



NEWS

July 22, 1999

CONTACT: GARY WOSK/MARC LITTMAN
MTA MEDIA RELATIONS
(213) 922-2712/922-2700
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

"The Right Stuff"

NERVE OF MTA BUS OPERATORS TO BE TESTED AS THEY SWERVE AT 1999 BUS ROADEO; METTLE OF MECHANICS ALSO TO BE MEASURED

WHAT: With their spouses, children and even bosses cheering them on, approximately 30 MTA bus operators and eight four-member mechanics teams will participate in the 1999 MTA Bus Rodeo and in the process prove why they are best in the world at what they do. In the blistering heat, operators driving 15-ton, 40-foot buses will attempt to survive the always *dreaded* obstacle course, a mission made more difficult by sudden mirages, while approximately 100 yards away the diagnostic skills of mechanics will be tested as they attempt to repair deliberately made defective bus engines within minutes. Over 300 bus operators competed in the preliminaries held between July 14-17. Winners of this Saturday's contest will advance to the International Rodeo in Orlando, Florida on October 8. In 1997, an MTA mechanics team, dubbed the "Fantastic Four," swept to victory at the internationals in Nashville, Tennessee by defeating 47 other public transportation agencies and returned home to a hero's welcome.

WHEN: Saturday, July 24, 1999, 8 a.m.

WHERE: Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia
(Enter Gate 6 off Colorado Place)

VISUALS: The *dreaded* obstacle course, longer than a football field, features such hazards as orange roadway cones, 55 gallon drums, tennis balls, the famous serpentine curve, plus simulated curves and cars. Highlights include the left and right-hand reverse and the diminishing clearance maneuver.

MTA-072

###