

MAX line heads through Milwaukie

Heather Mills
The Clackamas Print

Construction on the Milwaukie MAX Line officially began on June 30, 2011. Its construction was stopped in controversy before any engines started. Now, however, it looks like the plans for the now almost mythical "Orange Line" are proceeding. The agreed upon route starts from Portland State University and travels approximately 7.3 miles to connect with Milwaukie and Oak Grove. The line will end at SE Park Avenue, where it connects to McLoughlin Boulevard in Clackamas County, and is reported to have a price tag of \$1.5 billion.

The money is just part of the issue. Community members who are in opposition of the new line feel as if their votes have been overruled. Many local residents have the opinion that TriMet hasn't been stepping on toes, so much as bulldozing over them, in the attempts to

realize their construction plans. City members fear the rising taxes and crime rates that may result from the new line. Picketing of the construction site around Park Avenue by local residents isn't the only activity to make headlines.

"Stop Portland Creep" is the slogan of Tootie Smith and John Ludlow, candidates in this year's Clackamas County commissioner elections, and there is talk of a lawsuit against TriMet over the destruction of part of "The Trolley Trail," a historic path used by Trolley cars from 1893 to 1959, stretches between Gladstone and Milwaukie, which is considered a recreation zone. There has been controversy as to whether TriMet has acquired the proper permits, and actually has the rights to tear down the trees in the mentioned area. A lawsuit has been launched in order to halt activity upon further investigation. Work continues in that area in the meantime in spite of all this.

"I'm really, really looking forward to it," said Kaleb Fike. "I don't understand the concept of 'The Portland Creep.'"

Fike, 19, who relies on public transit to take him from Milwaukie to school in Portland every day, isn't alone in not understanding what people mean when they refer to Portland's endeavors to expand and connect with the surrounding communities. For young students and for people who commute to Portland, a rail program would be highly beneficial. Most people who regularly use public transit seem open to the idea. CCC student Aaron Johnson admits that the practicality of the line would make his travels simpler.

"If there was a MAX from here to Portland, or here to the mall, then I would ride it," said Johnson. "It's inconvenient having to ride three busses."

The problem, of course, is weighing the interests of the city against the interests of rural communities. Maryanna Moore, from Gladstone, a former CCC Student who has lived in the area all her life is one such resident.

"Two times in the past, they had a vote on putting in the light rail. And each time they changed the route and stuff," said Moore. "They



Joshua Dillen The Clackamas Print

Construction workers build on to the new max line connecting downtown Portland to Milwaukie.

didn't let the people vote on it. They just planned this thing."

In general, people seem upset at the general lack of interest shown by authorities in the concern of the public. Trees are getting bulldozed where they might be protected, and the authorities don't seem as interested as they ought to be.

"I think people do feel frustrated. We are voicing, we're trying to work within the legal framework that's

been established, and when those laws and channels get thwarted and gone past, they start to get frustrated," said Holly Losli, a mother and long-time resident of Clackamas County. "They subscribe to this system, and the very people that are supposed to be representing it aren't following it."

Campus closed after body found

Campus grounds were shaken last week on Oct. 17th when a body of a suicide victim was found on campus. The man was discovered at 7:20 a.m. and as a result, all classes were canceled and the campus was closed until 10 a.m. that morning.

It is the police department's policy not to release the names of suicide victims; however it has been confirmed that the man found was not a Clackamas student. According to Lt. Bill Kler of the OCPD, the deceased had no relation to campus. The

suicide was a result of a domestic dispute that began in nearby apartments.

The Oregon City Police Department received a call at 12:50 a.m. about the dispute; cops searched for the man nearly all night. He was found in the morning on the walking trail on the southwestern side of campus by Highway 213 and Carl's Jr.

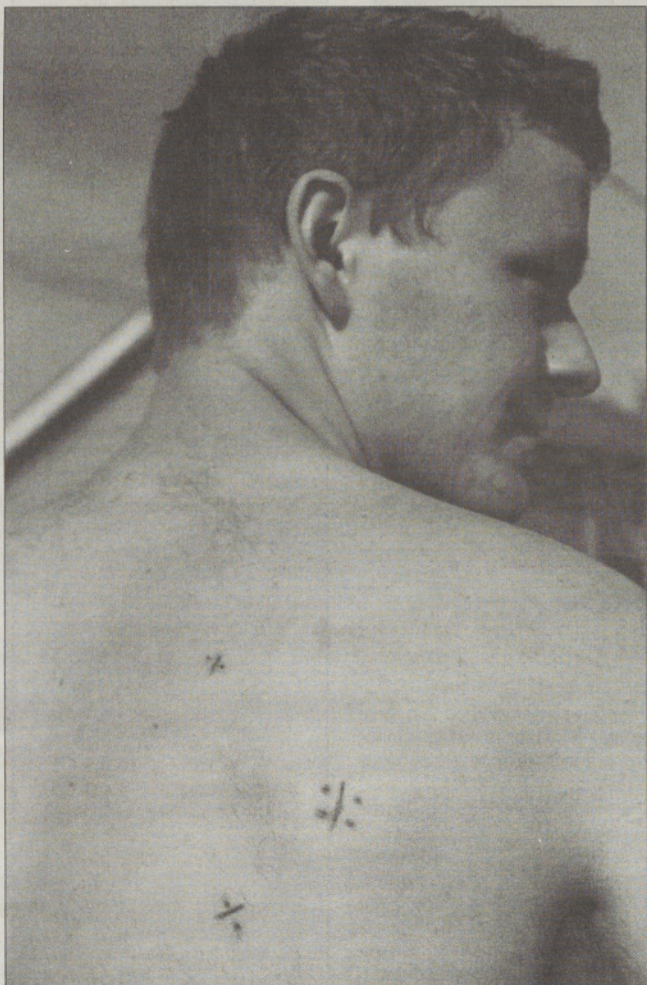
The campus set up safe rooms in the community center for students or staff who felt they needed support after the occurrence.

-Mandie Gavitt



Felicia Skriver The Clackamas Print

Stabbing on TriMet leads to self protection issues



Felicia Skriver The Clackamas Print

Jeremy Thompson was one of the victims of the TriMet stabbing that happened in early October. He will be returning to work next week.

Felicia Skriver
News Editor

"I didn't do it for a reward or anything, it was just instinct," said Jeremy Thompson of Oregon City. "Everybody says I should get a reward. I just want to get back to work."

Thompson was commuting to work on TriMet bus line 33 to Molalla Avenue before 11 p.m. on Oct. 2. As he rode to his graveyard shift, the bus stopped on Clairmont Way. The bus was just about to his stop when Austin Vanhagen, also from Oregon City began yelling racial slurs, but it was unclear who they were directed to. When the driver insisted that he exit the bus; the request provoked Vanhagen according to Thompson.

"He started to attack the bus driver, after hitting another passenger. That's when I jumped in as well as the two others and took him off," said Thompson. "I was holding him from behind outside the bus until the two others were able to get him to the ground. There was no knife that we knew of."

Vanhagen was able to escape the hands of his oppressors and within a few minutes he had stabbed the bus driver, Leonard James once in the stomach, and a fellow passenger Richard Dickson Jr. five times in the chest, back and leg. Andrew Crombie was bitten on the shoulder during the fight and Thompson received five stab wounds to the

back and one to the arm; one of which punctured his lung.

The motive for Vanhagen's attack is still not clear but the incident raises safety issues, and what one can do to avoid jeopardizing their security.

The first thing to consider is one's judgment. Who looks safe, and who doesn't? Be observant at all times. Using verbal skills is also a big factor; the better one is at talking someone down, the better off they will be.

Even the ordinary events that happen within a day can turn into a concerning incident in no time.

Situations can turn south in no time, and the best thing for someone to know is how to cope in such a state. Robin Robinson is a self defense instructor at the college. His advice may be able to help in these situations.

"As far as the physical [portion] goes, you want to try and create room between you two. So if you have a knife, I want to create room which gives me time to react," said Robinson, "So if you lunge at me with the knife, I want try and move away from the knife and try to control the arm or the hand. In this case, if you came at me I would try and control the hand...if I control the arm the knife still has a chance to cut me. So I want to control the hand and the knife together."

Currently Vanhagen is being charged with three counts of second-degree assault, three counts of unlawful use of a weapon, one count of Intimidation and one count of fourth-degree assault.

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