

INSIDE

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LACTC/RCC
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1992

WHAT'S "CTSA"?

The Mystery Department Steps Up

A new department was created in 1991 in response to the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 — the Consolidated Transportation Service Authority or "CTSA." The ADA provides protection for the disabled against discrimination in employment, housing and transportation. The law aims to ensure equal access for persons with disabilities to public accommodations, public services, telecommunications and transportation.

LACTC's in-house group of five, located on the 9th floor, recently prepared a draft plan of a countywide transportation project that proposes to establish a network of public and private paratransit operators who will provide service to ADA eligible individuals — without duplicating existing dial-a-ride and other specialized transit services throughout the county.



MEET THE CTSA STAFF:
RICH DEROCK, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR Rich oversees the CTSA activities — coordinating the services of 298 public, private and non-profit paratransit service providers in the county. He came to the LACTC six years ago after serving as general manager of Orange County's Dial-A-Ride. Born in Germany, raised partially in Nebraska and Davis, California, Rich now lives in Orange

County with his wife, two children, two cats and 10 fish.

CHIP HAZEN, PROGRAM MANAGER "My projects are extremely interesting and challenging. I manage the Paratransit Network Demonstration

Project in the east San Gabriel Valley." The program METRO ACCESS is a curb-to-curb transportation service provided in addition to the local dial-a-rides covering 15 cities and unincorporated areas.

Chip, a native Southern Californian, resides in La Verne with his wife, daughter and son. He keeps busy as a Cub Scout Master and in the community's choir and theater.

DONNA BARRETT, PROGRAM MANAGER Donna spent a lot of time working on the draft CTSA plan, specializing in regulatory issues and planning. She previously worked for Dallas/Fort Worth Railtran System and the Fort Worth Transportation Authority. She's originally from New Jersey, and now makes her home in San Pedro.

ELLEN BLACKMAN, PROGRAM MANAGER Ellen oversees the Specialized Transportation Advisory Committee that assists in the ADA plan and other policy issues. "Members are individuals with disabilities, and representatives of agencies that work with the disabled." She is also coordinating with

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The CTSA Team: (l-r) Ellen Blackman, Richard DeRock, Deidre Heilman, and Chip Hazen. (not pictured: Donna Barrett.)



THANKS TO RCC PUBLIC AFFAIRS FOR THE HISTORICAL RIDE

It was highly unusual: strangers talking, laughing and mixing in the subway. Was it a New Yorker's hallucination? No, it was a real-life scene in L.A.'s first modern underground.



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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Closing Year Recipients Cited For Inspirational Qualities

Thousands of workers gathered together to secretly nominate one of their own for an employee recognition award. In each case, the nominator praised the "special human touch" that their prize-winning co-worker contributed to their departments. At the final 1991 staff meeting, METRO watches were presented to Lou Hubaud, Director of System Safety & Security; Martina Moore, Real Estate Secretary; and John Rinard, MetroLink Chief Engineer.

"Anyone who works for Lou (Hubaud) will have to agree that working with such a

It was history in the making when about 200 of us took a test ride through the Metro Red Line tunnel on February 13. RCC's Public Affairs Department hosted the tour.

Passengers applauded as the train pulled up to the station platform; they "ooohed and aaahed" at the stations' public art installation, and waved at the workers along the way. Some people clicked their cameras at posing groups of coworkers.

caring, friendly and spirited individual can really brighten your day," said Myra Diaz, RCC receptionist, Verita Dixon, and Lourdes Castro both of the Safety and Security Department. "He builds our confidence and at times has more confidence in us than we do. He's a great listener and values our opinion. Lou is the type that can put a smile on your face and lift your spirits. All it takes is a wink and a cheerful smile to know that he appreciates what you do."

It was a memorable moment for this L.A. native when start-up team member Bill McCann, let me ride in the operator's cab. The train is powered by 750 volts of electricity, but the laughter and chatter in the train that day added to the line's high energy.

Thanks to RCC Rail Activation, the Segment 1 construction team and RCC Public Affairs. ■

R. Tinajero

Georgia Robinson of the MetroLink staff says she nominated John Rinard for his dedication to the commuter rail project. "He gives 200% of himself," she said. "He provides great leadership to his staff. He gives us strength to accomplish things that we've never done before. He teaches us to tackle challenges, fueling our growth and strength. He's one of the best bosses I've ever had — I appreciate his faith in me."

See Recognition next page



Consolidated Transportation Services Agency

Continued from page 1

the RTD for an InfoLine to provide paratransit referral service. She has worked with the Lanterman Regional Center for Developmentally Disabled and the national Urban League, Western Regional Office. She resides in Culver City.

DEIDRE HEITMAN, PROGRAM MANAGER "We have the challenge

of implementing the complementary paratransit requirements of the ADA. Our plan involves all 37 fixed route operators in the county, as well as 54 cities. Our METRO ACCESS service will increase mobility for severely disabled and improve paratransit service overall."

Deidre previously worked in our Intergovernmental Relations Department. Prior to that she worked for Assemblyman Bob Campbell. She and her husband Dan live in L.A. with their rascally cat, Carly. ■



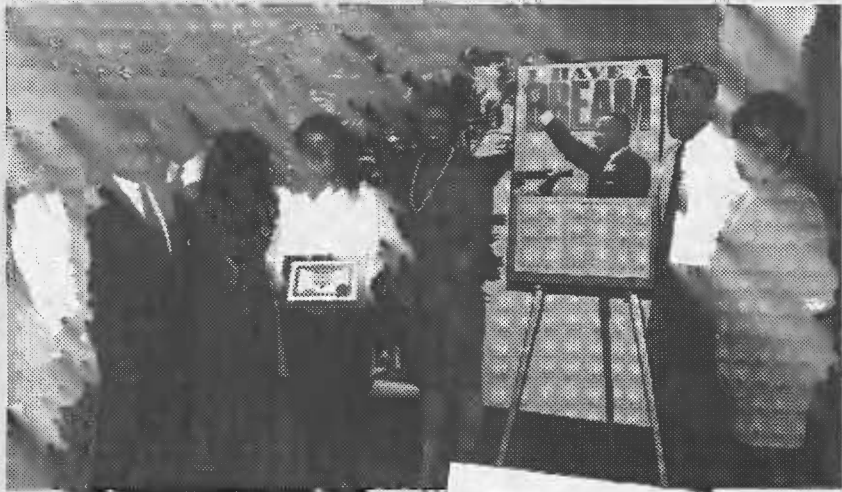
INSIDE *m o v e s*

Recognition continued from page 2

"Martina Moore is the most thoughtful person in our department," wrote Ronda Lathion of her co-worker in the Real Estate Department. "She's never too busy to assist you or answer questions. She goes beyond the call of duty — always remembering birthdays and bringing us treats. She's the backbone of not only Property Management, but the entire Real Estate staff!"

1992'S 1ST AWARDEE HAS THAT "CAN DO ATTITUDE"

"Nobody has done so much in the limited time they've been here," said Jose Mesa, Director of Staff Development about Diane Horton, Training Coordinator in Human Resources. On the job for just two months, she has single-handedly planned, organized and monitored a training program for employees. "She does everything from the planning to setting up the room and registration. I wanted to acknowledge her hard work in career guidance and skill assessment," said Jose. ■



Diane Horton, Training Coordinator, presided over a group who sponsored BLACK HISTORY MONTH events in February, including a presentation to essay contest winner Christina Fandino of Vettermine Jefferson High School in Burbank for her thoughts on what Martin Luther King's work meant to her. Pictured here at the Martin Luther King Day luncheon are Dilva Andrews, David Beaubien, Raynard Price, Horton, Christina Fandino, Gwen Williams, Vincent Greene, and Claudette Moody. A lunchtime film series celebrating African Americans in cinema was presented, as well as two homemade soul food luncheons.



1992 ADDITIONS — Pictured here at a new employee orientation session in early February are Gil Saldana, RCC Public Affairs Officer; Sarah Fox, RCC Public Affairs Administrative Assistant; Sandy Green Langston, Senior Human Resources Analyst; Stacy Yamato, RCC Public Affairs Officer; Ronda M. Lathion, Real Estate Administrative Assistant; and Alan Nakagawa, A-R-T Public Affairs Officer.



PERSONAL BEST COLUMN

LACTC/RCC employees are "movers and shakers." Here's what some of the leading experts in their fields are doing:

SUDHIR AGRAWAL, P.E., RCC Facility Manager addressed 120 professionals of the American Society of Heating Refrigeration and Air conditioning. He described the Metro Rail underground ventilation system via air flow schematic, sequence of operation and control diagrams.

VICTOR MENDEZ, Risk Management Administrative Analyst was elected to the 1992 Board of Directors of the American Association of Hispanic Certified Public Accountants, Southern California Chapter.

The Association in a national organization comprised of financial management professionals from the government, public accounting and private sectors.

MIRIAM SIMMONS, Westside Area Team Public Affairs Manager led a task force consisting of **IMANI BROWN**, RCC External Affairs Administrative Assistant; **JOHN MACK**, Director of EEO & Contract Compliance; and **LES PORTER**, Deputy Executive Director. The group conducted an outreach panel discussion for the Crenshaw community on how DBEs can do business with us. It was co-sponsored by United Way and the Minority Business Development Association.

Several employees presented papers at the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board in Washington, D.C. in January:

RICH DEROCK, CTSA Program Administrator discussed "Paratransit Coordination Strategies for the '90's: The L.A. Experience";

CYNTHIA PANSING, Project Manager on the San Fernando Valley Area Team spoke on the "Feasibility Study for Providing Childcare at San Fernando Valley Commuter Rail Stations";

DAVID SOLOW, MetroLink Manager presented "Leading the Way to Greater Mobility: Commuter Rail in the West."

LAURA MCNAMARA, San Gabriel Valley Area Team Secretary completed her tenth speech for LACTC Toastmasters, making her eligible to receive the internationally

recognized Toastmasters "Competent ToastMaster" certification.

CLAYTON TINKHAM, Metrolink Signal Manager was a guest speaker for the Santa Fe Railroad Historical Society/ Santa Fe Modeler. He presented a slide program on steam locomotives and trains that he's photographed since 1954, and gave the group an update on Metrolink plans. ■

Please send news of your work-related or volunteer accomplishments to **INSIDE MOVES**, mail stop # 1600-1.



ORIENTATION SESSION welcomed **Valerie Bean**, Policy & Procedures Office Assistant; **Linda Pitt**, Accounts Payable Accounting Technician; **Barbara Jarvik**, Internal Audit Administrative Assistant; and **Affred Castillo**, Finance Department Office Assistant.



ON BOARD — **Sheila Denier**, Legal Administrative Assistant; and **Nancy McDonald**, RCC Contract Analyst are new faces in the building.

BENEFITS FEATURE

ARE WE REALLY READY FOR THE PERS WORKSHOP?

I think it's safe to say that we're a fairly "young" agency — for a majority of us, retirement seems far off into the future. But recently PERS invited us to attend one of their many scheduled workshops intended to educate members on how the PERS plan works. Looking for ways to inform I.M. readers about employee benefits, I signed up. So on a gray, rainy afternoon, I found myself sitting in the old State Building with about 10 others, who unlike myself were on the very verge of retiring. "Are you in the right room?," asked the moderator. I stammered out an "uuuuuhhhh" after scanning the group and explained that I was covering the meeting to report back to our employees what to expect from the workshops.

The PERS workshops are a result of a 50% reduction in staff at the state retirement office. Instead of one-on-one counseling sessions for soon-to-be retirees, the group meetings were established.

At the workshop, we each received a meaty packet of information, which was then dissected onto the yellowing wall by an overhead projector. Lots of numerical charts were involved — giving examples of ages combined with service years. Here's what I took notes on (while concentrating very hard on not drifting off into daydreams):

- Attend a workshop at least one year before your planned retirement.
- The minimum retirement age for most PERS members is 50 with five years of PERS "service credit" (years you've worked).
- The amount of your monthly allowance can be affected by three factors:

1. Your age. You'll receive extra percentage points quarterly during the golden ages of 50 to 63. At 63 you've maxed out on percentage points.
2. Your "service credits."
3. Your final compensation/highest average salary.

See PERS continued on next page

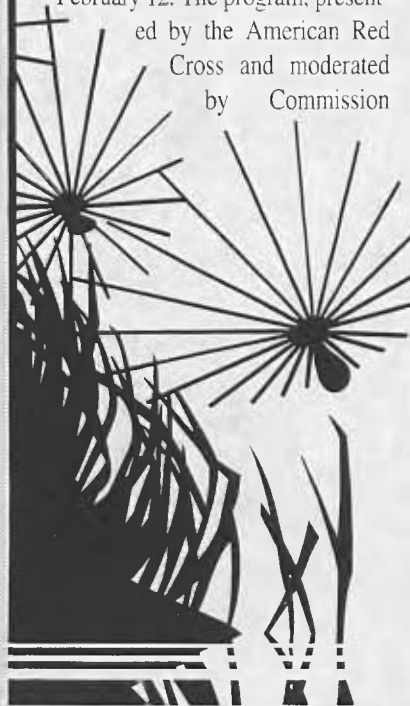
AIDS IN THE WORKPLACE PROGRAM A SUCCESS

LACTC's Human Resources department recently kicked off their 1992 series of Wellness programs by presenting "AIDS in the Workplace" on February 12. The program, presented by the American Red Cross and moderated by Commission

staff member Paul Self, covered various topics related to HIV and AIDS such as how the HIV virus is transmitted, safer sex, and legal and societal issues. It also addressed common workplace scenarios such as how to handle a workplace injury and how to treat a person with AIDS who returns to work.

The program's morning and afternoon sessions were well attended and several staff members said they were very impressed with the presentation, the manner in which the information was presented and its relevance. Special thanks are due to Paul Self, who played an integral role in initiating, designing and presenting the program.

For those of you who missed this informative and timely program, plans are in the works to repeat it at a later date. In the meantime, a variety of literature regarding HIV-related issues is available in the lunch room on the 10th floor or by calling Jane Matsumoto in Human Resources at ext. 6346. ■



INSIDE moves

M MILESTONES IN OUR HISTORY

1976

LACTC is one of four transportation commissions established by the state legislature in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

1980

LACTC places Proposition A on the ballot. The proposal calls for bus fare reductions, construction of a rail transit system, and other transit projects to be financed by a local half-cent sales tax.

1985

LACTC purchases 16 miles of Southern Pacific right-of-way at a cost of \$25 million for the Metro Blue Line.

In October, LACTC breaks ground for the Metro Blue Line at the site of the maintenance yard in North Long Beach.

1986

A \$492.2-million federal funding agreement for the first 4.4 miles of the Metro Red Line is signed by the Federal Transportation Administration, the City of LA, LACTC and the RTD.

Submit your history recollections to "INSIDE MOVES", mail stop 1600 - 1.

PERS continued from page 5

- If you ever leave the PERS plan and cashed out because you've moved on to a new job, you can buy back into the system at a later date if another employer subscribes to PERS. (One attendee said he did this and it was well worth the \$5,000 he paid to get back into the plan.)
- Ways to build larger benefits: Pick the best date to retire by calculating your quarterly percentage gains based on your birthday; work longer, especially if you're only in your fifties; save sick leave time; and look into temporary annuities.

The packet, with much more detailed information, is available to review before you decide to attend a workshop. Call ext. 6565 to make arrangements. On a final note, the State Building has a very reasonably priced cafeteria — but keep in mind that you get what you pay for. ■



ON BOARD are Frances Espinoza, Office Assistant who moves from intergovernmental affairs to RCC Public Affairs; Kendra Morries, CMP Transportation Analyst; Ava Jordan Gay, RCC Public Affairs Officer; and Irene Ulbrich, Transportation Analyst for the Southeast Area Tea.



Left—WELCOME to Kecia Maria Washington, State Affairs Public Affairs Officer in Intergovernmental Affairs.



Right—METROLINK marketer Peter Hidalgo is getting the word out to the public that commuter train service starts in October along three routes.



Film Reviews

by Claudine Moody

BUGSY - B

This is a big, splashy movie that has some good performances in it. Beatty hasn't been this effective since "Bonnie and Clyde." He played Seigel to the hilt, from the natty clothes to the plot to kill Mussolini. I really liked Ben Kingsley businessman-like portrayal of mobster Meyer Lansky: cold and calculated. Not great art, but an entertaining film.

PRINCE OF TIDES - C+

My best friend says the script for Prince of Tides is very faithful to the book. Maybe I would like the book better. Getting the cadence of "southern" dialogue down is an art and its not completely successful in this film. Nick Nolte's performance is very good (at least a B+), but Streisand should have cast someone else as the psychiatrist. And that music became increasingly annoying for me. It seemed to intrude on every scene. The two biggest criticisms raised about the film, though, are about the ethics of a psychiatrist sleeping with a quasi-patient and Streisand's fingernails. Ouch. Both things were loong.

SHINING THROUGH - D-

This overly melodramatic "love story" has little to do with the reality of World War II. I've seen more plausible stories on General Hospital. Douglas walked through his part and Griffith was a more believable secretary in the fantasy "Working Girl." Don't waste your time, don't waste your time.

FRIED GREEN TOMATOES - A-

Yes. Now this is how to write and speak and hear southern dialogue, y'all. Couple excellent, original writing with wonderful actors and you have a really fine movie. This film is fun, socially relevant, it holds interest, and you come away with a nice, warm feeling. Except for the popcorn, what else do you want from your film-going experience?

GRAND CANYON - B-

I love all the actors in this film so much, that it's hard to be objective. Nonetheless, actors or no, the movie is ultimately a bit of fluff. Lots of pop psychology in series of vignettes held together by modern-day

miracles. Its sort of like a good T.V. movie. I give it a B- because of the good acting, and the call spot for "Silverado," my favorite Lawrence Kasdan movie.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST - A+

Beautiful animation, beautiful and funny music, beautiful (and smart) heroine, hairy wast with a nice baritone voice. Enjoy with the whole family.

HOOK - C

Excuse me Spielberg schmaltz on a sound stage. Hook and Ryan's accent, though.

FATHER OF THE BRIDE - C

Wedding is expensive and its hard to let go of your grown children. Yeah, so what. Spencer Tracy's version is better. ■

GOOD WORD OF MOUTH, BUT YET UNSEEN

"I Don't Buy Kisses Anymore"

"Mississippi Masala"

"Medicine Man"

"Radio Flyer"



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR**

DODGER DAY!

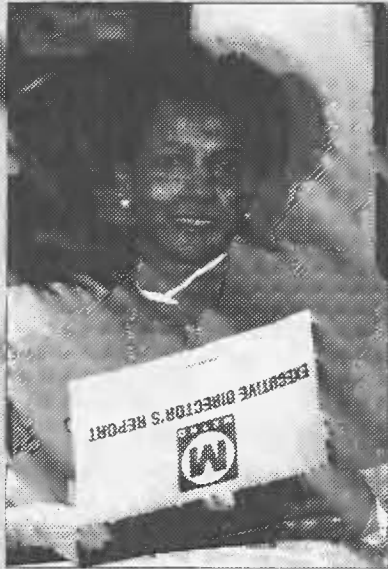
*Los Angeles Dodgers vs.
San Francisco Giants*

APRIL 6, 1992 1:05 p.m.



WELCOME to Metro! From left: MetroLink Program Manager; Cosette Polena, CMP Transportation Analyst; and Nancy Wheeler, Program Manager in Capital Planning & Programming.





MARKETING MASTERMIND Alice Wiggins joins the SST staff as Deputy Director of Communications.

FUN CLUB ANNOUNCES MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Fun Club's annual membership drive began with a healthy kick-off by outgoing Fun Club President Bob Minahan at the January General Staff meeting. Nine lucky employees won prizes for signing up: Steve Finnegan, David Mieger, Pam Murano, John Sohn, Pat McLaughlin, Sonya Lynch, Cindy Kondo, Jerry Kiper and Tom Carmichael.

The annual dues are \$20 if paid in full; \$24 if paid through payroll deduction. Fun Club members are entitled to a range of bargains, discounts and advance purchases on Fun Club activities and sales, including events like Dodger games, potluck parties and sports activities. Members also

receive discounts to the annual holiday party.

"Fun Club activities provide staff with an opportunity to get to know one another in a relaxed, non-work setting and to meet other Commission employees," said Deidre Heitman, Fun Club Committee Member. "Our motto is 'Leading the Way to Greater Frivolity!'" ■

To join the group, call Cindy Yasuda at ext. 6809.

Editor's Note — Name spellings and job titles are referenced in the official LACTC/RCC telephone directory. Please don't be offended if there is an error. The directory is currently undergoing an update. Send your corrections in writing to Carol Schiumo at mail stop #1804-1.

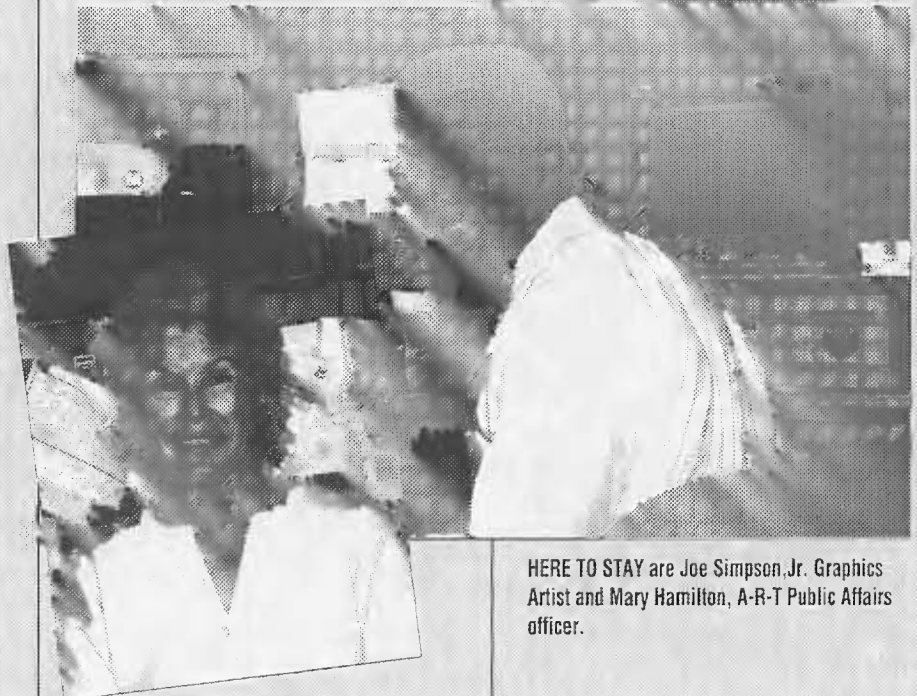
INSIDE m o v e s

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Inside Moves welcomes your ideas and guest articles. Call ext. 6565 for information.



HERE TO STAY are Joe Simpson, Jr. Graphics Artist and Mary Hamilton, A-R-T Public Affairs officer.

