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CEO Roger Snoble with *Times in Education* manager Andrea Reinken at left, and Board Vice-chairman Frank Roberts with Metro Community Relations Manager Marta Mack, at right, flank elementary school-age winners of the "On the Move" art and essay contest at award presentation at the Los Angeles Times.



PHOTOS: GAYLE ANDERSON

Reading, Writing and Transportation?

- Metro and L.A. Times are "On the Move" in county classrooms.
- [Showcase](#): a sample of winning entries from the "Buses, Trains and Carpool Lanes" art and essay contest.

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(May 19, 2003) - In a room sometimes reserved for winners of the Pulitzer Prize and other prestigious journalists, CEO Roger Snoble and Board Vice-chairman Frank Roberts were handing out awards in the Harry Chandler Auditorium of the Los Angeles Times, May 6, to 25 school-age winners of the "Buses, Trains & Carpool Lanes" art and essay contest.

It was the crowning glory of a six-month education outreach program called "On the Move," which focuses on the issues and options of public transportation.

The innovative education program, which served nearly 70,000 students in Los Angeles County in its first year, was sponsored by Metro and developed in partnership with "Times in Education," an outreach program of the Los Angeles Times.

Vice-chairman Frank Roberts,

left, and CEO Roger Snoble present awards to grand-prize winners Krystin Uyema, center left, and Li Mei Situ.



"We like Metro!"

"Think of it," wrote Krystin Uyema, an eighth-grader at Casimir Middle School and the 2004 grand-prize winner for the "Buses, Trains and Carpool Lanes" essay contest. "There would be a lot less traffic every day.

"There would also be fewer accidents," she added. "For society taking the bus, train or carpool lane would save a lot of gasoline. By taking any of these transportation methods the world would be a lot better than what it is now."

Castelar Elementary School fourth-grader Li Mei Situ won the art contest with a colorful drawing that featured her school in the context of its neighborhood along the various avenues taken by public transportation. With a smiling sun beaming down on a tree-lined urban village, cartoon bubbles exclaim "Metro is the best!" and "We like Metro!"

The winning essay and drawing, along with the photo and name of the grand prize winners, were published in a half-page ad in the May 6 edition of the Los Angeles Times.



CEO Roger Snoble addresses assembly of "On the Move" students.

"It's important to be aware and understand the pivotal role transportation plays in our everyday life," Snoble told the students prior to handing out the awards. "We *can* ride together. In a car, we miss out on the joy of freedom that comes with traveling with people."

Learning their lessons

The program also gave Metro an innovative way to deliver the anti-graffitti, anti-vandalism and safety education messages.

With Metro as the curriculum and the Los Angeles Times newspaper as the textbook, students in classrooms throughout Los Angeles County took part in spirited discussions on public transportation, debating such issues as funding, traffic snarls, and environmental and social concerns.

Showcase - A sample of winning entries			
Grand Prize	Winner	Winner	Winner
			
Go, Metro! by Li Mei Situ	Metro is so cool! by Vickie Zhou	I can't wait to take Metro. by Hui Zhen Guan	I like Metro by Evelyn Yeung
Essays			
Imagine this... by Krystin Uyema	Traffic by Andrew Simnegar	Family Travels by William Edward Knowles II	Trains, Buses, and Carpool Lanes, oh my by Gloria Ahn

“On the Move” is one of several education programs offered by Times in Education and the first in Los Angeles County to focus on transportation issues. The program was launched in October 2003 with teacher recruitment ads in the Los Angeles Times and brochures and flyers distributed to Los Angeles County elementary and middle schools.

On the Metro side, the project was coordinated by Marta Mack, Community Relations Manager. Community Relations staff, led by Deputy Executive Officer Lynda Bybee, judged the essays submitted by sixth through eighth grade students. Metro Art staff, led by Art Manager Jorge Pardo and Maya Emsden, Deputy Executive Officer of Creative Services, reviewed and selected the winning art submissions from fourth and fifth grade students.

Back next year

“The ‘On The Move’ program, the first to be sponsored by Metro, is a new program for our Los Angeles County teachers and has been very well received, ” said Andrea Reinken, the western zone manager of Times in Education.

Noting the success of the program, CEO Snoble announced that Metro will renew the contract with Times in Education to sponsor “On the Move” for the next school year.

“Congratulations to all the winners, their teachers, and parents, ” said Roberts. “ I am very pleased to know we will be back again next year.”

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<p>Grand-prize Winner Krystin Uyema Casimir Middle School 8th grade</p> <p>Imagine this...You wake up to go to work. You do your usual everyday things:</p> <p>brush your teeth, eat breakfast, then get into the car for the usual 40 <i>dreadful</i> minutes to work. You proceed to get into your car and get onto the freeway. "Errr! I can't stand this anymore!" Yup, you guessed right, it's the everyday traffic that you can't stand. Everywhere you look there is traffic and cars, traffic and cars. People are</p>
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getting very frustrated by yelling and honking their horns. IT'S the traffic that you sit through everyday because there are WAY too many cars on the freeway. What a way to start off your day huh?

Now...Imagine this...you wake up to the lovely chirping of the birds. You get up and eat your breakfast and watch the news. Then you get ready and take your dog for a daily morning walk. You walk to catch the bus and get to work on time. You get to work so early you have time to catch up on the gossip at work. Now this is what I call a great way to start off your day. Don't you agree?

You can have this kind of life by simply taking the bus. You can even take the train or just take the carpool lanes. Think of it. There would be a lot less traffic every day.

There would also be fewer accidents. For society taking the bus, train or carpool lane would save a lot of gasoline. By taking any of these transportation methods the world would be a lot better than what it is now.

Personally, I think I would take the bus, not only because there are many more buses than trains, but buses are a lot easier for transportation. Taking the bus and train cost you a lot less than owning your own car. Since gas prices are going up, you would save more money. If you take your car to work every day, you use up gas which equals spending more money. Who would really want to do that? If you take the carpool lane, then it would be faster because most people don't have two people or more in their car. You can carpool with someone to work every day and be at work a lot faster. Say you have to go to a wedding; you take the car. Of course! Bad idea though. More and more people are moving to California which means more and more people are buying cars. If more and more people buy cars and take them out of the house then there is a lot more traffic. If you carpool with 3 other people then that is 3 fewer cars out on the road causing pollution. Pollution causes health problems and makes the air very dirty. It also causes people to suffer from breathing problems. It affects the ozone layer. If you take the bus or the train and you didn't finish some work, then you can just work while riding to work. You can also do things like sleep if you didn't get enough sleep the night before because you go to work late because of the traffic. Which causes you to have to do work at home, and stay awake until twelve o'clock at night! All because of the traffic! By taking the bus or the train and not taking your car you don't have to worry about paying for car insurance. You also don't have to pay for registration or maintaining your car. I bet that would save you a whole lot of money. You also don't have to worry about the yucky parking. Parking is no longer a problem by taking the bus or train.

You get exercise by walking from the bus/train stop to your destination. You also get to meet new people when you take those transportation methods. Imagine how much happier your life would be by simply taking the bus, train, or using the carpool lane!

After all these reasons I have given you to take the bus, train, or carpool lane I would hope you agree with me now. I mean, it just makes a lot more sense to do. Why do the impractical thing by taking your car to work EVERY single day? You have to go through the ugly traffic and pay for car insurance. You can immensely decrease the traffic in our country. If I were you I would make the better choice: less pollution, less traffic, less time rushing around in the morning equals a much better world. So in the end, I advise you to wake up to the lovely chirping of the birds, watch the news, and just leave your car at home.

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Andrew Simnegar
Paul Revere Middle School
6th Grade

Traffic

Traffic is a big problem in Los Angeles. On a day with traffic, it will take you about forty minutes to get from Sunset to Ventura on the 405 North. On a day without traffic, it will take you about 10 minutes. Traffic is a big problem in Los Angeles and there are ways to fix it. One way to fix it is by having trains from place to place. Another way is by carpooling with other people who are going the same place as you. A result of traffic is pollution and global warming. Traffic is a large problem in Los Angeles, and can be stopped by using non-polluting trains or by carpooling.

The first way to fix the problem is by having non-polluting trains. This will help because trains have different stops and different people get out at different places. This will stop pollution because the trains would use solar power or natural gas. Another reason the trains would be a big help is because there would be much less traffic, so you would get to your destination quicker and the earth will be saved from pollution. This is the only one of the many ways of fixing traffic.

Another way to stop traffic and pollution is by carpooling with schoolmates or co-workers. You could carpool with the people in your neighborhood and as a result there will be less cars. Another result of carpooling is being able to go into the carpool lane, which is when two or more persons are in a car and you go into a special lane, which is usually faster. Fewer vehicles are in this lane due to the restriction of persons. There is a large fine for illegally driving in this lane, so people do not risk driving in it. Carpools will help pollution, which is another problem due to traffic.

Another problem due to traffic is pollution. Pollution makes the sky dirty, and indecent. Have you ever looked down from a high place down at the city? If you have, you have seen pollution. It is a ugly sight and is bad for the air. A result of pollution is global warming, which is bad for the animals and humans. The Earth may also become less

pleasant because water in lakes, streams, ponds, and rivers will evaporate quickly. Traffic, pollution, and global warming all work in a process. They must be stopped from source, which is traffic.

In conclusion, traffic is a problem that can be fixed by non-polluting trains and carpools. A result of traffic is pollution, which causes global warming. Non-polluting trains will carry people to different stops, carpools will take schoolmates or co-workers in one vehicle, and pollution is caused by traffic and pollution causes global warming, which can be bad for humans and animals. Traffic, pollution, and global warming can be stopped with many solutions such as non-polluting trains and carpools. The future of traffic looks both optimistic and pessimistic because it is easy to carpool, but it can be hard to build non-polluting trains and installing them in different places.

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William Edward Knowles II
Discovery School
7th Grade

Family Travels

"What just happened?" asked the stunned teen driver.

"We just got hit, that's what happened!" said the increasingly red dad. It was torrid in the 100-degree heat of southern California when the incident occurred. "I have an appointment in an hour and William needs to be at baseball practice in two hours," Said the by-this-time-glowing-in-rage dad, "are you trying to kill me?"

"Is this a trick question?" asks the still rather disoriented daughter.

"No, I'm very serious," asserts the dad.

"Well then, no," replies the daughter who is coming to her senses.

"Go on—go apologize to the other driver and give him our number," says the disturbed father.

"Do I have to? Why don't you go take the blame—after all, you were talking when it happened," responded the belligerent daughter.

"What? Get out there NOW!" is the answer.

"But—"

"NOW!"

"Fine"

"What are we going to do?" asks the embarrassed daughter, "If I don't get to study soon, I'm going to fail my test, get a bad grade in school, lose all reason to go to college, and have no future."

Freeze! Okay let's see here. They seem to be totally out of options, don't they? Lack of a car and short on time, but there's always the bus. Action!

"The reality is, there's no car rental facility nearby, but we can call 1-800-COMMUTE and catch a Dash or bus," declares the father.

"No way am I getting on those," says the girl.

"And why not?" queried the dad.

"Cause."

"It's the perfect solution," continues the dad.

"OK," comes the petulant reply.

A few minutes pass.

"Well this is pretty nice, isn't it?" says the now cool and relaxed father.

"It's better than I thought, I guess," states the daughter.

"That's right, and I'll just make my appointment, too," says the father.

"Hey, isn't that Julie from English 101 and her mom over there?" the daughter continues, "I have a question from our last class."

"Sure, go say hi; I'm going to review notes for my meeting."

That's a great way to get two things done at one time: take the bus and bring your work.

Good—now he'll get to the meeting on time and prepared, but what happens after that?

*They could take **L.A. 's new inexpensive van shuttle** to the train, hop on, and make it home in time for dad to drive his son to baseball in the **double carpool lane**. Let's see how it works. Continue!*

"Now see? That worked out great: I got to my appointment and you got to study. Mom was able to pick us up, and thanks to the **new van shuttle** and **double carpool lane**, William gets to proactive on time," says the dad, now feeling optimistic. Okay, so what is dad gonna do with all that extra money he saved using public transportation, salvaging his daughter's future, and rescuing his career? Take me, the behind-the-scene genius out to dinner, of course...via the carpool lane.

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Gloria Ahn
Casimir Middle School
8th grade

Trains, Buses, and Carpool Lanes, oh my

Smoke, ash, pollution, birds dropping from the sky, okay so the last one was exaggerated, but that's how intoxicated our environment has become. Any surprise that car pollution is one of the leading causes of the situation we are currently in?

We have so many cars; we are mashed into a small cubicle not fit for the contamination and pollution. If you are worrying hysterically on how we can solve this growing problem. Chant with me this simple phrase: Buses, trains, and carpool lanes,

oh my. Buses, trains, and carpool lanes, oh my.

Yes, those are some choices and they are laughable simple. The bus has been a blessing, to those who take advantage of it. For simple thinkers, buses can take you places you don't know how to get to: a place to meet new people, where you can enjoy the scenery, and most importantly, it will save you a lot of MONEY!

On the average, most Americans spend around \$20-\$30 on gas a WEEK! Therefore, everyday Americans; are spending \$4-\$7 a day on gas alone, but if you go Metro and buy the \$3 all day bus pass you can save even a dollar a day.

When we think of trains, we usually think of those old clackety trains that have puffy black smoke trailing behind it. The trains nowadays have upgraded themselves. The train has been looked down upon, when it has some great accommodations, such as televisions, comfortable rooms, luxury suites, Internet hook-ups etc. The train is affordable, clean, and a great way to relax and enjoy the serene scenery.

The carpool lane, what is this odd compound work that often leaves us with visuals of automobiles sunbathing in a luxurious Jacuzzi? This lane on the freeway is like a doorway to freedom. Carpooling save parents a great deal of suffering. The kids grow firm relationships and friendships with each other, while the parents save money on gas.

There are approximately 300 million people in America. If 3/4ths of that have one car, that is around 200 million cars crowding around. If three families get together and carpool, that will reduce the number to about 70 million; or if a bus can fit 20 people, that lower the number to a decreases 10 million cars. This about how much lower the number would go if a train can fit 100 people? With less cars clogging up our air, we'll have to pay less tax on environment care, and we'd have more money in the end.

How can we promote this wonderful yet remote idea? How about advertisement that has worked for the longest amount of time: Word of mouth. People can encourage each other to ride the bus, carpool lane, or ride the train. It will become a domino effect of belligerent people working to improve conditions. So get up! What are you waiting for? Get up, stand up, and speak!

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