

WORKIN' ON THE RAILROAD - Vic Carlucci, a Real Estate assistant, at right, and Gayner Paz, an administrative analyst in the CEO's Office, are hard at work deep-cleaning a pair of rail cars at the Metro Rail Division 20.



Photos: Bill Heard and Gayle Anderson

Volunteer Bus, Rail Car Cleaners Buzz Through Their Weekend Work

By BILL HEARD, Editor

(Oct. 28, 2003) Hard-working squads of employee volunteers – mops, scrapers and towels in hand – buzzed through division yards over the weekend, leaving some 500 buses and rail cars sparkling clean.

Outfitted in masks, goggles and gloves, almost 90 volunteers worked through the hot, smoky weather, Saturday and Sunday, at nine operating divisions and the Metro Red Line yard.

"They did a beautiful job," said Rich Herpers, assistant maintenance manager at North Los Angeles Division 3. "Everybody got along great and did the work that needed to be done. I want them to come and volunteer next weekend."

From left, Fe Alcid-Little, Norfina Jones, Mary Lou Williams and Walt Davis are a cleaning machine at Gateway Division 10.



Frances Calzada, an administrative aide in Program and Policy Analysis, teamed up with Patsy Espinoza, a secretary in the Board Secretary's office, to clean Crossroads Depot Division 2 buses.

Patsy Espinoza, left, and Frances Calzada clean up at Crossroads Depot Division 2.



"It was hard work," said Espinoza. "I think I lost, like, 50 pounds!"

Inventive passengers

The two discovered that bus riders have found some inventive ways to get rid of their gum, stashing it in crevices around the seats and windows. Then, there was the passenger who superglued a penny to a seat back.

"We couldn't get it off," said Calzada.

Meanwhile, at the Metro Rail Division 20, Vic Carlucci, a Real Estate assistant, and Gayner Paz, an administrative analyst in the CEO's Office, were hard at work deep-cleaning a pair of rail cars.

"A lot of elbow grease goes into cleaning these cars," Carlucci said, as he scrubbed away at a stubborn stain running along a door frame.

Across the aisle, Paz interrupted his work wiping the ceiling to say, "It's taken all day to clean two cars. It's really labor-intensive with a lot of details to make the cars look like new again."

"I'm very appreciative of their efforts," Deputy CEO John Catoe said of the volunteers and their accomplishments. "They care about our services and they want us to get our services back on the road. Any thing they can do will help."

Catoe said MTA may ask for volunteers, next weekend, to clean buses and train cars. Exempt employees are paid for

Meanwhile, at North Los Angeles Division 3



Yes, Kimberly Yu and Aurora Jackson do windows. Below, Claudia Casasola and Diane Ponce mop up.



their work at regular hourly rates, while non-exempt employees are paid time and a half.

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