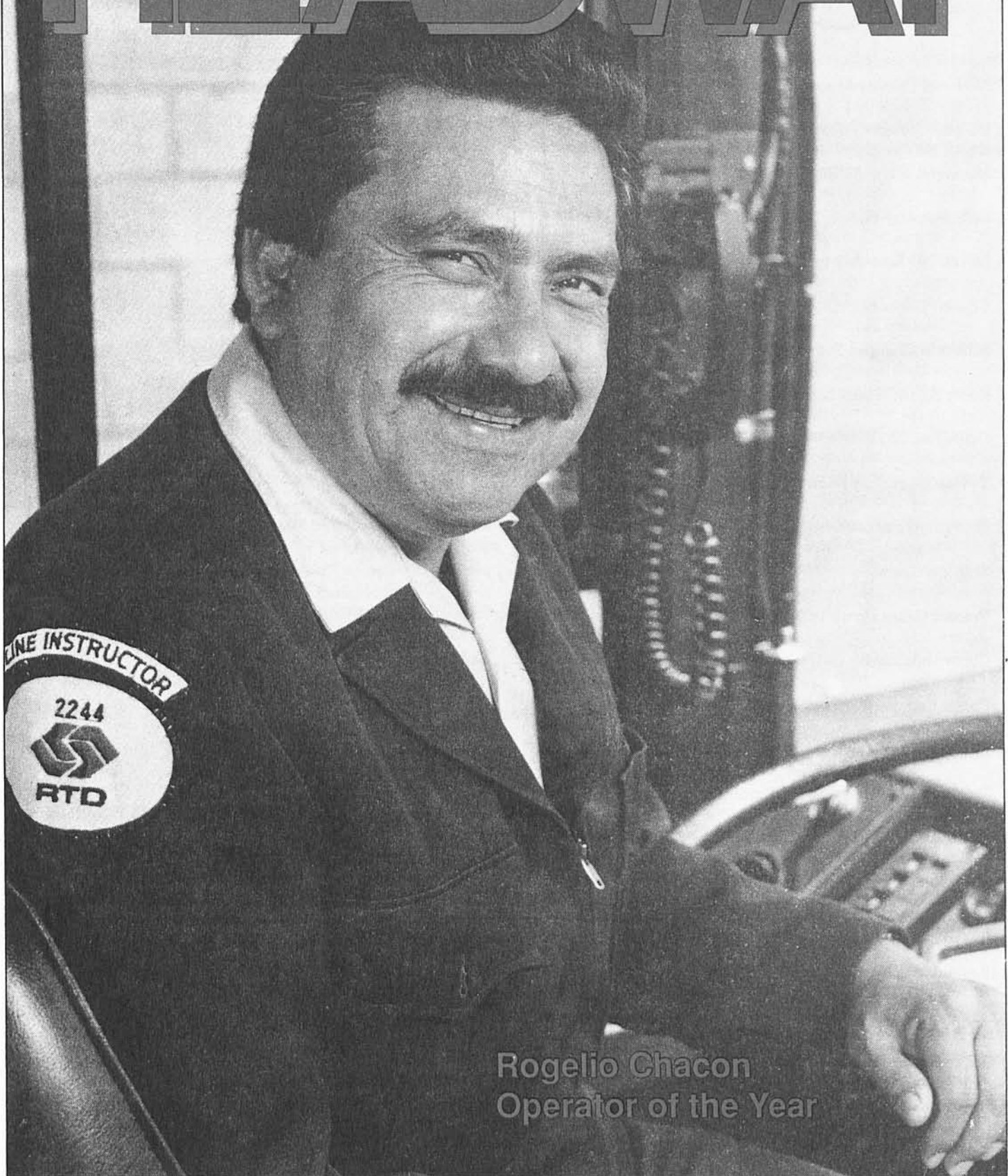


# HEADWAY



Rogelio Chacon  
Operator of the Year

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## GM Orders Audits of Metro Rail Project

General Manager Alan Pegg in his report to the RTD Board of Directors at their bi-weekly meeting rebuked auditors for the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General's Office for releasing such information to state legislators that the Metro Rail Project was behind schedule and over budget.

Apparently, the federal auditors met with Assemblyman Richard Katz and State Sen. Alan Robbins and discussed their audit findings with no prior consultation with RTD staff.

"I consider such an approach extremely unprofessional conduct," said Pegg. The audit is still in its preliminary stages. The findings will be included in a report that will be filed with the Urban Mass Transportation Administration this fall.

Pegg has ordered an independent audit of the Metro Rail Project. From his own preliminary review, he has acknowledged what appear to be disturbing cost trends. While half of the \$1.25 billion allocated for Phase 1 has been spent, Pegg asserted that much of the money spent has been used to purchase land and that most Angelenos are acutely aware of escalating land costs in the region. To date the purchase of real estate alone has put the RTD \$19 million over budget. Additional cost overruns might be explained by front-loading expenses like planning and materials. Delays on the project were caused by soil contamination and underground barriers that slowed progress.

Pegg said the independent audit will reassess projections of the overall cost of the project and determine what District costs will be to resolve over 750 unsettled contractors' claims and contract change orders valued at \$49.7 million. He noted that claims have usually been settled for less than the full amount and that some are withdrawn completely.

"The project costs review will help determine if it will be necessary to use money from the contingency fund," he said. The fund is currently valued at \$23 million. Pegg told the Board he expects the independent auditors' findings to agree with District findings.



*General Manager Alan Pegg reports to RTD Board on measures taken to assess the Metro Rail Project's costs and schedule for completion.*

# A Salute to Customers and Employees on National Transit Appreciation Day

May 17 was National Transit Appreciation Day, and RTD observed the occasion by thanking its customers and by reporting major improvements in its service operations.

The American Public Transit Association (APTA) established the special day as part of National Transportation Week, May 14-20, to focus attention on public transit employees nationwide who daily provide safe, efficient, and courteous service to their communities.

"We at RTD recognize that without its faithful customers, the District would not exist," said RTD President Gordana Swanson. "As we honor those who spend their careers in the public transportation industry, we simultaneously salute our riders who we

strive to serve to the best of our ability."

Swanson cited several major factors that demonstrate RTD employees' continued commitment to quality service is paying off:

- A dramatic drop in the number of employees testing positive for drugs. Three years ago, 20 percent of those employees tested for drugs tested positive; in January of 1989, the figure had fallen to 1.8 percent.

"RTD employees have shown a new commitment to ridding the workplace of drug and alcohol abuse," Mrs. Swanson said.

- In two years, RTD employee absenteeism has fallen 23 percent, saving the District an estimated \$6.5 million a year.

- Customer complaints are down 32 percent from last year. "This figure is

especially significant, because it shows that our customers are noticing the improvements," Mrs. Swanson said.

- The percentage of bus runs cancelled each day because of mechanical or other problems was reduced from 1.65 percent a year ago to only .04 percent. There also has been a 2 percent reduction in the number of buses that leave late from a division.

- Operating costs have dropped by \$4.5 million as a result of fine-tuning of schedules and reduction of duplicative service hours.

"Individual employees continue to set examples, not only for the communities they serve but for each other," Mrs. Swanson said. "We make a point of recognizing and rewarding those employees who perform

above and beyond the call of duty."

For instance, **Rogelio Chacon** was named 1988's Operator of the Year for his exemplary safety and service record.

More than 40 area kids look up to Division 3 Operator **Lou Trammell**, who teaches them the martial art of jujitsu with money out of his own pocket.

Mechanic **Jaime Serratos'** innovative suggestion on how to rebuild bus engine starters more efficiently saves the District about \$600,000 annually.

"It is this level of dedication that has helped us keep RTD one of the best transportation bargains around," Mrs. Swanson said.

## FY 1990 Budget Totals \$1 Billion

More bus service is called for in the General Manager's \$574.3 operating budget for the fiscal year beginning this month, announced Alan Pegg.

The budget included \$12.9 million in start-up costs for the Metro Blue Line. The overall budget also called for a \$568.3 million capital budget.

The budgets, amounting to over \$1 billion, were submitted to a full committee meeting of the RTD

Board of Directors and was adopted at a subsequent meeting.

The District's FY 1990 budget reflects a 14 percent increase over last year's and calls for improving the quality of District services through reorganizing departments, purchasing new buses, over-hauling old ones, and improving maintenance and anti-vandalism programs.

A total of \$461.7 million of the capital budget is

allocated to the Metro Red Line for building phase one and initial support for planning and design of the second phase of the project.

The budget provides for an increase in service levels by adding 75 buses during peak and off-peak periods to help alleviate overcrowding. This added service will be accomplished without requiring an increase in fares, and includes 25 buses to be added under the Los Angeles Pride program

jointly sponsored with the City of Los Angeles.

The boost in the capital budget, to \$568.3 million from \$438.2 million in FY 1989, is due principally to anticipated increased Metro Red Line activities.

The budget calls for the District sustaining a full-time work force of 8,650, as well as 250 youth workers to assist with graffiti removal under the Los Angeles Pride program. The first of nearly

*continued on page 7...*



*The new methanol-fueled bus.*

## METHANOL- POWERED BUSES ROLL

RTD Board President Gordana Swanson, celebrating the District's 25th anniversary, joined Senator Pete Wilson and Congressman Glenn Anderson May 22 to unveil the first of 30 new methanol-powered buses placed into service this summer.

An international symbol, designed by RTD, also was revealed to be used in identifying vehicles using methanol as a fuel. It utilizes a white cross, a plus sign, and spokes of a wheel within a circle to denote good health, a positive future, and locomotion, which are the expected benefits of methanol.

"RTD is proud to be a leader in the field of testing alternative fuels as a viable way of improving air quality. Fewer than a dozen

*President Gordana Swanson kicked off the 25th anniversary of the RTD by unveiling the first 15 of 30 new methanol-powered buses. She was joined by Sen. Pete Wilson, Councilman Marvin Braude, former Board Director and Star Trek star George Takei, among others.*





Observing the District's 25 years of service to the community were Sen. Pete Wilson, left, President Gordana Swanson, center, and General Manager Alan Pegg. Senator Wilson was presented a symbolic key to the methanol fleet in appreciation of his continued support of public transportation and clean air.

*News cameramen search for the exhaust emissions of the new methanol bus. Methanol is a flammable liquid, generally used as a fuel or solvent. Methanol has no color and is clear like water. While methanol has a faint alcohol odor, it is toxic and cannot be made nonpoisonous.*



transit properties in the world have experimented with methanol as a clean-burning alternative to diesel," said President Swanson.

The 30 methanol-powered buses represent the largest single fleet of buses in the world fueled by methanol, she noted. RTD's fleet will double the number of methanol buses in the United States.

The entire fleet of methanol buses, which arrived in early June, are deployed in regular local and express service and compared with diesel buses to gauge fuel efficiency, reliability, and emissions. Their arrival signaled the beginning of a two-year test of the buses as part of a \$1.87 million federally funded demonstration project.

*Fewer than a dozen transit properties in the world have experimented with methanol as a clean-burning alternative to diesel.*

RTD is also constructing an emissions testing facility at the CMF, designed to test diesel, methanol, and other alternative fueled buses.

The testing facility, scheduled for operation by mid-1990 is funded by the California Air Resources Board and the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) at a cost of \$2.3 million. It will become the second facility of its kind in the nation.

The buses are built by Transportation Manufacturing Corporation (TMC) of Roswell, New Mexico and cost a total of \$4,920,000 or \$164,000 each. The methanol engines, the first-ever engines designed and built to run on methanol, are manufactured by Detroit Diesel.

The new buses are standard 40-foot coaches with seating for 43 persons and are equipped with a lift for disabled patrons.

Other features include air conditioning, stainless steel construction, tinted windows, new large, easy-to-read electronic headsigns, and are equipped with plastic-fabric, vandalism-resistant seating, anti-graffiti interior and exterior paint.

General Manager Alan Pegg commented: "If the methanol buses prove safe, economical and less pollutant producing, we are hopeful this new technology can be applied throughout the transit and trucking industry."

# First Subway Tunnel Breaks through Civic Center Station

by Greg Davy, News Bureau Representative

The shiny teeth of a huge tunnel digger chewed through the 80-foot wall of RTD's future Metro Red Line Civic Center subway station the morning of May 5, marking the completion of the first of twin tunnels connecting Union Station with 1st and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles.

The breakthrough culminated five months of excavation through about 3,400 feet of earth by a joint venture of contractors Tutor-Saliba and S.J. Groves and Sons. The digging machine now will be pulled through the station to begin tunneling toward the future station at Fifth and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles.

"All of the planning and sweating that goes into tunnel building is worthwhile when you see something like this happen," said Assistant General Manager for Transit Systems Development Bill Rhine. "Seeing the wall of dirt give way to a tunnel gives all of us a very special feeling of accomplishment."

The tunnel is the first to break through from one station to another in the first 4.4-mile segment of the Red Line subway now under construction beneath downtown Los Angeles. When completed in late 1993, there will be five stations starting at Union

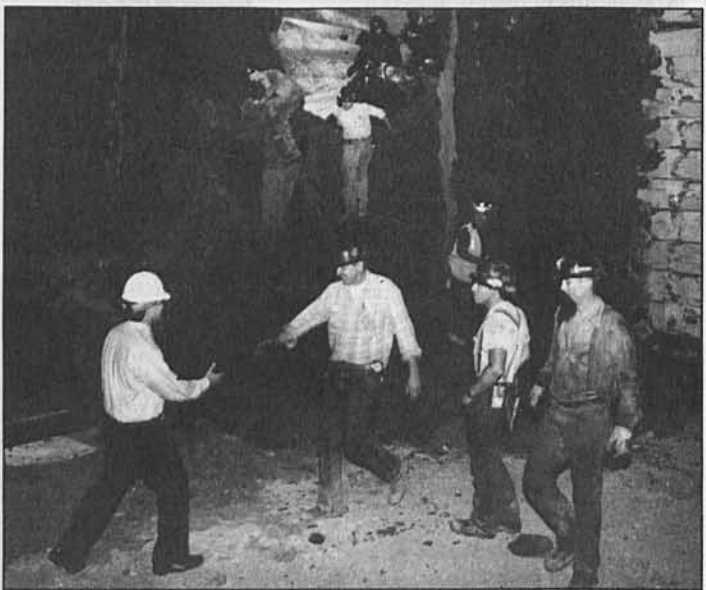
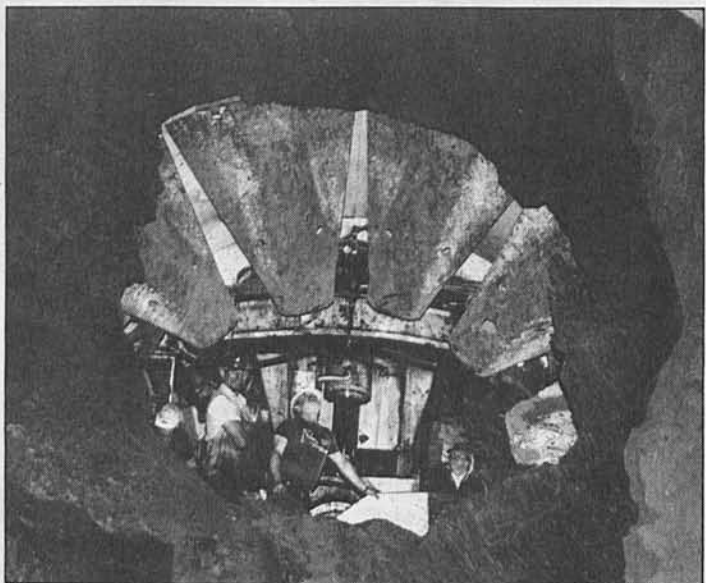
Station to the east and terminating at Wilshire and Alvarado Streets to the west.

The cost of the project is estimated to be \$1.25 billion. The route for Phase 2 of the Red Line has been finalized, and a full funding package is expected later this year. When completed, Phase 2 will continue west to Wilshire and Western Avenue, and north at Wilshire and Vermont through Hollywood and into the San Fernando Valley.

*Top right: The first connection between two stations was achieved when the huge custom-made tunnel digger poked its gleaming dirt scoop through the north wall of the RTD Metro Red Line's future Civic Center station at 1st and Hill Streets in downtown Los Angeles.*

*Center: Workers who have spent the last six months tunneling through about 3,400 feet of earth inspect the first jagged opening they created May 5 by breaking through the wall of the future Civic Center Station.*

*Bottom right: Contractor Ron Tutor, left, congratulates tunnelers moments after the tunnel digger they were operating broke through the wall of the Civic Center Station.*



## Metro Red Line Safety Record Nets a Refund

The Metro Red Line subway project, in mid-May, received a check for almost \$850,000 in refunded insurance premiums and had its current policy value doubled to meet greater insurance needs for no additional cost.

In granting the refund, the District Insurance Administrators, a joint venture of three firms, cited an outstanding RTD construction safety record

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*"The District Insurance Administrators... cited an outstanding RTD construction safety record..."*

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that has resulted in no insurance losses under the excess liability coverage for the project since it began in 1986.

The District also was able to renegotiate its current policy with Lloyd's of London to reflect \$100 million worth of coverage at no additional cost, up from \$50 million.

"Insurance coverage needs have increased to cover the ever-growing value of construction contracts, but because of our exemplary safety record, cost to the RTD will remain the same," said Assistant

General Manager for Transit Systems Development Bill Rhine.

"This refund is yet another acknowledgment of this project's outstanding safety record," Rhine added. "Everyone's efforts have resulted in more bang for the public's bucks."

Construction for the first phase of the project began in 1986. The downtown route will include five underground stations at an estimated cost of \$1.25 billion. It is expected to open for service in late 1993.

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### ...FY 1990

...continued from page 3  
200 workers also will be hired during the year to operate the Metro Blue Line which is set to go into operation in July of 1990.

Highlights from the FY 1990 budget:

- Maintain current District fare structure.
- Add 75 buses and 108,000 service hours.
- Lower bus operator ratio due to reduced absenteeism.
- Increase by 50 percent the number of buses repainted each fiscal year.
- Rehabilitate approximately 250 buses to extend service life and improve quality of service.
- Increase on-street bus supervision and operator training to further reduce accidents.
- Further develop and implement programs to

## Board Adopts New Bus Color Design

RTD buses will gradually take on a new look over the next four years as the familiar red, orange, and yellow stripes give way to two larger red and yellow stripes on an all-white background.

The Board of Directors unanimously approved the new design in an effort to lower the cost of repainting vandalized buses. The design eliminates the use of decals and utilizes paint which is more easily applied and removed.

"This change won't occur overnight," said Board President Gordana Swanson. "Our goal is not a quick fix, but a long-term money saving effort that will make it easier for us to keep our fleet clean of graffiti." The new plan also will allow repainting three instead of two buses a day.

The design will feature an all-white bus with two stripes of red and yellow. The RTD logo will remain unchanged.

mitigate graffiti and vandalism.

- Support regional air quality goals by initiating

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*"I believe this budget represents a sound financial plan for the District..."*

*—Alan Pegg*

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testing of alternative fuels.

- Increase telephone information service to reduce caller wait times.
- Reorganize departments to improve commu-

nity and political awareness of public transit.

- Procure new buses, including alternative fueled buses.

"I believe this budget represents a sound financial plan for the District to accomplish the diverse programs required in providing clean, reliable service, without a fare increase," said Pegg.

In the FY 1990 budget, passenger fares account for 39 percent of the District's revenue. The balance of revenues will come from Proposition A half-cent sales tax funds (22 percent), federal grants (9 percent), local funds including state sales taxes (26 percent), and other state and other sources (4 percent). District buses are expected to carry an estimated 413 million boarding passengers.

## RTD Promotes "25 Alive" Festival

This year the Los Angeles Music Center celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Coincidentally, so does the RTD.

The Music Center will commemorate the event with "25 Alive," a multicultural festival free to the public on July 15-16. Sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, the festival will offer entertainment, ethnic food booths, arts, and crafts. The RTD will join in on the festivities by running 300 king-size ads on buses that "25 lines Serve the Music Center."

The entertainment schedule for the festival follows. Saturday, July 15, 11:00-12:00 USC Jazz Band; 12:15-12:45 Heather Highlights Scottish Folk Dance Company; 1:00-2:00 The Music Center Cavalcade salute to the 25th Anniversary written and directed by Paul Gleason American Center for Music Theater; 2:15-2:45 Karpatok Hungarian Folk Ensemble; 3:00-4:00 The Platters; 4:15-4:45 Ballet Espanol de Los Angeles; and 5:00-6:00 Uncle Festive fusion rock band that plays with Barry Manilow

Sunday, July 16, 11:00-12:00 Free Flight classical fusion jazz group; 12:15-12:45 Danza Floricanto/USA; 1:00-2:00 The Music Center Cavalcade; 2:15-2:45 Kin-nara Taiko; 3:00-4:00 Big Daddy group specializing in the 50s; 4:15-4:45 Djimbe African Music and Dance Company; 5:00-6:00 Beverly Hills Unlisted Jazz Band.

## Chacon Takes Operator of the Year Title

Division 12 Operator Rogelio G. Chacon, a veteran of 10 years behind the wheel of an RTD bus and a consistently high finisher in the annual Bus Rodeo, was announced May 5 as the Operator of the Year for 1988.

Board President Gordana Swanson and Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey presented the 42-year-old father of three with a certificate of merit and a check for \$250 at the awards luncheon held at the New Otani Hotel in Little Tokyo.

"*...a sterling  
example of the kind of  
operator we try  
to put on every bus...*"

"Mr. Chacon is a sterling example of the kind of operator we try to put on every bus in our fleet," said Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey. "Not only has he achieved a nearly unblemished service record over 10 years, but he has demonstrated his bus driving prowess as well by being a finalist in four of the five Bus Rodeos he has participated in.

"We hope all our operators will look to Mr. Chacon as an example to emulate," Ms. Bailey said.

Chacon was selected from a field of 12 operators,



*Nominated operators, their wives, division managers, and departmental representatives were bused from headquarters to the awards luncheon.*

each named operator of the month during 1988. Taking the honor propels Chacon to the height of the District's top bus operator for the year.

Chacon has missed only two days of work because of illness since joining the District in September, 1978. He has received the maximum number of merits awarded to an operator with an outstanding performance and safety record, and has received numerous letters of commendation from his division manager and the public. He works with management as a line instructor and is a member of the joint labor-management committee.

He and his wife, Lourdes, and their three children live in Pico Rivera. Chacon is an avid baseball fan and enjoys playing classical guitar. Mrs. Chacon, as well as all of the wives of the runners-up,



*Board President Gordana Swanson presents a check for \$250 to Rogelio Chacon in the care of his wife Lourdes.*

accompanied her husband to the awards luncheon.

The nominated operators included Gabriel Garcia, Gary E. Gaines, Jack Bailey, Alberto Gomez, Herman Koenekamp, Carl Winston, Dainton Urso, Thurmon Green, Joseph R. White, Thomas E. Vaughn, and Jose A. Aguirre, Jr.

*continued on page 9...*



## ...Chacon

...continued from page 8



Laden down with plaques and trophy, Operator of the Year Chacon poses with, from left to right: Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey, Chacon, and Board President Gordana Swanson.



Finalists for the Operator of the Year award flank the winner in the center. They include, from left to right: Division 15 Operator Dainton Urso, Division 12 Operator Jose A. Aguirre, Jr., Division 5 Operator Thurmon Green, Division 3 Operator Joseph R. White, Division 5 Operator Gary E. Gaines, Division 12 Operator of the Year Rogelio Chacon, Division 12 Operator Jack Bailey, Division 6 Operator Thomas E. Vaughn, Division 16 Operator Herman Koenekamp, Division 5 Operator Carl Winston, and Division 9 Operator Gabriel Garcia.

## Schedule Changes Began in June

Effective June 25, the District made major route and schedule changes on seven bus lines and put into place minor schedule changes on 51 other lines.

"Many of these service and schedule changes will provide added bus service to reduce passenger overcrowding and enhance service reliability," said General Manager Alan Pegg.

Part of the bus service enhancement was funded with \$827,700 in reimbursements from the County of Los Angeles under an agreement to relieve overcrowding.

Special summer service was also activated to Leo Carrillo Beach State Park and added service on lines to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm.

The changes included new accessible service on eight more RTD lines, increasing the total of the accessible fleet to 138.

RTD patrons traveling in West Hollywood, Hollywood, the mid-Wilshire District, and in the mid-cities region were most affected by the route and schedule changes.

Two lines serving downtown Los Angeles, Hollywood, and West Hollywood were merged, impacting 2,500 weekday boarding passengers.

The major schedule and route changes were:

Line 1 and Line 217 were combined to form a single route operating between the West Los Angeles Transit Center at

Washington Boulevard, Fairfax Avenue, and Apple Street, and downtown Los Angeles.

"This change allows the RTD to provide more frequent and direct service between the Fairfax District and Hollywood," said Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey. "It also allows the operation of new all-night service on Fairfax between Santa Monica Boulevard and San Vicente Boulevard at Olympic Boulevard."

Line 434 service has been extended to Leo Carrillo Beach State Park from Trancas Canyon for the rest of the summer season.

Line 426 in North Hollywood now serves a new Park 'n' Ride lot on Oxnard Street.

Line 108's (in Southeast Los Angeles) weekday service has been increased to every 20 minutes instead of 60 between Eastern Avenue in the City of Commerce to Paramount Boulevard in Pico Rivera.

Line 270 weekend service has been extended from Whittier to Santa Fe Springs.

Line 460 to Disneyland and Knott's Berry Farm has increased service daily during the summer to accommodate patrons traveling to the theme parks.

Service to the disabled has been expanded with accessible buses now assigned to the following lines: 1-217, 200, 358, 418, 426, 429, and 436.

# Roger Smith Heads Equal Employment Opportunity

Roger Smith, 42, was appointed the manager of the RTD's Equal Employment Opportunity section on March 21.

Smith sees to it that the District makes full use of all its human resources. In practical terms, this means monitoring an Affirmative Action program in order to overcome the effects of past discrimination against minorities and women, and processing complaints regarding employment discrimination. "In the past, companies did not get the full benefit of their employees like women or minorities because of preconceived notions. Equal Employment Opportunity allows a means for employees to fulfill their greatest potential," said Smith. Regarding Affirmative Action programs, Smith noted that there was a time when women were thought to be unable to compete as mechanics so they were systematically excluded from such positions. "Affirmative Action makes an effort to recruit and provide a greater applicant flow. Affirmative Action generates a greater pool of qualified applicants," he said.

Previous to his position at the RTD, Smith was employed as the Manager of Personnel Relations for Hughes Aircraft; and most recently was a prime contractor of spare parts to the military.

A native of Freeport, Illinois, Smith received his bachelor's in political science and a masters in public administration-fiscal administration from Northern Illinois University.

Smith's personal mission at the RTD is to let the organization know that the Equal Employment Opportunity's goal and purpose is to be a catalyst for greater utilization of talent, skill, and innovations to the organization; to provide some career paths,

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*"In the past, companies did not get the full benefit of their employees."*

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and advice and counsel. "In the past our role has been to respond to complaints. Now, our role is to minimize complaints by reviewing practices and procedures that are in opposition to equal employment opportunity, and providing an environment for openness."

Smith believes that the psychological environment can either breed complaints or nip them in the grumbling stage. "Many complaints start off as gripes, perhaps unrelated to the RTD. We need to create an

atmosphere of openness before they fester into complaints."

Smith maintains that private industry has had less of a problem implementing Equal Employment Opportunity because they saw it as a good business—it was reflected in their bottom line.

With an eye on the future and a backwards look to the past, Smith surveys the dramatically changing workforce. "By the year 2000 half of our workforce will be composed of women. In order to accommodate them and minorities we must develop community outreach programs in order to develop homegrown talent so that we may operate our increasingly sophisticated transportation system. We can't keep hiring people away from the CTA and other systems." This means if there are no minority contractors or engineers, the District must begin to support the development of such workers in the community. Many private sector corporations participate in such projects like the MESA program, whereby they scout students early in junior high school or high school who are particularly gifted in mathematics, science, art, etc. These students are supported and guided through college. Once trained they are hired into the company as a contributing member. "RTD and the LACTC should be



*Manager of Equal Employment Opportunity Roger Smith.*

the most aggressive organizations in developing talent through our schools and community-based programs in order to train persons for our system. Over the long run we will change our workforce."

Presently, Equal Employment Opportunity representatives are visiting the divisions listening to employees, gathering opinions and suggestions as well as informing employees of the function of the department. "We hope to be the lightning rods. By that I mean I hope we can be the department who will take information from employees and do something with it. Equal Employment Opportunity will not be what it has been in the past, merely a watchdog of numbers and a processor of complaints," Smith said.

Smith lives with his wife in Inglewood. They have four children; their son is a senior at the U. S Air Force Academy, one daughter is a sophomore at Cal State-Stanislaus, one daughter graduated from Inglewood High School this June, and the youngest daughter is a ninth grader.

# "Operation Lift" Promotes Accessible Service

In an effort to increase sensitivity to wheelchair patrons, the Transportation Department began a month-long program in mid-May to promote accessible service.

The program kicked off with a slogan contest. The winning slogans were put on buttons and posters as a method to increase awareness at the divisions. The slogans chosen included:

"Accessibility is everyone's responsibility"—submitted by David Woods.

"Give a gift, use your lift"—submitted by Joe Singleton.

"Reach out and lift

someone"—submitted by Eddie Hill.

"Your health is a gift, give others a lift"—submitted by Michael Ball.

The authors of the winning slogans were taken to lunch by Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey and the Assistant Directors Ralph Wilson and Leo Bevon.

Divisions, the Central Instruction Section, the Vehicle Operations Supervision Section, and the Radio Dispatch Center were encouraged to participate in any form they chose.

The division or section

which puts forth the best effort and enthusiasm to carry out the spirit and intent of Operation Lift will receive a special trophy for its efforts. And, the division showing the biggest increase in the number of successful wheelchair boardings during the month will receive a special award of recognition. The division had not been named at press time.

Ms. Bailey noted that accessible service is an important part of the Department's responsibility. "If we are to fulfill that responsibility, it is important for everyone to partici-

pate in encouraging the operators to provide the service cheerfully and courteously," she said. Buttons and posters promoting accessible service have been distributed to all the divisions. Ms. Bailey requested that Transportation personnel go beyond simply displaying the posters and wearing a button and use creativity and talents to heighten the awareness and sensitivity of operators as to the importance of accessible service.

## ORIGINAL CREATIONS

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# TO GET THERE YOU NEED A STOP FIRST

Anyone with fairly decent vision in Greater Los Angeles and wherever RTD buses travel see them everyday. While waiting for the bus you may lean against them. If you're an adolescent you may even try testing your strength against them. What they are, are the bus stop signs you see in bus zones all over Southern California. Property Maintainer Fred Hernandez, who spends most of his time putting up the posts and signs says most people have no idea how the sign gets there.

*There are  
well over  
20,000 bus  
stops in  
the RTD  
service area.*

"They think they just sprout up like a plant." Using Hernandez' metaphor, the Stops and Zones Section will tell you how their "Johnny Appleseeds" plant all the bus signs over the RTD service area.

"I guess to District employees and the public, it is as if they appear magically," said Stops and Zones Maintenance Supervisor

John Lowrie. The fact is, each day the section's property maintainers head out in all directions to install the different signs and prepare the bus zone. "Sometimes many hundreds have to be done in a short period of time," said Lowrie.

Stops and Zones is a section of the Facilities Maintenance Department which was created as a separate unit in 1970. Its section includes the Silk Screen Shop, 13 Stops and Zones Property Maintainers, and a contingent of 7 roving janitors that service restrooms and trash receptacles at layover locations and terminals. The property maintainers include Leadman Joaquin Pinela, Property Maintainers A Jess Morales, Ramon Gutierrez, Richard Harris, Fred Hernandez, Ray Staten, Ray Kelley, Cliff Huckaby, Russell Sampson, Dennis Reeve, Enrique Ponce, Warren Moore, and Frank Grdanc. The Roving Janitors are comprised of Leadman Curtis Johnson, Lauryne Braithwaite, Samuel Johnson, Steve Stroble, Grant White, Rudolph McNeese, and Nita Rufus.

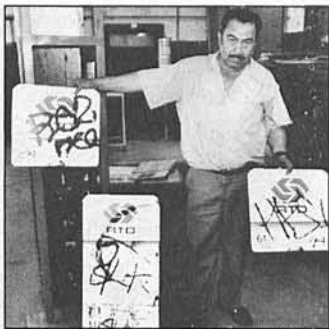
To begin the process, Stops and Zones has their signs made at South Park. Blank sign forms are purchased and decals are made in the Silk Screen Shop.

When the section receives the blank signs, they affix reflective decals to



**Top right:** The Stops and Zones Crew. Front row, from left to right: Grant White, Raymond Kelley, Curtis Johnson, Ramon Gutierrez, Nita Rufus, Fred Hernandez, Frank Grdanc, and Enrique Ponce. Back row, from left to right: Steve Stroble, Russell Sampson, Sam Johnson, Joaquin Pinela, Dennis Reeve, Rudolph McNeese, Ray Staten, Jess Morales, and Richard Harris. Not pictured are Warren Moore, Lauryne Braithwaite, and Cliff Huckaby.

**Bottom right:** Leadman Property Maintainer Joaquin Pinela prepares bus stop signs for the work crews that will install them the next day. Pinela has the highest seniority in his section; he has worked for the District for 30 years. In that time he has raised his seven children who include Rosa, a graduate of USC; Carlos, a graduate of Yale University; Eva, a graduate of USC; Ida, a graduate of Loyola Marymount; Joaquin, Jr., a graduate of Los Angeles Trade Tech; Catalina, who graduated from FIDM this year; and Lupe, a sophomore at UC Berkeley.



**Top left:** Pinela shows a few of the many signs vandalized by graffiti that had to be replaced.

**Center left:** Property Maintainers Warren Moore, left, and Fred Hernandez, prepare the ground for a bus stop sign post.

**Bottom left:** Using a jackhammer, Moore drives the metal sleeve which will support the post in the ground.

the sign which indicate the "reading," that is, the line number, destination, and a handicapped symbol if it is an accessible line. Stops and Zones also makes signs and maintains bus stops for other transit agencies under special contract, such as Foothill Transit, LADOT, Computer Express, and Community Connection. In areas where the District's service area overlaps jurisdictions with other carriers any special maintenance work done by the RTD will be billed to the benefited agency. For instance, Santa Monica, Culver City, or Torrance lines may intersect with RTD's. When RTD maintains the bus stop, RTD proration the cost to the other transit agencies.

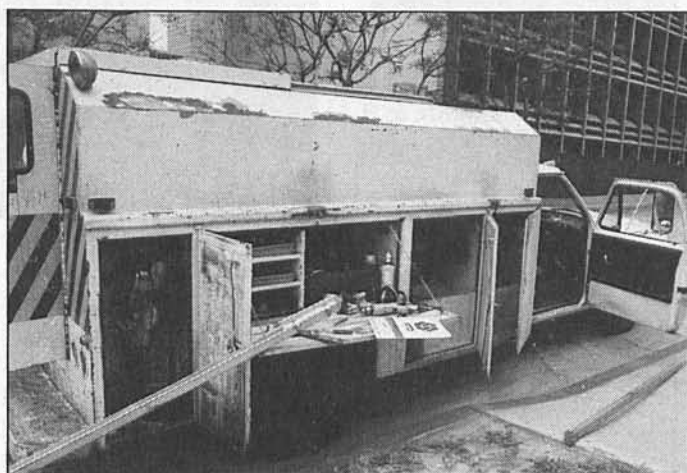
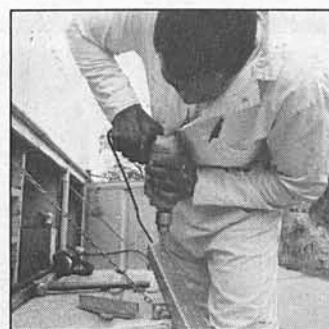
There are well over 20,000 bus stops in the RTD service area. Each reading is logged in a Stops and Zones computer. If a sign is destroyed, all the section needs is the location and their computer tells them what lines stop there, and what hardware is to be used at the site.

Stops and Zones Property Maintainers begin each day picking up their daily work orders for signs that need replacing due to age, vandalism, or auto accidents. Their heaviest season is around shake-up time when service changes take effect. "During the December 1988 service changes we put up 623 signs and attached information hoods on to other signs," said Stops and Zones Manager Pete Serdienis. "At shake-ups things become very labor intensive. You can't put up new signs too early prior to the effective date, it

confuses our patrons. So, in order to avoid this we have a very narrow time frame in which to complete all the work," said Serdienis.

In 1988 alone, replacement and new signage amounted to installation of 3,631 new signs. "That means going out to locations as far away as Buena Park or Thousand Oaks. On any given day our crews could be headed anywhere," said Lowrie.

The property maintainers install the new bus stop signage which was adopted by the Board of Directors in 1984 to replace the old triangles that carried no specific information on



them. Each sign is mounted on an eight-foot post unless it has wings, that is, an additional sign is side-mounted, then it must be attached to a ten-foot pole. If any signs are mounted too low they might become a hazard.

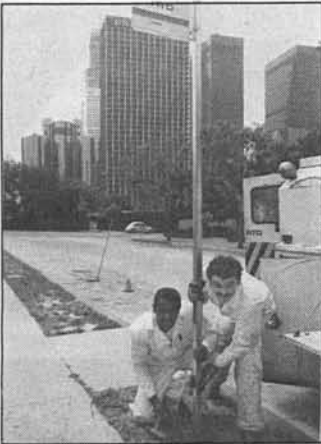
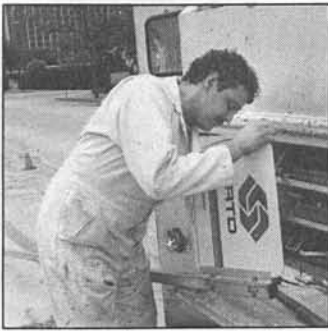
Sign installation occurs year-round in all kinds of weather, in every conceivable neighborhood, and with or without "sidewalk supervisors." Once at the site, the property maintain-

**Top right:** Using the pull-down shelf of his truck, Moore drills fastener holes in the sign post.

**Center right:** Hernandez drills the sign to be installed.

**Bottom right:** The property maintainer's portable office.

*continued on page 14...*



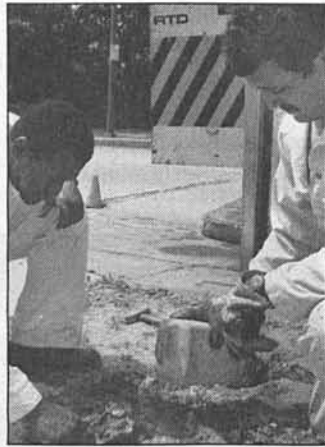
**Top left:** The sign is mounted.

**Center left:** Moore and Hernandez raise and insert the readied sign.

**Center right:** To anchor the sign post they mix up some cement to be poured at the base.

**Bottom left:** After the cement is poured, Hernandez tamps the earth for a final finish.

*"When it rains it makes cement mixing easier and faster."*



ers use a gas-powered jackhammer that drives a steel sleeve through the cement or earth. The pole is inserted in that sleeve. For safety reasons, the poles currently used are a breakaway type. They snap off easily if hit by a car or a vehicle so it does little damage. Before the post is inserted, the sign or signs are mounted. The property maintainers use their truck as a combination storage bin, work bench, and power generator. Once hoisted, the sign post is anchored by cement that is poured by the property maintainers. The job is polished off by a new coat of red paint to the curb and the stenciling of the words that are anathema to cheap parkers: "No Stop-



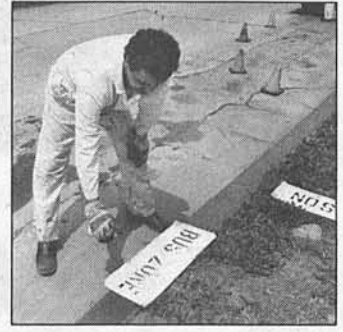
ping" and "Bus Zone."

Most property maintainers have been at their work for years and each has his share of war stories. Richard Harris and Fred Hernandez remember looking up from painting the curb to see a young boy walking down the street with a handgun. They called the police but the boy had already shot someone by the time the police arrived. Other property maintainers recall the many times they have been threatened by merchants or passers-by

**Property maintainers**

**recall being threatened by merchants or passers-by who did not want the bus stop.**

who did not happen to want the bus stop where the workers were placing it. Most of the Stops and Zones crews are fairly philosophical about negative reactions. Angry crowds or rainy weather doesn't seem to interfere much with a successful installation. Ever the optimist, Fred Hernandez said: "When it rains it makes cement mixing easier and faster."



**Top left:** After sign installing comes painting. Moore swabs the curb with the familiar fire-engine red paint of the bus zone. Stops and Zones uses over 3,500 gallons of red paint a year.

**Top right:** Hernandez stencils in the lettering for "Bus Zone."

**Bottom right:** Voila! Now you've got a bus zone.



*Above: Stops and Zones Maintenance Supervisors Tom Kelso, second from the left, and John Lowrie, far right, note a job well done.*

## Collection Taken for Employee

A collection is being taken to benefit CMF Mechanic A Don Pillow, who within the last eight months has lost four members of his family. In October his eight-year-old daughter died of leukemia. In December his sister-in-law and her husband were killed in an auto accident, and, in June, Pillow's wife passed away. All donations may be sent to Shop Stewards Roy Kawahara or Tom Lujan at the CMF. For more information call the stewards at 972-5767.

## Schedule Changes

**Aispuro, Jose L.**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.  
**Albertson, Gary L.**, from Mechanic A to Warranty & Equipment Mechanic.  
**Baez, Christopher**, from Truck Driver/Clerk to Stock Clerk.  
**Banks, David E.**, from Mechanic A to Warranty & Equipment Mechanic.  
**Barron, Eric P.**, from Bus Operator Full-time to Rail Track Inspector.  
**Bellaflor, Glenn S.**, from Senior Auditor to Audit Manager.  
**Carlos, Arturo**, from Transit Police Officer Trainee to Transit Police Officer.  
**Chapman, Susan**, from Cartographer to Layout Supervisor.  
**Dale, Dora R.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Damian, George**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**Dedeaux, Carol F.**, from Planning Assistant to Planner.  
**Desentis, John I.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**Dickason, D.G.**, from Mechanic A to Warranty & Equipment Mechanic.  
**Fitzhugh, Sandra A.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.  
**Gandhi, Ajay**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Garcia, Jim N.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.  
**Gonzalez, Manuel**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**Gresham, Denver L.**, from

Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**Grinie, Gloria A.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Gunasekera, Shan**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Hale, Sean J.**, from Property Maintenance B to Property Maintenance A.  
**Heedley, Paricia A.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Herrera, Frank G.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**La, Hue T.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.  
**Lee, Elberta**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.  
**Leon, Clotilde**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.  
**Leyva, Benjamin E.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.  
**Lopez, Luis H.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.  
**Kalantarians, Arminh**, from Planning Assistant to Planner.  
**Karbowski, George**, from Mechanic A to Warranty & Equipment Mechanic.  
**Krumme, James L.**, from Truck Driver/Clerk to Storekeeper.  
**Marquez, Anthony**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.  
**McDaniel, Ellis R.**, from Mechanic A to Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.

*continued on page 16...*

**Bailey, John W.**, began with the District on May 31, 1989, retired as a Bus Operator on January 18, 1989.

**Kelley, E. F.**, began with the District on March 6, 1946, retired as a Mechanic A on April 24, 1989.

**Harders, Allen L.**, began with the District on April 16, 1989, retired as a Bus Operator on April 30, 1989.

**Nelson, Frank R.**, began with the District on March 31, 1975, retired as a Building & Grounds Maintenance Supervisor on May 2, 1989.

**Reynolds, James Y.**, began

with the District on October 27, 1989, retired as an Equipment Maintenance Supervisor on April 29, 1989.

**Schimmel, L. E.**, began with the District on April 20, 1973, retired as a Schedule Checker on April 30, 1989.

**Stonefield, Robert**, began with the District on April 11, 1966, retired as a Schedule Checker on April 28, 1989.

**Weckbacher, Ronald W.**, began with the District on September 28, 1959, retired as a Bus Operator on April 30, 1989.

## ...Schedule Changes

...continued from page 15

**Newman, Jeffrey D.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

**Pachan, James D.**, from Mechanic A to Equipment Maintenance Supervisor.

**Pena, Tomas**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.

**Perez, Fernando**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.

**Petty, Beverly A.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

**Porter, Harvey**, from Mechanic A to Warranty & Equipment Mechanic.

**Rankin, Arthur**, from Mechanic A to Mechanic A Leader.

**Rosas, Juan D.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

**Salas, Rafael M.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

**Sambolich, Cynthia L.**, from Transit Police Officer Trainee to Transit Police Officer.

**Sanchez, Rodolfo G.**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

**Silva, Rudy K.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Singh, Sarabjit**, from Bus Operator Trainee Full-time to Bus Operator Full-time.

**Tai, Kuo-Shih**, from Bus Operator Part-time to Bus Operator Trainee Full-time.

**Taylor, Rickie E.**, from Bus Operator Full-time to Electronic Communications Technician.

**Walsh, John H.**, from Mechanic C to Mechanic B.

**Umel, Proceso D.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.

**Valdez, Jerry A.**, from Mechanic B to Mechanic A.

**Walls, Daniel A.**, from Bus Operator Trainee Part-time to Bus Operator Part-time.

## Transit Police Honor Officers



*Transit Police Sergeant Robert Lewis is presented the coveted Officer of the Year for 1988 award. Presenting the award to Sergeant Lewis were, from left to right: RTD Board Director Charles Storing, Sergeant Lewis, Chief Ernie Munoz, and Sheriff's Department Commander Bill Stonich.*

The Transit Police Department honored officers of the quarter, of the year, and its civilian employees at a ceremony held at Salvatore's Restaurant in East Los Angeles on May 3.

Assisting Acting Transit Police Chief Ernie Munoz with the presentations were RTD Board Director Charles Storing and Bill Stonich of the City of Industry Sheriff's Department.

The Officer of the Year award was given to Sergeant Robert Lewis. Sergeant Lewis, a native of Memphis, Tennessee, joined the Air Force in 1975 where he became a security police officer. After an honorable discharge from the service, he attended Minot State College in North Dakota and majored in Criminal Justice. Joining the District in 1981, Lewis is currently assigned to Patrol. In 1988, Lewis

was named officer of the quarter. His long-term goal is be promoted to Transit Police Chief.

### *The Officer of the Year*

*Award was*

*given to*

*Sergeant*

*Robert Lewis*

Officer James Willis was named Officer of the Quarter for the third quarter. Willis drove a bus for the District for 14 years before becoming a police officer. He graduated from Rio Hondo Police Academy

*continued on page 17...*





Officers of the Quarter included Transit Police Officer James Willis and Security Guard II Isagani Saguin. Presenting them with their plaques were, from left to right: Director Charles Storing, Isagani Saguin, James Willis, Chief Ernie Munoz, and Bill Stonich.



Tacho Puente was selected as the Security Guard of the Year. Presenting him his award were, from left to right: Director Storing, Tacho Puente, Chief Ernie Munoz, and Bill Stonich.



Staff Aide Rick Banaag was named the Transit Police Civilian Employee of the Year. He was presented his honor by, from left to right: Director Storing, Rick Banaag, Chief Ernie Munoz, and Bill Stonich.

...continued from page 16

in 1982, where from approximately 100 cadets he was selected as the class commander. He also served as the vice-president of his graduating class.

Officer Willis has received numerous commendations for his exceptional work in an undercover capacity. He is currently working in the Investigations Section of the Revenue Protection Team.

He is active in the California National Guard where he is now being considered for the position of Command Sergeant Major, the highest rank bestowed on an enlisted person in the military.

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**"Tacho" Puente  
was named  
Security Guard  
of the Year.**

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Security Guard II Anastacio "Tacho" Puente was named the Security Guard of the Year. Tacho has been married to his wife, Julie, for 36 years. Previous to working with the RTD, Tacho was a truck driver, and Reserve Deputy with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. Tacho currently works as a Security Guard at the headquarters building.

He has been with the District for 14 years and loves his work. He enjoys swimming, running, and walking. Every year he participates with St. Paul's

High School in their annual "Walk for Hunger," a 26-mile marathon walk from East Los Angeles to Santa Monica Beach, with proceeds going to the homeless.

He loves children and sponsors orphan children at the Los Ninos de Monterey Orphanage in Mexico.

Security Guard II Isagani Saguin was chosen the Security Guard of the Quarter for the third quarter. Saguin formerly served with the Manila Police Department in the Philippines for 14 years. He has been with the District for five years. In 1983, he received a commendation from Assistant Treasurer Robert Miller for foiling an attempted theft of District moneys at the Central Cash Counting Office.

Presently, he is an active member of the SCRTD Filipino Association, the Filipino Association of Los Angeles, and Manila's Finest of Los Angeles.

His hobbies include reading books like the California Peace Officers Legal Sourcebook, collecting stamps, playing chess, swimming, fishing, and other outdoor sports.

Staff Aide Rick Banaag was awarded the honor of Transit Police Civilian of the Year. He began with the District in 1983. He is now in charge of evidence control records, subpoenas, equipment, and a variety of special projects including budget preparation for the department. He was awarded Employee of the Quarter in 1986.

He is presently at work learning microcomputer software programs and their applications to the Transit Police Department.

# COMMENDATIONS



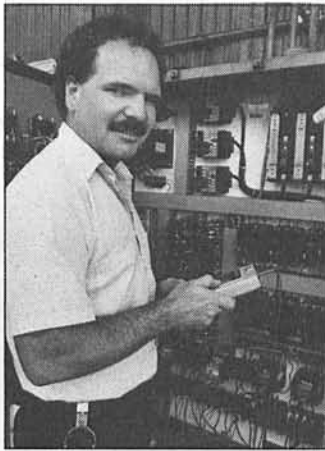
*RTD Retirees were recognized at the May 11 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented plaques by RTD Board Director Jeff Jenkins. Front row, from left to right: Electronic Maintenance Supervisor I Robert Harrington, Electronic Maintenance Supervisor I Mike Mockler, Electronic Communications Technician Leader Alejandro Bigno, Division 9 Operator John T. Poulos, and Division 3 Maintenance Manager Raul F. Rodriguez. Division 9 Transportation Manager Don Karlson stands to the far right. Back row, from left to right: Assistant General Manager for Equipment and Facilities John Richeson, General Manager Alan Pegg, Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey, and Director Jenkins.*



*RTD Retirees were recognized at the May 11 Board of Directors' Meeting and were presented with plaques by Director Jeff Jenkins. Front row, from left to right: Division 4 Mechanic A Bill Small, Division 5 Operator Clarence J. Taylor, and Division 3 Utility A Andrew J. Anderson. Division 3 Maintenance Manager Pat Orr stands at the far right. Back row, from left to right: Assistant General Manager for Equipment and Facilities John Richeson, General Manager Alan Pegg, Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey, and Director Jenkins*



*Division 9 Transportation Manager Don Karlson and Division 18 Transportation Manager A.J. Taylor accepted the third quarter for 1989 Target Line program award on behalf of the operators at their respective division for their achievements in fleet safety and accident reduction on target lines 268 and 207 from January 1, 1989 through March 31, 1989. Front row, from left to right: Don Karlson and A.J. Taylor. Back row, from left to right: RTD President Gordan Swanson, General Manager Alan Pegg, and Director of Transportation Leilia Bailey.*



*Electrician Luis Perez was selected the Facilities Maintenance Employee of the Month for April. Mr. Perez has worked more than six years for the District, serving it with honor and distinction. He has worked as a Service Attendant and Electrician's Helper prior to promoting to his current position. His knowledge, sincerity, dedication, and attention to detail have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. He has served as temporary Leadman and his leadership has been outstanding. He is equally qualified in the areas of construction, maintenance, and troubleshooting. He maintains an admirable attendance record and his attitude has been and remains superior.*



*The Accounts Payable Department recognized employees who had achieved perfect attendance in the second quarter (October-December 1988). Those employees included, from left to right: Tito Noval, Willa James, Frank Camacho, Fe Dalida, and Tom Formoso.*



*Administrative Analyst Sharon Axibal was selected as Employee of the Quarter for the third quarter by the Accounts Payable Department. She is currently serving as the Acting Accounts Payable Supervisor. During the quarter, she distinguished herself as a competent troubleshooter resolving many problems involving District vendors. She also participated in the successful installation of the latest version of McCormack & Dodge's accounts payable system. Sharon is a highly valued employee who is known for lending her dynamic energy to every task she accepts.*



*The Accounts Payable Department recognized employees who had achieved perfect attendance in the third quarter (January-March 1989). Those employees included Neil Ginsberg, Ric Hilario, Shila Azbi, and Phyllis Fairly. Pictured from left to right are: Ric Hilario and Phyllis Fairly.*

*continued on page 20...*

# COMMENDATIONS



...continued from page 19



The RTD Marketing Department was presented with the sought-after golden LULU award for excellence by the Los Angeles Advertising Woman. Specifically, the award was given for the Raiders Anti-Vandalism public service announcement seen on most RTD buses and billboards. The Los Angeles Advertising Women, an organization that has been in existence for 75 years, continues each year to honor creative excellence in advertising. Those receiving the honors included, from left to right: Copywriter Chris Conkling of Pool/Sarraille Advertising, Marketing Representative Sherri Wagner-Fernando, Promotions Manager Alice Wiggins, and Marketing and Communications Director Tony Fortuno.



Director of Personnel Gayel Pitchford and Assistant Director of Personnel Alvin Rice were recognized by the Employment Development Department (EDD) for the number of veterans the RTD has employed. Each year the the EDD nominates one small employer (under 200 employees), one large employer, and one public agency for their efforts to hire veterans. Each EDD office makes these nominations for state-wide award. Mr. Manuel Almeida, Veterans Representative at the El Monte EDD Office made the local award to Ms. Pitchford. The El Monte office has nominated RTD as Employer of the Year. During 1988, over 120 veterans were hired by the District. Presenting the award to the RTD's Gayel Pitchford and Alvin Rice were from left to right: El Monte Mayor Don McMillan, Gayel Pitchford, Manuel Almeida of the EDD, and Alvin Rice.

The Transit Systems Development's Program Control Department chose Graphics Artist Sun Son as the Employee of the Quarter. Son has been with the District for six years. His supervisors commend him for his consistent performance above and beyond the limits of his responsibilities. His internal motivation and initiative have enabled him to expand the capacity of his position. He has taught himself many complex graphic software programs and applied them to the benefit of the District. In addition, he is most thoughtful of his fellow workers by seeking to lighten their loads with morale-raising slogans, his artwork, and by giving generously of his time. Presenting him his plaque was (far left) Program Control Projects Manager Michelle Caldwell, Sun Son, and Program Control Director Jeff Christiansen.





*The Public Liability/Property Damage Unit of the Risk Management Department was awarded the distinction of Unit of the Quarter in recognition of their role in working with the District's claim administrator, Hertz Claims Management, in reducing our current inventory of open liability claims to the lowest figure it has been over four years. From left to right, Claims Manager Nancy Eksterowicz, Nita Welch, Nelly Gil, Jackie Hill, Vinton Singer, and Norma Alvarez.*



*The award for Employee of the Quarter was tied by Jon Vandercook and Barbara Lorenzo. Jon was commended for his assistance in the budget process, capital call, the move back to headquarters, and continous accident investigation. Barbara was recognized for her reliability and professional conduct in the Workers' Compensation Unit.*



*Special recognition certificates were awarded to members of the Risk Management Department for outstanding performance during the quarter. These employees included, from left to right: Phillip Thomas, Nelly Gil, Vinton Singer, Lydia Garcia, and Nita Welch.*



*Certificates of Merit were presented to the April Employees of the Month at the May 25 Board of Directors' Meeting by RTD Director Larry Gonzalez. Those employees included Division 18 Mechanic A Leadman Lawrence Morris and Division 12 Operator Albert Johnson. From left to right: Board President Gordana Swanson, Lawrence Morris, Albert Johnson, and Division 12 Transportation Manager Eugene Hamilton. Back row, from left to right: Division 18 Maintenance Manager Max Martinez, Director Gonzalez, and General Manager Alan Pegg.*

# C PUBLIC COMMENDATIONS



## Thanks for a Job Well Done!

### Division 3201

Lazo, Jacinto G.  
Rios, Richard  
Wallace, Juanita G.

### Division 3203

Lee, Tat Y.

### Division 3205

Dodson, Marva L.  
Green, Thurman A.  
Hooks, Deborah A.  
Jackson, Sidney C.  
Williams, Germaine T.

### Division 3206

Houze, Casaundra R.  
Shephard, Lucious R.

### Division 3207

Jones, Mingo  
Schultz, Herman R.  
Williams, Stephanie A.

### Division 3208

Brown, Clarence G.  
Epperson, Milton H.  
Kushner, Steven  
Reed, Michael G.  
Yurko, Charles

### Division 3209

Green, Sherman  
Jones, Curtis J.  
Ortega, Ruben  
Perez, Richard J.  
Poke, Charles R.  
Trejo, Roberto

### Division 3212

Cordero, Francisco R.  
Ferrell, Robert  
Gibson, Darrell R.  
Kennedy, Bertha E.

### Division 3215

Blanco, Marcial

Coatsworth, G. A.  
Flores, Lucy A.  
Gutierrez, Robert  
Martinez, Jose E.  
Sheldon, Arthur A.

### Division 3216

Pegues, Miciaiah

### Division 3218

Carpenter, Leroy  
Cote, Laurent E.  
Criner, Malcolm E.  
Hayes, Hubert W.  
Land, Jimmie  
Mitchell, Janet D.  
Neal, Emery L.  
Taylor, Mervin M.

## RTD Customer Relations

Dear Mr. Tom Horne:

I thought the RTD's idea of having a week to honor its bus operators was an excellent one.

In line with that idea, I would like to talk about one of your outstanding operators, Robert Trejo.

Mr. Trejo was one of the recipients of the RTD's Riders' Choice awards. This is an indication of his popularity with his riders. Mr. Trejo is first and foremost an extremely safe driver and intensely loyal to the RTD.

He seldom takes time off and helps out with extra work when asked. He is a line instructor and wears the Outstanding Operator badge for 1987.

Recently, Mr. Trejo went to work just thirty minutes after having a tooth extracted WITHOUT

anesthesia and in spite of excruciating pain, drove his route for the final four hours. If there is a commendation for loyalty and responsibility, this act certainly deserves it.

He gives generously of his free time to help any of his fellow employees who ask.

Mr. Trejo has also taken his personal time to go to schools to help out students who were in need.

Mr. Trejo has an infectious smile and good humor. People who ride his bus get off feeling better than when they boarded it. He treats all female passengers as ladies and the men as gentlemen, and expects them to act as such.

He says "hello and goodbye" to all riders and his special brand of friendliness makes each one feel special.

He is, of course, courteous and helpful.

Mr. Trejo is so well liked by his riders that some of them actually get ANGRY when he leaves their bus line to go to another. He receives personal gifts not just at Christmas time, but also throughout the year.

Mr. Trejo is a young man who has decisive plans for his future beyond retirement from the RTD. He is always an optimist, but a practical one. When problems arise, he immediately sets about to find solutions to the same.

Sincerely yours,  
Arlene C. Stumpf

Dear Mr. Horne:

I would like to commend Robert Gutierrez' consideration for the elderly riding his route.

Of all the various bus lines I have ridden, this driver was the one who consistently turned around and requested young people (occupying the side seats in the front of the bus) to please give their seats to frail/elderly riders—and move to the rear where there were seats.

It would certainly be a small blessing if more drivers would follow this one man's example of showing people how to be courteous, thoughtful, to people not as able-bodied as they once were. Our movies, T.V., even schools, and parents, don't seem to be teaching courtesy and respect anymore. This man does his small bit. Good for him.

Very truly yours,  
Mrs. Leah Reuben

From: The Passengers  
of Line 444  
To: Passenger Services  
Department  
Re: Francisco Cordero

We ride Francisco's bus home almost every day. He arrives at the stop at the same time every day (except when the buses he is given to drive are not in proper working order). He is always cheerful and enthusiastic and recognizes us as regular passengers. If one of us is not at the stop, he looks up and down the street to make sure he is not leaving someone behind.

Recently, when he was a little late because his bus

*continued on page 23...*

...continued from page 22

would not start, he saw that many of the regular riders were not at the stop. He knows that there is a 443 that is scheduled a little behind his 444 and that some of us catch that bus if the 444 is late. He also knows that taking the 443 means that we have to transfer to a Torrance bus to continue further south on Hawthorne past Artesia. Francisco managed to catch up with the 443 at the Manchester stop on the Harbor Freeway, and he signaled the driver and waited while all of the regular 444 passengers transferred to his bus.

Francisco always adds this special touch to his driving. He tells us that it is just part of the job, but we think it is extra effort on his part. His consistency, friendliness, and good driving make him a happy ending for our work day.

Please express our appreciation to Francisco's supervisor.

Sincerely,  
The Passengers of  
Line 444

To whom it may concern:

The lady that drives my line is very nice, courteous, and very gentle with people. She really knows her job. Her name is Marva Dodson. So I hope if there is a promotion available that she gets it, because she deserves every bit of it. I wouldn't want to ride with any other driver. I'm giving her the praise she really needs.

Thank you,  
Ms. Doris Rucker

## IN MEMORIAM

**Adams, Urey V.**, began with the District on July 10, 1947 as a Division 2 Operator, passed away on October 3, 1988.

**Barron, Oscar**, began with the District on December 11, 1946 as a South Park Mechanic A, passed away on August 27, 1988.

**Bayerle, Nicholas C.**, began with the District on June 14, 1935 as a Division 8 Operator, passed away on September 11, 1988.

**Dionne, Napoleon J.**, began with the District on October 2, 1945 as a Division 12 Operator, passed away on October 21, 1988.

**Erkert, Theodore B.**, began with the District on August 25, 1933 as a South Park Mechanic A, passed away on November 27, 1988.

**Glines, Marie**, began with the District on February 16, 1951 as a Division 12 Operator, passed away on October 25, 1988.

**Green, Edmond C.**, began with the District on November 28, 1953 as an Operator, passed away on March 16, 1989.

**Hamilton, Ralph D.**, began with the District on December 4, 1953 as an Operator, passed away on September 11, 1988.

**Harley, Frank M.**, began with the District on Novem-

ber 28, 1945 as a Division 9 Operator, passed away on January 20, 1989.

**Harrell, Walter B.**, began with the District on September 10, 1935 as a Division 10 Operator, passed away on September 22, 1989.

**Heaton, Robert L.**, began with the District on November 15, 1940 as a Division 11 Operator, passed away on October 26, 1988.

**Holcomb, Carl E.**, began with the District on November 25, 1934 as a Division 3 Operator, passed away on September 27, 1988.

**Myers, Louis L.**, began with the District on June 3, 1937 as a Department 3399 Foreman I, passed away on April 16, 1989.

**Omahundro, Horace T.**, began with the District on April 6, 1959 as a Division 9 Operator, passed away on April 21, 1989.

**Osborne, William T.**, began with the District on December 29, 1944 as a Flagman, passed away on April 16, 1989.

**Sampson, John W.**, began with the District on March 18, 1942 as a Division 9 Operator, passed away on October 11, 1988.

**Whitney, Harold E.**, began with the District on May 27, 1943 as an Assistant Supervisor in the Print Shop, passed away October 26, 1988.



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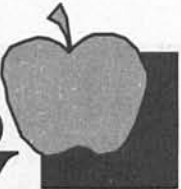
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# TO YOUR HEALTH

## Avoid the Summer Flu

Summer's high temperatures create the ideal breeding ground for the invisible bacteria that can contaminate food and make you go from well to wretched within a few hours. Says Mark Kantor, nutritionist with The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, "The higher the reading on the thermometer, the more quickly food poisoning bacteria can multiply."

And typically, the more bacteria that you ingest, the sicker you will be. Explains Kantor: "Usually, a little bit of bacteria will make you a little bit sick. And a whole lot of bacteria will make you a whole lot sick."

Ironically, few of food poisoning's 2 million yearly victims know what hit them. Not only are the bacteria microscopic—they are also typically odorless and tasteless, too.

"A lot of people think that if food doesn't make you go 'yuck,' it can't hurt you," says Kantor. "Wrong. Very wrong!" Some strains of bacteria such as the rare *Clostridium botulinum* can actually kill you. Fortunately, however, most cases of food poisoning result only in flu-like symptoms, including fever, headaches, and diarrhea—the body's

primary means of flushing out toxic bacteria.

In fact, because a typical case of food poisoning so closely mimics the flu, many victims never guess the true cause of their illness. "Each of us probably suffers from food poisoning

---

*The higher the reading on the thermometer, the more quickly food poisoning bacteria can multiply.*

---

dozens of times during our lives, but we pass it off as the flu or a 24-hour virus," says Kantor.

How can you reduce the odds? As the mercury rises this summer, follow these rules:

- At the store, buy perishable products last.

Immediately store them in a refrigerator or portable ice chest that cools food to 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Never leave perishables in a hot car while you run other errands.

- Thaw food in your refrigerator. Never thaw meat and poultry on the kitchen counter. Bacteria can multiply dangerously in outer layers of food before inner layers are even thawed.

- Cook meat, fish, poultry, and eggs thoroughly. The danger of poisoning from salmonella bacteria, for example, is near zero if food is well cooked to an internal temperature of 160 degrees Fahrenheit. Cook hamburger patties, pork chops, ribs, until no longer pink; poultry until joints are no longer red; and fish until it flakes. A word of caution about rare steak: The taste may be wonderful, but, when improperly handled, it can be a dangerous haven for bacteria.

- Always wash your hands after handling raw meat or poultry and before handling other food. If you're away from a faucet and outside at the grill, use wet wipes.

- Don't reuse the utensils, plates, or bowls you used to handle raw meat or poultry. Avoid cross-contamination. The plate that you use to carry food back from the grill should never be the same one you used to carry food out. Also, use two separate cutting boards—one for raw meat and poultry and one for all other foods. Use a plastic cutting board for preparing meat. Avoid wooden boards, which are

porous and can trap food and bacteria in cracks.

- For a relaxed, worry-free picnic, keep perishable food in a cooler. This includes hamburgers, hot dogs, lunch meat, cooked chicken or beef, custard or cream pies, and any salads that contain eggs. Keep the cooler in the shade and keep its lid closed tight.

If you have any questions about food safety, either in the home or on a picnic, call the USDA's Meat and Poultry Hotline. The hotline's home economists can answer questions on safe handling and storage of meat and poultry, and how to read product labels. The hotline can be reached weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Eastern time. The number is 1-800-535-4555.

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## Thank You Note

I appreciate the wonderful time I had at Division 18. I'd like to thank all of you for the luncheon, it was an honor to have Mr. A.J. Taylor and his assistants along with the Maintenance Department in attendance. Thanks for the farewell party as well. Each of you are special to me and I enjoyed working with all of you. In a sense you showed me when working with each other we can all come together and love just like a family. Max Martinez always said we spend most of our time at work, in a sense, the job becomes your second family working together to get the job done.

*Thanks Gang!  
Gloria Mitchell*



# Cinco de Mayo

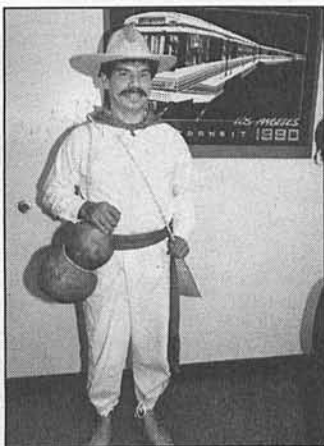
Close to 100 RTD Hispanic employees and their guests attended the first Committee of Concerned Hispanic Transit Employees' Cinco de Mayo celebration held at the USC Faculty Club.

DJ Jesse Castorena played the latest Salsa hits and kept most guests on the dance floor all night.

Besides sensational music, the evening offered antojitos and frequent drawings for door prizes. The atmosphere was most relaxing and allowed co-workers to mingle, chat, and socialize with Hispanic staff members from the Los Angeles County Transportation Commission.

Most departments were represented, and a few of the attendees included Marketing Director Tony Fortuno, Government Affairs Director Rebecca Barrantes, Community Relations Director Manny Hernandez, WBE Manager

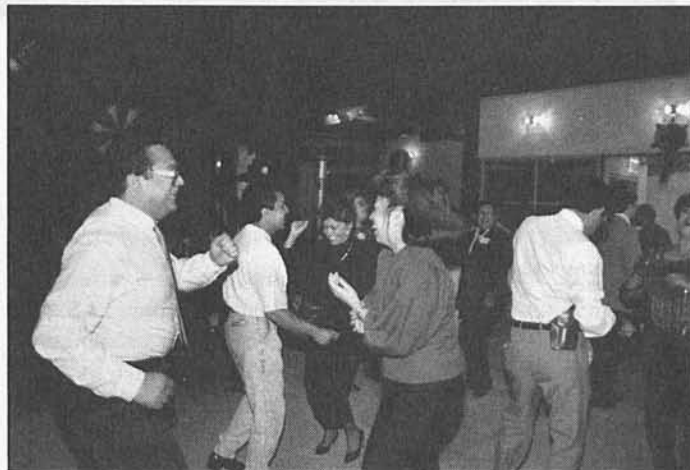
Angelica Martinez, Accessible Service Project Manager Teresa Moren, Labor Relations Analyst Ralph Carapia, and Facilities Maintenance Superintendent Anita Allen to name a few. RTD Board Director Larry Gonzalez came by to greet those in attendance



Cash Counting Clerk Jose Fuentes dresses appropriately for the Cinco de Mayo celebration.



A happy group posing for a picture. From left to right: Rebecca Flannigan, HUD; Jose Mesa, LACTC; RTD Director Larry Gonzalez; Carlos Hernandez, LACTC; Angelica Martinez, RTD DBE Manager; Lupe Valdez, LACTC; Natalie Hernandez, RTD; and Mario Casas, Irvine Police Department.



Jose Mesa and Lupe Valdez from LACTC enjoyed the music and dancing.

after making a short speech to the gathering.

The Committee of Concerned Hispanic Transit Employees is a relatively new organization formed to

offer Hispanics at the RTD support, socio-cultural activities, and community outreach and involvement. If you are interested in joining call 972-4905.



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# Making Tracks with H-O Rail

Retired TOS Randall Vaughn made his career in transit. As a retiree he still manages to devote a fair share of his day to transit. He isn't dispatching for Vehicle Operations anymore. No, in fact, he is the general manager of his own transportation property: an enormous collection of model trains and test track that he started amassing in 1945.

Back then Vaughn had a young family so he couldn't spend as much money as he would have wanted to on his train collection. "I was born in Chicago. And I've been train crazy since I was a kid. I can remember going down to the train station and getting the autographs of all the engineers on the famous lines like the St. Louis, New York Central, the Santa Fe Superchief," said Vaughn. As an adult he would enjoy riding all those lines ribbing the contiguous states.

It was the steam era that attracted him the most, the loud chugging of the pistons in the still of a Chicago night. "You could hear the train leaving the station...I don't know, I got the bug."

Vaughn collects model trains that are a standard H-O gauge. Sizes range from the size of live steamers like those in Griffith Park to eensy teeny miniatures treasured for their complex detail in so small an object.

Vaughn's cars are made of brass. He sends them to

an artist to be painted. He has paid as much as \$2,000 for a complete passenger train and as much as \$250 for one locomotive.

Vaughn owns eight complete model passenger



*Retiree Randall Vaughn admires one of the freight cars from his vast collection of model trains that occupy five shelves approximately twenty feet long.*

trains, which include the Southern Pacific, Pennsylvania, two New York Centrals, Union Pacific, two Amtraks, and the Santa Fe. These systems break down into 110 passenger cars, 65 freight cars, 19 steam locomotives, 62 diesel locomotives, and 1 electric locomotive. One of his passenger cars includes an old-fashioned dining car. And, if you look closely you can see two waiters in white jackets holding trays ready to serve the patrons sitting at the linen-covered tables.

"You need a lot of patience with this hobby. With some of this detailed

work you need a magnifying glass to complete it."

Vaughn says he has enough paints, parts, and supplies in his closet to open up his own hobby shop. "It's a continuing job, I'm always adding something.

"A lot of people make fun of us, grown men playing with toys. But, these aren't toys. These are prototypes of the real thing." Since he has ridden most of the railroad routes in the

locomotives set the wheel structure in a 4-6-6-4 configuration.

Vaughn's wife, Andrianna, currently an RTD employee in the Bus Facilities Department, shares his fascination with rail. "She likes to take the Coast Starlight to Santa Barbara or a trip to the rail museum in Sacramento," said Vaughn. Both attended the 50th anniversary of Union Station held this May.

"On the train you can see the seasons change as you head east from out west, you see the land, plus you get to meet people. It is just not the same on a plane," he said.

He is happy to see that railroad companies in the U.S. are increasing passenger service, complete with dining service that includes white linen tablecloths and silver. "Out west we have better service because the tunnels back east can't accommodate superliners or the high-level trains with large picture windows and sunroofs."

When he isn't occupied with his model trains or riding the real thing, Vaughn and his wife enjoy riding the live steamers at Griffith Park. Vaughn is a member of the Los Angeles Live Steamers. Once a year he and Andrianna go to Goleta to visit a ex-CEO from the TV industry who owns a mile of live steamers. They spend the day riding and admiring the craftwork of the trains.

Vaughn was with the RTD for 31 years. He retired as a radio dispatcher in 1988.

# Retiree's Corner

*Report from the Inland Empire RTD Retiree's Club*  
Dear Mary,

It has been some time since I have written to you but I am sure that you would like to know about the "Spring Festival" that was conducted by the Orange Empire Railway Museum on the 29th and 30th of April.

As you know, our retirees' group meets at the Museum in their Town Hall building, which also has a spacious kitchen, on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

To show our appreciation for this privilege some of our members graciously volunteered to help, as they

asked for 250 volunteers. Here are the names of our members that did and the jobs they performed:

**Kitchen-cooking and wrapping hot dogs:** Bill and Belva Hall, Bill and Agnes McGee, Phil and Marge Powers, Bonnie Forkner, and Violet Davis.

**Operating street cars:** Harold Davis

**Operating Hot Dog stand:** Al and Kay Altig

**Pop Corn Stand:** Donald Ross.

Some of us worked Saturday, some Sunday, some both days. To top it off you came through our kitchen and took some pictures of us at work, and some of the running equip-

ment loaded with beaming rail enthusiasts.

This was the first time that they have run any trains on the line from the Museum up to the railroad depot in the city of Perris since the abandonment of this former main line. They had two trains running on the line, one steam locomotive, and one diesel engine. They passed midway at a siding, and ran both days, as fast as they could load and unload. It was the largest attendance of a festival in the Museum's history, and we were proud to be a part of it, doing our share.

We were told that the paid attendance was in the

neighborhood of 8,500—Whoopie!—no wonder we cooked so many hot dogs!

Many of the members of our Inland Empire RTD Retirees Club that meets here every month are also proud members of the Museum and consider it a rare privilege to be able to come here every month and revisit the memorabilia that so many of us spent the best part of our lives on.

Just a little information that we thought you might use. We, Bill and Belva, are flying to St. Cloud, Minnesota to visit our son who is a Ph.D. professor at the Minnesota State University there. See you later.

*Bill Hall*

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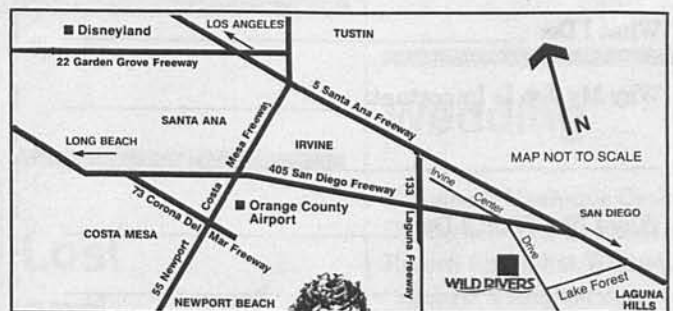
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# Behind the Scenes

*Editor's Note: This is the first of a series of features we hope to present each month. Those of you out there who have not been in the Headway and would like to appear, please fill out the form below and mail to Headway, RTD, 425 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90013. We will take a photo of you to go along with your story.*



Mary Katherine Morrow

**Name:** Mary Katherine Morrow, Division 5 Operator  
**Residence:** Los Angeles  
**What I do:** I am presently a full-time bus operator. I am

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Years at RTD: \_\_\_\_\_

What I Do: \_\_\_\_\_

Why My Job Is Important: \_\_\_\_\_

Why I like What I Do: \_\_\_\_\_

What My Supervisor Says About Me: \_\_\_\_\_

What I Do When I'm Not Working: \_\_\_\_\_

also a Personal Shopper and Fashion Consultant in full figured fashions. I offer fashions to fit your lifestyle, your budget, but most of all, you.

**Why my job is important:** Not only is it a job but a service that is used by thousands of passengers daily. Some situations out there call for me to act as a mother, sister, and friend to some, which gives me great pleasure.

**Some situations out there call for me to act as a mother, sister, and friend to some, which gives me great pleasure.**

**Why I like what I do:** I drive people all over the city who are from all walks of life and who are going different places. I sometimes feel I can see the whole world just by driving.

**What my supervisor (Mgr. B. J. Harris) says about me:** Mary Morrow is very conscientious about her work and has good attendance.

**What I do when I am not working:** I enjoy spending quality time with my family. I go out and shop for people who don't have time to shop for themselves or can't find sizes they need. I also cater to the needs of the disabled.

# Reflections of One Father

*There is nothing more special than the birth of a baby. It's a wonderful sight to see. But you can't plan for them because of all the violence in the world today.*

*Kids, they make you laugh when you are blue. They make you cry when they are sick and you can't help them feel better. Kids, you have to be hard when you have to discipline them too.*

*Kids, you have to reward them when they are good. Kids, they are devils when they are awake and angels when they are asleep. Now, there is something I hate to say, Sad, but true, but kids die young too.*

*When they are young or small they are not safe. A baby could be crawling on the floor and get shot when down there on the floor. And you say it was God's will to take?*

*God didn't pull the trigger, the gangbanger down the street did.*

*They can't ride their bikes on the street because a drunk driver might come and hit them, dragging them hundreds of feet, and leaving them for dead. And, again you say,*

*It was God's will, but God wasn't driving, the drunk man was.*

*Now his friend and him are free.*

*So go home and hug your kids*

*Because there's nothing closer to God than Kids.*

—Submitted by Division 3 Operator Steven Flores

# Basketball's New Kids on the Block

by Diane "Bulldog" Talton, Sports Editor

It was an exciting finale to a great season for the District's basketball league. The six teams that started the season back in February played hard, worked off steam, and generally had a good time. The teams were the Division 7 Hoyas, Division 18 Running Rebels, Division 5 Blazers, Division 1 Rocksteady, Division 5 Sparks, and Division 6 Bulls.

The Bulls emerged victorious defeating the back-to-back defending champion Sparks.

---

*It was a close  
game with  
the Bulls leading  
most of  
the game.*

---

It was a close game with the Bulls leading most of the game. The Sparks fought back as D. Harris tied the score 36-all at the seven minute mark. The lead exchanged back and forth until the final seconds. The Sparks, ahead 48-46, fouled Bonner. Bonner made both shots to tie the score and send the game to the first overtime.

The Bulls struck first, scoring the only field goal of the three minutes. A series of free throws ended the first overtime tied 51-51.

In the second overtime, once again the Bulls struck



The victorious Division 6 Bulls



Defending champions Division 5 Sparks

first with a field goal by C. Brawley. These could have been the winning points as the Sparks failed to score in this overtime. Another series of free throws by the Bulls put the finishing touches on the season. Final score 63-51. This is the first basketball championship for the Division 6 Bulls.

Congratulations to the Bulls. They can truly enjoy a hard fought victory.

---

## Lost and Found

Lost Ring: Men's silver ring with black stone. Lost in the Men's Room at the CMF. Call G. Thompson (213) 972-7742, Transit Police.

## Son Makes Acting Debut



John Tiffany in his role as a soldier for the Queen of England.

John Tiffany, the son of Mileage Calculator Rogers and Mary Ann Tiffany, has joined the Merry Olde England cast at this year's Renaissance Pleasure Faire. John is one of the many actors reveling in the Elizabethan epoch now glorified at Glen Helen Park in Devor. John received a letter in Drama as a sophomore in high school. He is currently attending San Bernardino Valley College as a Drama major. During the run of the Faire, John plays the role of a new recruit in the Queen's army.

---

## Wedding

Division 7 Mechanic Craig G. Harden wed Equipment Record Specialist Winnetta "Wendy" Young on June 3 at the Queen Mary in Long Beach. They met at the work place, fell in love, and now plan a happy life with children. We wish them the best in their lives together.

—submitted by co-workers and friends.

## The Pride and Joy of Employees

Mark Paskowitz, the son of OMB Analyst Harvey Paskowitz, met President George Bush at the White House in June as part of his

reward for being one of 140 Presidential Scholars for 1989.

Mark, 18, was given the honor by the U.S. Department of Education based on his straight A grades, as well as his sports and community activities. Paskowitz is captain of the varsity wrestling team, is an

Eagle Scout, and is active in student government.

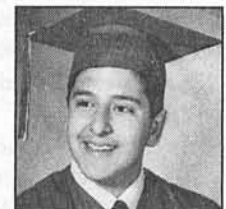
The Granada Hills High School graduate was nominated for the honor because of his high test scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). He scored 800 out of 800 possible points on the math portion and 730 out of 800



*Davlyn Perry*



*Eric Stokes*



*Enrique Zamora Chavez*



*Sherida Anne Pitts*

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possible points on the English portion of the test. Paskowitz said he plans to study engineering at UC San Diego in the fall.

U.S. Army Pvt. Davlyn B. Perry of Fontana graduated as a Material Storage and Handling Specialist on May 5. Stationed with Company B, 266th Q.M.B.N., Fort Lee, Virginia, she has been reassigned to Fort Lewis, Washington. Pvt. Perry is the stepdaughter of Division 9 Operator Jimmie Campbell, daughter of Division 10 Operator Alma Walker, and the sister-in-law of Division 10 Operator Kevin Murray. "Pvt. Perry, continued on page 31..."

...continued from page 30

if we could make a wish for you, and somehow make our wish for you come true, the best wish we could give you would be: our love, health, happiness, and wealth of mind." Congratulations, and continued success in your life. Love you, Your Family.

U. S. Army Pvt. Eric M. Stokes, the son of Jackie and Division 18 Operator Althonia Stokes, arrived for duty March 4 in West Germany as a combat engineer with the 82nd Engineer Battalion. He also received a medal for sharp shooting. Eric is a 1988 graduate of Gardena High School.

Enrique Zamora Chavez, son of Division 12 Mechanic Enrique and Armida Chavez, graduated from St. John Bosco High School on June 4. His grade point average is 3.66. He will enter the University of Arizona in the fall to major in Astrophysics. After completing his undergraduate degree, he plans to continue in graduate school, eventually to attain a Ph.D. He hopes to receive a scholarship from the Planetary Society, Youth Opportunities Foundation, Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation, or the UA Alumni Scholarship.

Sherida Anne Pitts, daughter of Mechanic A Gilbert Pitts, graduated from George Washington Preparatory High School on June 22, 1989. Sherida has maintained a 3.8 grade point average. She has also worked for the District as a summer youth worker.

## Restaurant Review

by Sue Harvey,  
Division 15  
Asst. Manager

Several people have asked me to recommend a Thai restaurant. There are several good Thai restaurants, such as *Tommie Tangs*. Then there is the *Siamese Princess* which is in a class by itself.

The *Siamese Princess* was recently awarded Three Stars for Victor Soosooks cooking and Four Stars for Chris' wine selection. There are not many restaurants in Los Angeles that the

Restaurant Writer's Association rate higher, and there is a good reason for their selection. The food is outstanding and the wine list is imaginative and well thought out.

We have dined there on several occasions. They used to have a very, very small restaurant on Highland and Melrose with about five tables. They have since moved to larger quarters on Third Street. So now they have moved from a very small restaurant to merely a small restaurant.

I'm afraid we have

become addicted to the sour mussel and shitake mushroom soup. The soup has fresh mussels in season combined with mushrooms, lemon grass, and I think a touch of chili and ginger. The taste is subtle yet spicy. The Stuffed Thai chicken wings are the best in town. They are boned and stuffed with a combination of ground pork, spices, and cellophane noodles, and are served with a cucumber relish.

They have several different kinds of curries.  
*continued on page 32...*

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...continued from page 31

(The regular beef, pork, and chicken curries as well as shrimp and mussel curries and an outstanding green curry.) All the rice is made with coconut milk which give the rice an unusual flavor. Remember when ordering the curries to let them know what degree of spiciness you like, from one which is mild to ten which is hot enough to light a match.

There is a great selection of satays. They have beef, pork, chicken, and lamb. They are all

---

*They have an excellent selection of wines and Thai beer to compliment the meal.*

---

served with a cucumber relish and a spicy peanut sauce. The sauce is good enough to eat on its own and we do.

They have an excellent selection of wines and Thai beer to compliment the meal. My favorite is the iced Thai coffee. This helps to cut through the spiciness of the curries, and with dessert they have a most unusual wine the we have not seen anywhere else. This is a dessert wine, a late harvest chardonnay fortified with brandy. The perfect wine to end the perfect meal.

*Siamese Princess*, 8048 West Third Street, Los Angeles. (213) 653-2643

## Axel's Green Thumb

### *Chemical Usage*

This month I will discuss several different types of chemicals that are in use today that are called pesticides. They are classified according to their uses. We have insecticides that kill insects (the main target), and herbicides that kill plants. Each one of these chemicals has a specific application for its intended use and must not be used for something other than what it is labeled for. Remember, these are poisons.

A pest is an unwanted intruder into your garden. To be considered a true pest it must occur in abundance and threaten humans or their economic interests. The key word here is economy. California's major industry is agriculture. In fact, if California were a separate country it would rank about number five economically in the world because of agriculture. We produce the greatest varieties of food, our weather is excellent year round for plant growth and our soil is very fertile (in the farming areas).

As one of the early forms of pest control, which dates back to ancient times, the farmers would plant a crop well before the regular crop was to be planted. When the insects made their new home in this crop, the farmers would burn the field, destroying the insect eggs and their larval stage before they could fly off and destroy the intended main

crop.

Modern day usage of chemicals for insect control did not get started until after 1939 when DDT was discovered. DDT is in the chemical family called the Chlorinated Hydrocarbons which causes the disorganization of the central nervous system. Extensive use was made of DDT worldwide before it was discovered that there were problems associated with its use. One of the problems was that as insects developed a tolerance to the chemical more of it had to be used. DDT was finally banned because it did not break down into a non-

---

*Why do we use chemical control?*

*It is inexpensive and the results are immediate.*

---

toxic substance. Traces of it were found as it traveled up into the higher levels of the food chain, causing problems with the reproduction of the endangered eagles and other birds (a poor calcium metabolic rate in the egg shells made the eggs fragile, causing them to break easily). Earth worms provide an example of the pesticide traveling up through the food chain.

They have a high tolerance towards DDT and can accumulate a high level. Let's say a robin eats worms containing high levels of DDT; after eating approximately 100 worms that contained levels of DDT, it would drop dead from accumulating a toxic level for its size and weight. There were several other problems that were associated with the use of DDT including insects receiving sub-lethal doses of the chemical. It was discovered that this would trigger an increase in its reproduction rate almost immediately; of course, this was not at all the desired effect that was wanted.

Another group of chemicals developed was the Organic Phosphates. This group is mainly used on biting and sucking insects (ants, fleas, aphids). Some of the examples of this group is Diazinon and Malathion.

A third group of chemicals developed were the Carbamates. A version of this chemical is commonly marketed under the trade name of Sevin, and it is useful for a large number of leaf-eating insects and biting insects (fleas, ticks).

A fourth type of insecticide is called a systemic. This chemical is absorbed by the plant and the plant now becomes poisonous to anything that attempts to eat it.

Each of these chemicals has been extensively tested against the pests that are on the label of each container, and it should not be used for any other insect other than for the labeled pests.

A major disadvantage  
*continued on page 33...*



...continued from page 32  
that can occur with the use of chemicals is called flashback. This is rapid increase in the pest population because the destruction of the natural enemies that were controlling the pest. It will take a longer time to reestablish this control.

Why do we use chemical control? It is inexpensive and the results are immediate. We have been able to obtain more crop production per acre than ever before with the use of chemical control.

Next month I will discuss some of the aspects that concern us with the spraying of Malathian for combating the Medfly and the recent controversy on the use of Alar on apples.

*Axel Heller is a Digit Technician with the Facilities Maintenance Department and has a Bachelor's Degree in Park Administration / Ornamental Horticulture from Cal Poly, Pomona.*

## Benefit Dance

A dance to benefit the elderly of Apozol in the state of Zacatecas, Mexico will be held Friday, July 21, 1989, at the Casa Latina on 800 E. Garvey Ave. in Rosemead. Come dance to the music of La Gran Familia. Entrance and dinner cost \$15. The buffet will begin at 6 p.m. and continue until 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Rigo at (818) 284-6177.

# RTD MOVIES GOES TO THE MOVIES

## Our Rating System

- \*\*\*\*\*A classic; *Rear Window*, with James Stewart & Grace Kelly
- \*\*\*\* Excellent; worth seeing
- \*\*\* Average; okay, but don't go out of your way
- \*\* Fair; it tries, but flawed
- \* Poor; don't bother

**BOMB** - *The Black Knight* with Alan Ladd — this is one where the leading lady had to stand in a trench because she was taller.

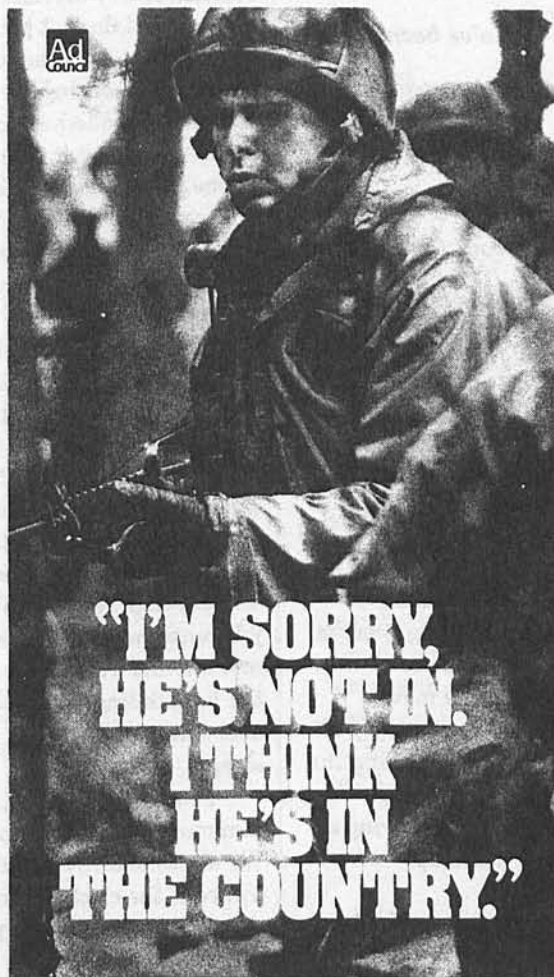
*Indiana Jones & the Last Crusade* — \*\*\*\*-1/2

By now, everyone knows that Indy is back in what looks to be the biggest blockbuster of the summer. If you've driven by a movie

theater where it's playing, it's difficult to miss the lines that stretch around the block. Lines like that are enough to make a person consider waiting for it to come out on videotape.

If you're one of those people, I would suggest you reconsider. As you're reading this, we're in the middle of one of the biggest

*continued on page 34...*



He's in the country helping to make our country stronger. He belongs to the National Guard and Reserve, and he trains like this—one weekend a month and at least two weeks a year—because he wants America to be as strong as possible.

Fully staffed and trained, the Guard and Reserve make up one-third of our nation's defense.

So when some of the men and women who work for us ask for time off to train to help keep our defense strong, we give them that time. After one of their tours, we get a stronger America and a better employee.



Protect their future while they protect yours.

## ...Movies

...continued from page 33  
movie summers ever, and the lines have probably lessened considerably. *Indiana Jones* is one of those movies that really should be seen on the big screen to be appreciated. Like the other two movies in the series, it's a larger-than-life, no-holds-barred tribute to the days when heroes were heroes and villains were villains, and the world knew what we were fighting for.

Once again, Indiana is hot on the trail of mystical artifacts, but complicating matters is the fact that the Nazis have captured Indy's father, Dr. Henry Jones, a leading expert on the Holy Grail. According to legend, the Grail will grant eternal life to anyone who drinks from it, as well as heal wounds. As the Nazis, particularly Hitler, were deeply involved in spiritualism and the occult, the idea of a Nazi project to find such an object is not that far fetched. Joining Indy on his quest are two old friends from *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, Denholm Elliot as Marcus Brody and John

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Once again,

Indiana is hot on the trail of mystical artifacts.

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Rhys-Davis as Sallah.

The major addition to the series this time around is Sean Connery as Dr. Jones, and the addition is a delightful one. I'm not going to quibble how a Scottish professor living in Utah (there is a flashback that

shows the young Indy in 1912) could produce Harrison Ford because it's so much fun. As a father and son who've been estranged for a number of years, Ford and Connery provide perfect foils for each other. "This is hardly what I would call archaeology," Dr. Jones snorts as Indy rescues him from a tank.

Rated PG-13 for violence and one scene with a lot of rats, there is a good deal less objectionable material here than in *Temple of Doom*. For very young children, I would advise some parental

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discretion, but if they're nine or ten, it's probably not going to bother them. Of course, supervising them is a good excuse to see it yourself. This is movie-making for the sheer joy of it, so go. With this being the last film of the series, *Indiana Jones* is retiring at the top of the heap.

*Miracle Mile* — \*\*\*-1/2

This is one of those films which might actually

work better on video than in a theater. The story of love and nuclear holocaust in the Miracle Mile District of Los Angeles, Harry (Anthony Edwards) is a traveling musician who meets Julie

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Harry just isn't  
very interesting, and  
following him for an  
hour gets  
a bit tedious.

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(Mare Winningham), the girl of his dreams, at the La Brea Tar Pits. They fall in love, and arrange a date for midnight, after Julie gets off her shift at the coffee shop at the corner of Wilshire and Fairfax. Harry oversleeps, though, and doesn't get to the shop until just before four in the morning, by which time Julie has gone home. He calls her from the phone booth outside, leaves a message on her machine, then picks up the phone when it rings because he thinks it might be her.

The voice on the other end of the phone is panic-stricken, telling his father good-bye, warning him that American nuclear missiles are about to be launched, and that retaliation will probably occur in just over an hour. Harry thinks it's a joke until he hears gunshots and another voice comes on the line, telling him to forget everything and go back to sleep.

From this point on, the film moves into real time. We are constantly made aware of the clock ticking as the film chronicles every minute of the next hour in Harry's life. This is where

the movie gets its intensity and its major weakness. Harry just isn't very interesting, and following him for an hour gets a bit tedious. With a running time of just under ninety minutes, the film feels longer. We're caught up in it, though, because we know that time is ticking away.

On the plus side are evocative images and a haunting score by *Tangerine Dream* that contributes to the film's tension. There is also a wealth of performances by the supporting characters, from Julie's grandparents to the transvestite in the coffee shop to the stockbroker who believes Harry's story because she knows more than she's saying. Actually, it's Landa (Denise Crosby) who controls the film for a while, organizing the first evacuation, making certain that there will be a helicopter to carry supplies to the planes she's chartering from her mobile phone, all within the space of a minute or two. She sets up a rhythm that is unfortunately not carried forward after she leaves the scene. *Miracle Mile* is, in the end, not a completely satisfying film, but one that merits attention, with the images that will haunt you after the film is over. Not recommended for children.

Be seeing you —  
Carolyn Kinhead

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## For Sale

Condo for sale, penthouse, with city view, near Hollywood Bowl. Two (2) bedrooms, 2 baths, 1328 sq. feet. \$189,500. Call Ruth at 972-4471.

# RECREATION NEWS



## July

- 14 "Wizard of Oz" on stage at the Forum 7:30 P.M.  
\$13.00 tickets for \$10.00
- 15 Wizard of Oz 4:00 p.m.
- 15 David Sanborn Universal Amphitheatre  
\$26.50 for \$25.00
- 16 Dodgers vs St. Louis
- 19 Dodgers vs Chicago
- 25 LL Kool J - Universal \$21.50 for \$20.50
- 27 Freddie Jackson - Universal \$22.50
- 27 Three B's Beethoven, Brahms, & the Bowl at  
Hollywood Bowl \$12.00 - \$9.50
- 29 Hiroshima - Greek \$21.50

## August

- 3 Dodgers vs San Francisco
- 3 Jody Watley - Universal \$21.50
- 4 Ringling Bros. Circus 7:30 p.m. \$10.00 - Sports Arena
- 5 Circus 11:30 a.m.
- 5 Dodgers vs San Diego - Sports Socks Day
- 6 Dodgers vs San Diego - Trading Card Day
- 6 Quiet Storm starring Phyllis Hyman Universal  
\$21.50 for \$20.50
- 9 Dodgers vs Atlanta - Helmet Night
- 9 Count Basie at the Bowl \$17.00 for \$13.50
- 10 Randy Travis - Universal \$26.50
- 11 Dick Clark's 35th Anniversary - Greek \$21.00
- 11 Bourbon St. at the Bowl \$10.00
- 13 Angels vs Oakland \$8.00 - Photo Day
- 13 Jackson Brown - Universal \$25.00 for \$23.00
- 13 George Strait - Greek \$23.50
- 18 Brian Scott's Pro Celebrity Benefit Basketball Game  
\$17.50 for \$15.00 University of Irvine Campus

Watch for the Employee Activities Mobile Center at these locations 9:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
<b>July</b>	
17	Division 9 .
18	Division 16
19	Division 15
20	Division 8
24	Division 7
25	Division 6
26	Division 5
27	Division 18
31	Division 4

## August

1	Division 12
2	Vernon Yard
3	South Park
7	Division 1
8	Division 10
9	Central Maintenance
10	Division 3
14	Division 9
15	Division 16

For additional information on these or other events contact the Employee Activities Department 972-4740. Office hours 10:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday

RTD employees don't forget that you and your family members are entitled to receive a 15 percent discount at LensCrafters. With emphasis on optimal service, convenience, and selection, LensCrafters brings you the very best vision care. To receive your discount just show your company ID or your LensCrafters card. For the location nearest you call 1-800-722-LENS.

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