in front of an administrative law judge. The judge's decision then goes to the PUC commissioners, who may accept or reject it. This process can be very time-consuming, so we will avoid it whenever possible.

You can see that unsuspecting engineers join up with us thinking they'll be working on a nice, uncomplicated rail project--only to find they need a master's degree in Public Agency Interfacing. Maybe we should steal that old Hollywood line about "It takes longer to make the deal than to make the movie" and reword it: "It takes longer to get all the public agency agreements than to build the rail line." ■

## UN-RULES FOR WRITING

1. Don't use no double negative.
2. Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent.
3. Join clauses good like a conjunction should.
4. About them sentence fragments.
5. When dangling, watch your participle.
6. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
7. Just between you and I, case is important too.
8. Don't write run-on sentences they are hard to read.
9. Don't use commas, that aren't necessary.
10. When typing numbers, be sure they line up properly.
11. Try to not ever split infinitives.
12. Proofread your writing to see if you any words out.
13. Its important to use your apostrophe's correctly.
14. Correct spelling is esential.
15. Never use a preposition to end a sentence with.
16. What about proper punctuation.
17. Don't use jargon--it swaps people out. ■

### FIFTH LAW FOR NAIVE ENGINEERS:

*The most vital dimension on any plan or drawing stands the greatest chance of being omitted.*



# SCHEDULING: A DANGEROUS BUSINESS

by Laurence Weldon

For those of you unfamiliar with the wacky world of scheduling, here's an insight into why you should give schedulers the respect and sympathy we rightfully deserve and quit the derision and placing of burning crosses outside our doors.

You see, scheduling is not really an exact science, it's more akin to palm reading than engineering, and we have to deal with some palms of questionable origin. Perhaps the ancients had something when, having run out of witches to burn, they turned to what they believed to be the next best thing--cost engineers and estimators. Schedulers only got caught in a "guilt by association" situation; nevertheless, like the proverbial mud, it stuck.

Now, in the somewhat more modern world, schedulers ply their trade amid project managers, contracts people, construction types, and other deviants. It is schedulers who, after the ridiculous wants and needs of the engineers have been discounted, pamper to the popular concensus and produce an impossibly optimistic schedule.

That constitutes Phase 1 of the scheduling process, in which we produce a breakdown of all activities needed to be carried out to reach conclusion of the project, link them together in a logical sequence, and attach durations. This gives an overall picture of the time needed to complete the project.

We then throw that away because it's too long and start again.

Phase 2 is the most dangerous. Dealing with non-believers, we force engineering consultants and construction managers to comply to a schedule they believe is the product of a disordered mind.

LB-LA is currently in the depths of Phase 2.

Phase 3 involves fruitless searches for guilty parties and a primal turning to the old ways. Cost engineers and estimators have formed protective associations since medieval times. Schedulers have not, and ritual end-of-job-scheduler-burnings were common in England until passage of the Danger to Horses (Scheduler Burning) Act of 1958. Hence the saying "Boy, they really burned the scheduler this time!"

There is a Phase 4, but the interests of public decency dictate it cannot be revealed here. However, plain brown-paper-cover copies of 'Scheduling: The Final Solution' can be obtained from the author for a nominal, tax-deductible contribution of \$5,000.00 (cheap). ■

## FEEDINGS IN THE NIGHT

by Steve Juarez

In honor of all the Commissioners who have or shortly will have new babies (you can get rid of those old babies now), we in G&PA would like to share an original song written by one of our wittier staffers on the occasion of a baby shower for Margarita Ortiz. Sing along now....

FEEDINGS IN THE NIGHT  
EXCHANGING PAMPERS  
WAKING BEFORE LIGHT  
THE SMELLY HAMPERS  
PARENTS START TO FIGHT  
OVER FEEDINGS IN THE NIGHT.



CRYING IN THE NIGHT  
MOM'S SLEEPING TIL NOON  
WHAT A FUNNY SIGHT  
DAD SHOULD BE NUTS SOON  
BOTH ARE SO UPTIGHT  
THEY'RE CRYING IN THE NIGHT.

WHEN THE BABY CAME  
THEY WERE SO HAPPY,  
NOW IT'S NOT THE SAME  
AND SO THEY'RE SNAPPY,  
BUT THIS ALL WILL END,  
WAIT FOR THIS GODSEND  
ONE DAY "IT" WILL GO AWAY  
THIRTY YEARS OR SO AWAY....



THESE FACTS WE WILL RECITE  
WE ARE NOT TEASIN'  
TRY WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT  
TO GET SOME ZZZ'S IN  
'CAUSE THERE'S NOTHING TRITE  
'BOUT SLEEPING THROUGH THE NIGHT. ■

## SHUT UP.

Or learn to say it right.

The Toastmasters program will help you learn to communicate your ideas. The other members of your Toastmasters club are learning to do the same thing and they'll be glad to help you. The program was designed by professionals and there's no limit to how far it can take you in your self-development.

Give communication and leadership a try. After 50 years of development, the Toastmasters program has to be good. More than a million participants thought so.

CONTACT:

RICK GOMEZ/X-411

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



FIRST SESSION:

Monday, Dec. 1 - Noon  
6th floor large conf. room



# THE SOCIAL SCENE

THE BIG EVENT OF THIS PAST QUARTER WAS THE ANNUAL LACTC CAMPOUT over the weekend of September 5-7 at Leo Carrillo State Beach. Here's a first-hand report:

QUESTION: WHO'S THE HOTTEST GUNS IN THE WEST?

ANSWER: THE LACTC TEQUILA SHOOTERS THAT'S WHO!

You won't know what hit you when you sample one of the tequila concoctions served by Ilda Licón and Cindy Kondo at the LACTC campout in September.

The LACTC Tequila Shooter who outshot them all and still managed to keep her composure was none other than LACTC's version of Annie Oakley, Mary Lou Echternach.

Other participants in this booze-a-thon include the servers, Ilda and Cindy, Cindy's friend Jack, Bob Vance, Leon Cooksey's sons, Nalini Ahuja and husband Ingu, Larry Wartels, Paul Taylor, Diane Perrine and husband Jeff and Kay Cooley.

Campers watching the festivities include Jose Mesa, Robin McCarthy and husband Jim, Paola Macchi-Nuzum and husband Robert, Ginger Gherardi, Ed McSpedon, Bob Minahan, Craig Johnson, and Dick Dominguez and family and Paul Taylor's son Nick.

SEE YA NEXT YEAR AT THE O.K. CORRAL!!

Submitted by Hiways Highballer Kay Cooley

"Unfortunately," says Mary Lou, "I have not been able to confirm whether it was Cindy or Ilda who cried out, 'The drunks are on the house!' as they served each slammer."

According to our "mole," Bob Minahan (who took the adjoining photo), about 15 staffers camped overnight and about 20 more showed up just for the day on Saturday. Bob also reports that Paul Taylor's 10-year-old son Nicholas was the outstanding player at some energetic volley ball games. Nicholas also shone at the games of stud poker, --and we hear Nalini Ahuja and her husband really got into that activity. (Nalini afterwards was nominated to organize the Commission trip to Las Vegas, but we haven't heard whether she has agreed or declined.) And of course there was a cookout Saturday evening, so that folks would have some food to help soak up their Tequila Slammers.

"We kept the Auto Club busy, too," says Bob. Seems Jose Mesa arrived Friday early Friday night, promptly locked his keys in his car, and had to wait until 8:30 p.m. for the Triple A to come. He and his wife couldn't unpack or get any of their things for hours. Then on Sunday afternoon, Paola Macchi-Nuzum's husband went to rev up--only to find that their car had broken down.

Bob tells me no one had any regrets, though; the weather was good and it was a great time. And no one even complained about her or his hangover.

Continued on page 11



Intrepid Campers. Back row, L-R: Diane Perrine, Don Harrison, Ilda Licón. Next row: Bob Minahan (holding beer can), Robin McCarthy. Middle row, L-R: Leon Cooksey, Cindy Kondo, Tina (Mrs.) Minahan, Jose Mesa. Front row, L-R: Paola Macchi-Nuzum, Paul Taylor, Nick Taylor. Photo by Bob Minahan.

# MEET YOUR CO-WORKERS



Name: LOU HUBAUD  
 Started with LACTC:  
 May, 1985  
 Current title: Safety/  
 Security Officer  
 Division: Rail Transit  
 3rd floor  
 Principal responsibilities:  
 Fare collection; fire/  
 life safety; security;  
 system safety  
 Jobs before LACTC:  
 Last job was with  
 transit police at RTD.  
 Most interesting job  
 was my time as a  
 detective with the  
 Sheriff's Department  
 Grew up in: Los Angeles/  
 San Gabriel Valley  
 Education: B.A.,  
 Redlands University

Home Life: Whittier, 1 girlfriend, 0 children, 0 pets.  
 Hobbies: Running/hunting/cold-beer drinking.

**Favorites:**

food -- Lobster, rice, beans & tortillas in  
 Rosarito  
 author -- Sidney Sheldon  
 music -- Pop and some country  
 movie -- Any fun/light movie (nothing serious)  
 vacation -- Colorado River/Mexico/Tahoe  
 Pet peeve: People that can't at least be pleasant;  
 people that take themselves too seriously.  
 Quote: "Kids should be 18 years old when born  
 and have a job."

Name: MANIT (MAH-NEAT)  
 CHURANAKOSES  
 Started with LACTC:  
 April, 1985  
 Current title:  
 Manager, Century Rail  
 Transit Project  
 Division: Rail Develop-  
 ment, 4th floor  
 Principal responsibilities:  
 Keep things moving,  
 including papers.  
 Most interesting job  
 before LACTC: Working  
 with the U.S. Military  
 Intelligence unit  
 during the Vietnam  
 War, to monitor the  
 migration of people  
 and animals crossing  
 the Vietnamese border.

**Grew up in:**

Bangkok, Thailand  
 Education: B.S. in Civil Engineering, Chulalongkorn  
 University, Bangkok, Thailand  
 Home Life: Live on Santa Ana Freeway, 3-4 hours a day;  
 sleep in Irvine; have one wife and 2 gorgeous  
 daughters (they'll read this article!); recuperate  
 during the weekends.  
 Hobbies: Traveling; dancing; trying to play guitar for  
 the past 3 years; computer programming.

**Favorites:**

food -- Thai, of course  
 author -- Robin Cook  
 music -- Be-bop, big band, jazz  
 movie -- "Casablanca"  
 vacation -- Phuket, Thailand  
 Quotes:  
 "We all go to the same place; except,  
 some of us may go there faster than the  
 others."  
 "Don't go dancing on an empty stomach --  
 use the dance floor."



Name: JOHN J. ADAMS  
 Started with LACTC: September, 1985  
 Current Title: Manager, Rail Transit Construction  
 Division: Transit Development, 4th Floor  
 Principal responsibilities: Responsible for the  
 management of our consultant for Construction  
 Management and LACTC's contracts Administration  
 group.

**Most Interesting Job  
 Before LACTC:**

Having the position  
 of project manager  
 with a contractor,  
 for the construction  
 of two rail transit  
 stations.

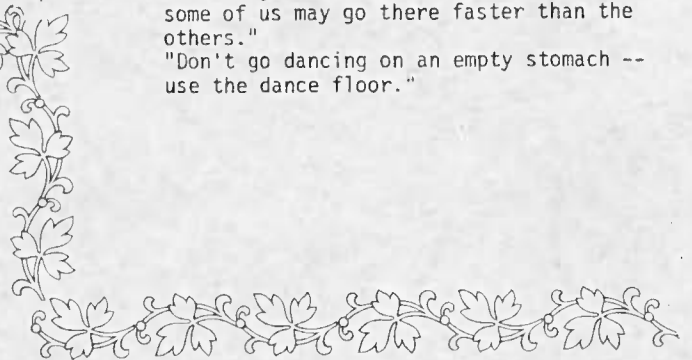
Grew up in: Queens, NY  
 Education: Civil  
 Engineer, State  
 University of New York,  
 Brooklyn, New York  
 Home Life: Live in  
 Monrovia with my wife  
 Diane and my son Brian,  
 with our two dogs.



**Hobby: Photography**

**Favorites:**

food -- Italian  
 author -- Gore Vidal  
 music -- Jazz  
 movie or  
 filmmaker -- No preference  
 vacation -- Driving and  
 sightseeing  
 Pet Peeve -- Drivers who do everything but operate their  
 vehicle correctly.  
 Quote -- "Never box someone into a corner or a posi-  
 tion where he cannot bow out with dignity."



Name: CLAUDETTE A. MOODY  
 Started with LACTC:  
 October 1985  
 Current Title:  
 Government Relations  
 Representative  
 (Federal)  
 Division: G&PA,  
 5th floor  
 Principal responsibilities:



To follow, analyze, and report on federal transportation legislative and regulatory activities. In conjunction with D.C. rep., to be a "congressional liaison" for the Commission.  
 Last job and interesting job before LACTC: Legislative assistant to Congressman on Capital Hill. Most interesting - my three months at McDonald's in 1976.  
 Grew up in: Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Education: B.A. in Government - California State University, Sacramento; M.A. in Government - College of William and Mary in Virginia  
 Home life: In West L.A., or "Lower Brentwood"  
 Hobbies: Movies, reading, jogging and walking (when the spirit moves me), and politics.  
 Favorites:  
 food -- Anything edible, but pasta and Chinese are particular favorites.  
 author -- Fitzgerald, Whelty, Spenser.  
 music -- Jazz  
 movie or filmmaker -- Too many to list  
 vacation -- Canada  
 Pet Peeve: People who are intimidated by automated teller machines.  
 Quote: "Short of nuclear war, nothing is all that important or urgent." ■

gathered among the gently rolling hills of Agoura. Among the Commission sluggers were Ilda Licón (who never misses a softball game--and if I played as well as she does, I wouldn't either), Bob Minahan (who never misses anything), Richard Stanger (who, as team manager, was chief organizer of the game), Ed McSpedon, and Norm Jester (who graciously and rather naively offered his home for an after-game party). Staffer Cindy Kondo declined to play--choosing to root from the sidelines instead--but she brought her "longtime companion" (as they say in the film mags), Jack, who did what he could for our side.

Still smarting from their trouncing back in June, SCRC recruited all they're heaviest hitters for this rematch. Among them were George Swede, Jim Cisneros, Art Truman, Simon Zweighaft, June Leivas, Charles Daniel, and Steve Lee. (Rumor has it they were paid triple-time to turn out for the event.)

"They were absolutely great--practically professionals," says Bob, valiantly trying to explain our humiliating defeat by a score of 15-2. Ed has a different explanation: "We were short players, so we had to borrow some from our rivals." Richard trots out yet a third reason:



"It's well known that we let them win because they'd never beat LACTC before, and we wanted to be sure they didn't get too demoralized to play us again." (You think perhaps our team protesteth too much?)

After the game, the crowd trooped over to the Jesters' house, where Pauline was prepared with refreshments and facilities for less-demanding sports such as ping-pong and swimming.

Stay tuned for the exciting sequel--as soon as Team Manager Stanger gets out from under his workload and remembers where his real duties lie.

\* \* \*

Scene, cont. from page 9

Many thanks to Rangers Cindy Kondo and Ilda Licón for organizing this event. (After the hassle of securing the campsite, everything else was a cinch, right?)

\* \* \*

THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL POP CONCERT on August 1 found fewer staffers in attendance, but each one brought many friends and relatives, so it was a jolly group. Lou Hubaud and Mary Lou Echternach each brought a group of nine; Bob Minahan brought eight; Bob Vance and Robin McCarthy brought several apiece--about 32 in all. People brought drinks, and Bob M. whipped up something with coffee and secret ingredients that Mary Lou loved (do I detect a leit-motif here?).

The L.A. Philharmonic played rousing musical Americana such as John Phillips Souza. "I was surprised that it was real, unamplified music," relates the sociable Mr. Minahan. Best part of the evening, in his opinion, was the fabulous fireworks display.

Even though she didn't attend, thanks for organizing that activity go to Kathy Sweet.

\* \* \*

THEN THERE WAS THE SOFTBALL REMATCH between LACTC and SCRC on August 2, with 20 LACTCers and SCRCers plus miscellaneous fans and family,

Coming up: A BLOOD DRIVE, organized by Bob Vance with the help of Kathy Sweet. "Wait a minute," you think, "that's not a social event." No? Wait til you experience the instant intimacy you develop as you lie side-by-side with some other staffer whose blood is being pumped. And the enticing refreshments--that tiny paper cup of highly sugared soft-drink you get to help bring you round after they bleed you. What a conversation-piece, too! Don't miss this exciting "first" in the LACTC social scene--make an appointment with Bob V., Bob M., Kathy, or Jose Mesa. The bloodmobile will be parked out front on 8th street between 9:15 and 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, and can accomodate up to six donors at a time.

Scene, cont. from previous page

After you give blood, come to our first LUNCHTIME ROUNDTABLE, scheduled by popular request (per your responses to the Communications section's survey). Theme will be "Time Management/Getting Organized," and we'll meet in the third-floor conference room between noon and 1:00 p.m., Thursday, 11/13. For more details, call Ann Reeves on extension 570.

Another stimulating and productive lunchtime activity will happen on December 1, between noon and 1:15 p.m. in the sixth-floor large conference room, when the first meeting of TOASTMASTERS convenes under the auspices of Community Relations section's Rick Gomez (see ad elsewhere in this newsletter). For more info, buzz Rick at extension 411.

Then there's the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY set for Friday, December 5, from 6:30 to 2:00 a.m. in the Hyatt Regency's Bunker Hill Room (Broadway Plaza). This promises to be quite a bash, since the organizers--our new co-presidents of the Sunshine Club, Ilda Licon and Annette Mendoza--already are asking if people want to reserve rooms to sleep over. Guess they assume we won't be in any condition to drive home. Going to instruct the bartenders on how to make your Tequila Slammers, Ilda? Staff should all have gotten memos and made reservations for this already, but if you have any questions, try Ilda at extension 615 or Annette at extension 518.

Speaking of the SUNSHINE CLUB, remember to support it by paying your annual dues promptly, and let Annette or Ilda know if you'd like to help with any of the activities they handle for us. We know everyone here just loves his or her work, but the sun shines brighter when we socialize too--right? Right! ■

Did You Know? Cont. from page 3



Olga's mom with birthday present.



Don Brown next to skeleton bearing sign: "Don Brown 10 years from now--worked to the bone, too many cigarettes, too much coffee, too many agendas."

..Regular Inside Moves contributor Olga Phillips, who also is a secretary in the Community Relations Section, gave her mom a real treat for her 66th birthday: a surprise visit from a male stripper. The present was well appreciated not only by Mom but also by Olga's sisters, who made several grabs at the uninhibited entertainer....In case you missed his thank-you card, former finance manager Murphy McCalley sends us greetings and lots of thanks for the going-away gifites and says if anyone is down that way to give him a call at (619) 231-1466....Noticing a preponderance of 4th- and 5th-floor news in this column, I buzzed Al Patashnick in the 6th-floor Local Assistance Section and queried him on the latest haps up there. "Anyone getting married, writing a book, taking an interesting vacation?" Al replied, "No, we're just all busy doing our work. Boring, huh?"....Of course Don Brown, one of the 6th floor's computer masters, intimates that he knows all kinds of juicy stuff, none of it fit for print. Speaking of Don, for those of you who may have missed the October 30 general staff meeting, check out this shot of Don and a version of his future self that was part of the Halloween-style table decorations that day....Up on the 7th floor, LB-LA Project Contracts Analyst Barbara Gatewood reports that "If circumstances do not change

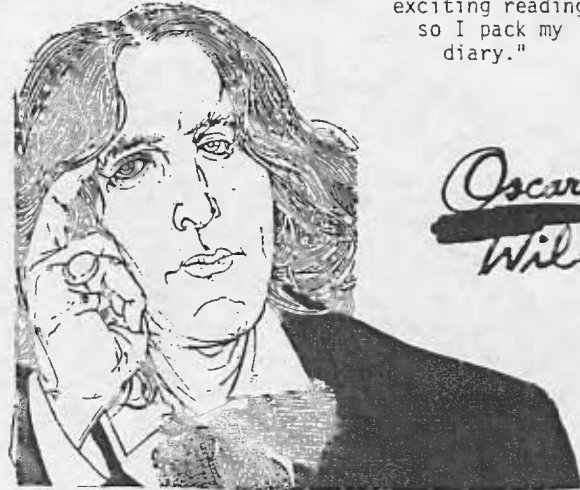
Continued on next page

soon, I'll be jumping out the window by next Friday." Seems some massive contracts (315, 425, 550, and so on for you project insiders) have got her a wee bit harried. When I asked, "What happens next Friday?" Barbara replied, "By then my tolerance-level will have bottomed out, or else I'll have adapted." Did you know that Affirmative Action/Labor Relations Analyst **Michael Loller** breeds show dogs and racing greyhounds? Or that Communications/Graphics Manager **Erica Goebel** has won an award for the artistic landscaping she designed and planted in her front yard? She was one of six winners in her category in a contest with the overall theme of "drought-tolerant landscaping," sponsored by the Department of Water and Power and the L.A. Beautiful Committee; her prize will be a two-year subscription to *Sunset* magazine and an awards luncheon at the New Otami Hotel....Continuing the rash (pun intended) of LACTC babies, Government Relations Manager **Steve Juarez** recently admitted, er, announced, that after only 3-1/2 months of marriage, he and Karen now are expecting a baby next June; guess he'll be learning from experience the smelly truth of his own "Feedings in the Night" song (see page 8)....Did you know that **Debbie Sclar**, secretary in the Transit Development section on the third floor, is training to be a professional opera singer?....Got an item for this column? Call **Ann** (Ext. 570) or **Deana** (Ext. 568). ■

"My tastes are of the simplest--I only like the best."

"Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative."

"When I go traveling, I always like to take along some truly exciting reading--so I pack my diary."



## LACTC Turns 10, Receives APTA Award



Staff had important developments to celebrate during the last two months: One to recognize the passage 10 years ago of AB 1246, the measure that created the LACTC and the Southern California region's three other transportation commissions, another to recognize the honor APTA bestowed on our group with its annual Government Agency Transit Achievement Award for outstanding support of public transit in Los Angeles and nationally.

Rick Richmond thanked staff members for a decade of hard work and dedication to the cause of improved public transit. "I am looking forward to another decade of continued success," he told staff members during a general staff meeting.

Commissioner Jacki Bacharach accepted the Achievement award on behalf of the Commission during APTA's Detroit meeting. The award is presented annually to the government agency, state department of transportation or metropolitan planning agency member that shows the most outstanding execution of its public transportation function responsibilities and contributions to the transit industry as a whole.

LACTC was honored for its advocacy role in fostering a transit resurgence in the nation's second largest city.

To celebrate our decade of existence, senior staff treated employees to a free lunch that included drinks and a yards-long deli sandwich during the September general staff meeting. Rick and Kathy (two of the Commission's longest serving employees) served up some cake during the birthday celebrations. ■



# What's Happening in P&FA

Programming & Fiscal Analysis staff progressed along several fronts this last quarter, with accomplishments noted in the areas of operator audits, coordination of social service agencies' transit programs, privatization of bus services and highway development.

The Transit section received considerable media attention for its triennial audit of the county's bus operators. Sharon Neely and her staff answered numerous questions from print reporters on details of the Price-Waterhouse audit. Of special interest were RTD's absenteeism and workman's compensation, as well as the Commission's interest in seeing that RTD keep tight control over costs.

Expect the Transit section to continue receiving media attention all next year for its work on transportation zones. Earlier this year, the Commission approved guidelines that cities will follow to set up their own transit services. Basically, the guidelines say that three or more cities may join to create a separate transit service within their boundaries if they can demonstrate a 25 percent savings in operating costs over the current operator.

Commissioner Schabarum's office has hired a consulting group to develop an operations plan for providing transit service in 29 West San Gabriel Valley cities. The transit service would be implemented in phases and ultimately link service with the regional carrier and municipal operators.

The consultants will submit a detailed application in February that addresses operating plans and administrative and financial issues in creating a transportation zone. The zone's bus operators would still receive operating assistance to subsidize a portion of their costs from funds that normally would support RTD service in the area.

On the Local Assistance side, Pat Van Matre and staff have been busy administering Prop. A city projects, developing guidelines to coordinate routes and schedules among the county's transit operators and putting together another demonstration project to test the cost effectiveness of privately contracted transit services.

A public hearing on the demonstration project will be held during next week's Finance Review Committee meeting. With funds from an UMTA demonstration grant, the LACTC will encourage competitive bidding from public and private operators for providing service on 16 RTD lines slated for cancellation. Already, the County of Los Angeles has expressed interest in sharing operation of two lines with the District. It is expected that competitive bidding will result in lower cost transit service.

Ginger Gherardi and staff of the Highway Section have been completing the final chapter of a multi-year highway plan. Expected to be distributed early next year, the plan examines local street and road conditions and the state of the county's highway network. The study is being coordinated by the Streets and Highways Committee. Now in the last phase of its study, the Committee is developing an action plan to finance potentially millions of dollars of short and long term roadway improvements.

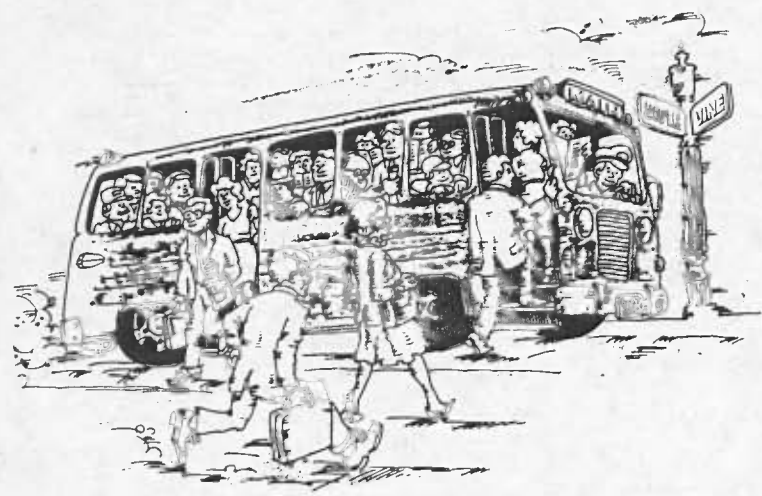
Later this winter, LACTC will hold a public hearing to gather comments on the plan. A fact sheet is available from G&PA on the proposed plan.

Ray Maekawa's unit is examining how to coordinate transit services provided by senior centers and organizations for the disabled. One proposal is to create brokerages--centers that manage operations functions like dispatching, maintenance, risk management and scheduling, for the many agencies offering transit services in a particular area. Seven east Los Angeles and West San Gabriel Valley cities are currently under consideration for the first brokerage.

Other efforts by the unit include gaining exemption from state and federal fuel taxes for the county's social service agencies. Maekawa's staff expects the proposal to net agencies savings of \$100,000 annually.

On a lighter note, the P&FA division is noteworthy for a single group accomplishment this quarter: they were the only ones to decorate their walls--and each other--with Halloween designs. By the way, best costume award this year goes to Don Brown who showed up for work resembling the Hunchback of Notre Dame, or something like that.

The division also prepared for themselves an international potluck lunch recently, which highlighted the diverse culinary talents of the group, and produced rave reviews from director Sims. ■



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