

Is riding Tri-Met buses a rewarding experience?

by Helenmarie Nelsen
Staff Writer

Would you enjoy riding the Tri-Met buses daily to and from classes in all types of weather? If this was your only form of transportation, would its necessity in your life become a rewarding experience, or would you be frustrated at some of the inconveniences and dangers involved?

I have been utilizing my two sturdy legs to bring me to the bus stops of the huge city transportation vehicles that are sometimes too hot, cold, or stuffy. The repulsive odor of smoke from persons who must smoke during their rest time before taking off on their next scheduled run often greets the riders.

Most of the buses have a surprising accuracy in keeping their runs on a tight schedule, and the drivers always get a lot of criticism and rudeness from the riders if they are a couple of minutes late, or especially if they are a half-minute early at a given stop on their route. By the end of the day, or their 6, 8, or 10, and sometimes a 16 hour shift, they are noticeably weary and cross, almost threatening the riders with a mean stare when they are barraged by persons who keep up a constant chatter as they ride in the handicapped seats up front by the driver.

All this compassion on my part for the problems of the Tri-Met system helps me actually enjoy my conversations on the bus, making all the inconveniences a necessary evil to allow me to continue my education in understanding the different classes of humanities found on the buses.

In the early mornings there are plenty of executives and well-dressed persons riding to downtown Portland. One is riding also with the industrial workers, who board the buses at that time after working in the industrial plants, as evidenced by their smelly, greasy jeans and damp sneakers. I don't find this disturbing anymore, as I like to speak with them all and find a unique story from each one if they care to speak to me.

On the last buses out of an area, especially, the driver and rider can see a totally different kind of clientele. I must marvel at the gall of the two young men who boarded the 33 or 32 bus on a foggy evening with a dismantled racing bike and numerous heavy garbage bags, which I assumed contained plants as they could hardly drag them up the steps of the bus. They also had a couple of wilted hanging baskets of fuschias with them, which I figured they were lugging home as an addition to their collection of articles to revive, sell, and help support them. What an innova-

tive way to start a business.

I started to ask the bus drivers if they had any funny or unusual stories of their experiences on the buses, and they had plenty to tell about. Of course, I had indulged them with listening to my woeful tales of the time when my pass was flicked out of my hand as I was showing it to the driver. Although she spent a long time looking in all the crevices it might have flown to, we finally decided it must have been stolen by the two young men sitting in the front seats who promptly left the bus a couple of stops after I had requested that they help me look for it.

On Tri-Met, you find love, intrigue: The stories of trials, joys of real people.

One driver, who has witnessed couples actually battering each other in the rear of the bus, has also been entertained (including a bus full of students) by a salesman showing his wares of bikinis, bras, and feather boas that he sells

to the prostitutes downtown.

A frequently told story is about the driver who spotted a couple making love in the back seat. When he couldn't find cause in his rules book to expel them, the couple opened a champagne bottle and started to pour it over each other. This gave him the legal reason to

slam on the brakes and order them out.

Love, intrigue, theft, stories of the trials and joys of REAL people, all sorts of people, truly a cross-section of humanity in the Portland area: quite a rewarding experience, communicating with one's fellow man.

Nelson responds to article

After reading your article in the February 28, 1990 edition of THE PRINT, I had a few concerns about the facts you ignored. Please note that these comments refer only to the Associated Student Government.

First of all, there is a reason for this "red tape." Like it or not, it is the only fair way to select qualified people to fill the positions. It is not reasonable to think that we could pick replacements by their applications alone. The interview process allows us a chance to talk to the applicants and get to know who they are.

As far as giving the position to people who are already in the "family," I would like to point out that there are two student-at-large on all selection committees. They are not part of A.S.G.

If someone is selected from the "family" it is because the committee felt that person was the most qualified person for that position, not because they are a friend of a friend.

Finally, there is a small matter of the constitution of the Associated Students of Clackamas Community College (pages 51-56 of the student handbook.) You will find the guidelines for selecting Student Government Officers/Senators on page 55, section 19. This was passed by the student body and we must follow it until it is changed.

I would be more than happy to sit and talk to you about this matter.
Sincerely,
David Nelson
A.S.G. Administrative Assistant

Campus Views



Steve Rudometkin

"I will be hanging out, washing windows from the high altitude of 10 stories up, hanging by a rope. I will also be starting up my own band!"



Roseann Wentworth

"I'm going to Denver, Colorado for some incredible spring skiing during the week, and then my friend is getting married- that means bachelorette party!"



Lance Hobson

"Going to Yakima for a baseball tournament, That we will win!"



Frank Schoenfeld

"I will be going to Lake Shasta to live on a houseboat. I'll also water ski, and jet ski for about a week and a half."

What will you be doing during spring break?



David Bruneau

"Go to San Diego for a week to visit family. Then I'm going to TJ* to celebrate my birthday."



Bob Chenoweth

"I'm going to Disneyland. I'm also going to LA to scope out some hot babes!"



Chris Lucas

"I'm going to Arizona, and I'm going to get crazy."



Tim Osburn

"I'm going to San Diego and TJ*"

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L*	39.12	65.43	49.87	44.26	55.56	70.82	63.51	39.92	52.24	97.06	92.02	87.34	82.14	72.05	62.15	
a*	13.24	18.11	-4.34	-13.80	9.82	-33.43	34.26	11.81	48.55	-0.40	-0.60	-0.75	-1.06	-1.19	-1.67	
b*	15.07	18.72	-22.29	22.85	-24.49	-0.35	59.60	-46.07	18.51	1.13	0.23	0.21	0.43	0.28	0.19	
D50 Illuminant, 2 degree observer																
Density											0.04	0.09	0.15	0.22	0.36	0.51