

KPTA NEWSLETTER

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HOUSE'S RE-AUTHORIZATION BILL IS PUT ON HOLD

(H.R. 2950), the House of Representatives' transit re-authorization bill was taken from the floor because advocates of the bill felt it lacked adequate support to pass. Lack of support stemmed from the bill's large price tag of \$6 billion dollars. The revenues needed to fund this increase were to be generated by 20% of a five cent federal gas tax hike. Since little support for the tax hike can be mustered, the bill to spend its revenue also lacks support.

The bill, if passed would afford industry companies more opportunities to better serve their communities with a better level of service. Other than raising the funding level, the share of formula funds for Section 18 would become five percent of total budget and small-urban Section 9 would raise to 10 percent. 16(b)2 and RTAP funding would also more than double.

A couple aspects, however that may ultimately hurt rural systems are the fungibility of Section 18 funds that would allow the governor of each state to transfer up to 35% of Section 18 funds for highway usage, and that the first \$20 million in Section 18 funds would be spent on a new intercity bus system. The intercity bus system is truly a noble idea and warrants support, however, should not be placed in competition with current rural systems.

According to Rep. Robert Roe (D-NJ), after some changes, the bill will be ready for consideration on the House floor when the House reconvenes on September 11. Therefore, time is of the essence, you should contact your local representative and make your concerns known.

Training Options In Public Transit (report from Orlando)...2
Child Restraint Systems...2
ADA Implementation Seminars Scheduled...3
Like CATS and Dogs...3

Outstanding Service Awards...3
The "TANKMAN" Cometh...4
LexTran's Advertisement Fleet...4
KTC/KPTA Conference Update...5
Video Fund Raising...5

Training Options In Public Transit

Written by: Florence Tandy

Kentucky's Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) runs as smoothly as in other states examined during the recent UMTA Conference in Orlando. In addition to the individual state programs, RTAP also funds three national programs. The Peer-to-Peer network gives transit professionals help with dilemmas others may have faced. By connecting transportation managers with those managers from other systems, common problems can be discussed and (we hope) solved. RTAP funding is also used to develop training packages, such as the emergency procedures and special passengers videos Kentucky's rural operators received two years ago. The third national RTAP initiative is the RTAP hotline, which is operated by CTAA. Calling the hotline puts the manager in touch with a "wealth of knowledge" on public transit. Technical questions can be answered and sample forms, contracts, specs, printed materials, etc. can be requested. If the person answering the phone does not know the answer to a question, then the call will be referred to a person who can most likely help with the particular need. The RTAP hotline is a useful tool for transit managers and should be used often. The number is (800) 527-8279.

Most states sponsor training of drivers and managers with their RTAP funding, just as Kentucky does, but many develop their own training programs for rural operators. The Virginia DOT developed a training program on Emergency Evacuation Procedures in cooperation with the state's community college system. The community colleges conduct the classes across the state, cutting down on time and expense getting to and from training sites. North Carolina has made its RTAP training even more accessible for drivers and transit staff. NCDOT rehabilitated a bus which it uses to assess and develop bus and van driver skills. The bus uses state of the art interactive technology and hands on learning techniques to teach defensive driving, emergency procedures and other driver skills. The bus also has a full range of diagnostic tools such as glare vision, night vision, and brake reaction tests to assess the drivers' ability to perform on the job.

While RTAP is the best known training resource in Kentucky for rural operators, UMTA has other funding available for training as well. Section 10 of the Act funds training for management staff of transit systems. This funding requires a 50-50 match and can be used to develop packages within states or send managers through already developed programs. For anyone interested in examining Section 10 funding, Florence Tandy of Kentucky River Foothills (606) 624-2046 has the guidelines or contact Division of Mass Transportation (502) 564-7433.

RTAP and Section 10 information can also be obtained from FTSB at (606) 233-0066.

Child Restraint Systems

As published in the July 17 edition of the *Federal Register*, public review and comments on a planning document for child restraint systems are being requested. The primary reason for the comments are to obtain information that can be incorporated into the plan for possible adoption by the NHTSA.

The current "child restraint policy" was adopted over a decade ago and contains many inconsistencies due to state law changes. The policy was written before states started making child restraint mandatory and before many other safety policies were implemented for motor vehicles and aircraft. Current guidelines would not change in regard to the weight of the child needing safety equipment, more it will change the specs for the equipment to make them more compatible for the newer vehicles and aircraft. The deadline for comment is September 3, 1991.

If you would like more information, please contact George Mouchahoir at the NHTSA, (202) 366-4919.

ADA Implementation Seminars Scheduled

APTA, the National Easter Seals Society, CTAA and the International Taxicab and Livery Association will be sponsoring a series of seminars addressing the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The closest sessions to Kentucky will be held November 17-18 at the Westin, O'Hare, Chicago and December 8-9 at the Westin, Peachtree Plaza, Atlanta. For more information contact Ed Gill with APTA at (202) 898-4060.

Like CATS and Dogs

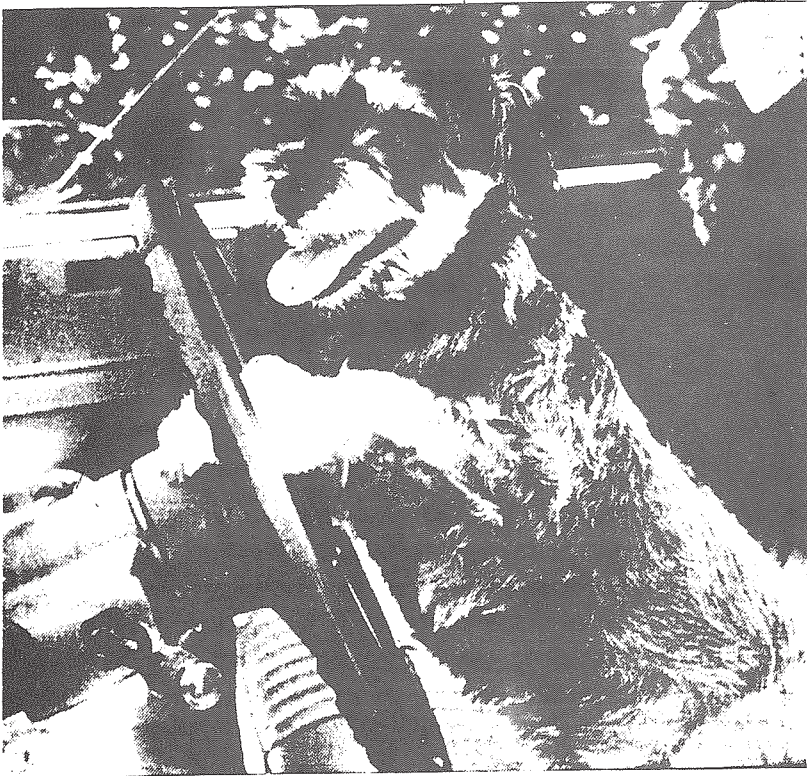


Photo taken by Bourbon Times

Shaunna is a 5-year-old Schnauser who lives in Paris. On Wednesday, July 31, Shaunna and her owner, Jerry Mithcheltree went shopping at the Paris Wal-Mart. While Shaunna's owner was inside, she decided to give this "driving thing" a try. She reached over and apparently hit the gear shift.

The truck began to roll backwards. Since Shaunna was too short to reach the brake, she simply waited to hit something to stop.

Who would have thought that cat chasing was in her mind at the time. Shaunna had her joyride ended by hitting a CATS bus that was parked in the same lot.

No charges were filed against Shaunna since this was her first offense of driving without a license. Following the ordeal, Shaunna's owner continued to look for Allen Funt.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

As part of the 1991 Kentucky Public Transportation Conference to be held in Louisville this fall, the Kentucky Public Transit Association will be presenting awards for outstanding service. This is an opportunity for your organization and staff to receive statewide recognition. Awards will be presented for driver of the year, volunteer of the year and dispatcher of the year.

Nominations can be made in one or more of the aforementioned categories. You can even nominate yourself. Please contact Phil Pack at (606) 289-7172 for details and a nomination form. The deadline for submission is September 20, 1991, so you will need to hurry.

THE NEXT RTAP COMMITTEE MEETING WILL
BE SOON, SO GET YOUR REQUESTS IN TO
YOUR RTAP REPRESENTATIVE.

THE "TANKMAN" COMETH

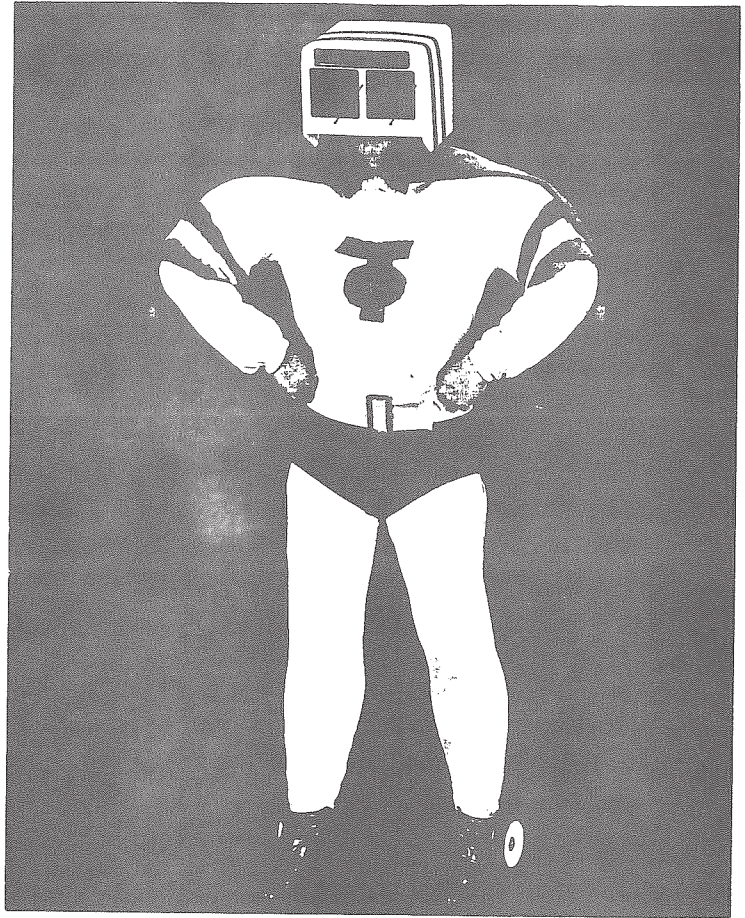
From the great bus terminal in the sky... "TANKMAN" arrives in Northern Kentucky!

The Marketing Department of TANK was seeking a new promotional tool to increase citizens' knowledge of the bus system and encourage increased ridership. In this search, the concept of a mascot arose.

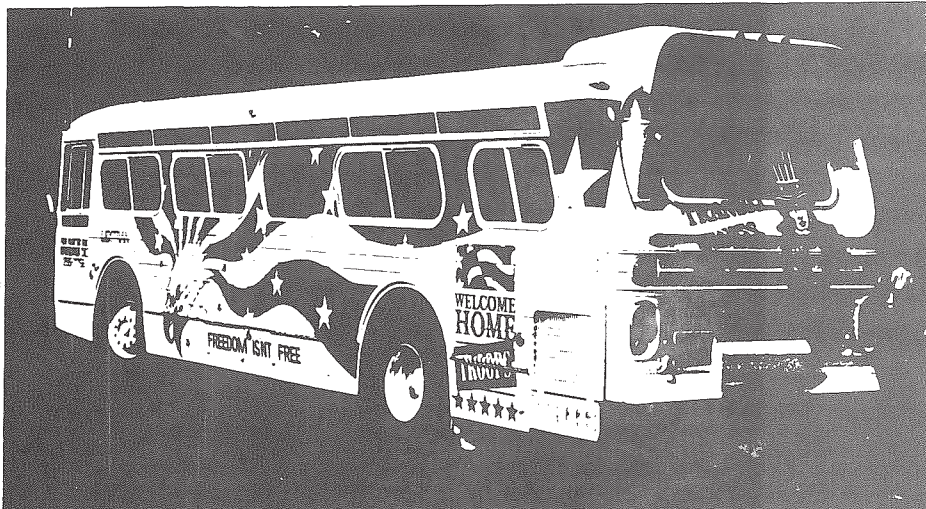
Knowing that such a mascot must be different from others, while demonstrating a "good guy" image and a desire to serve the public. Once you get past the cape and muscular body, the association with Superman or Batman is gone. For emblazoned on TANKMAN's chest is a large "T" passing through a bus tire.

His helmet resembles the top of a TANK bus and contains a changeable message board to display different locations or statements. One of his very unique features are realistic windshield wipers which can be turned on with a switch.

The last distinguishing characteristic of TANKMAN are the wheels attached to his bright red boots. Inside his cape are many pockets in which he can carry various materials for distribution. TANKMAN also has a theme song, written in a "rap" style that explains how transit helps cut pollution, traffic and stress.



LEXTRAN'S ADVERTISEMENT FLEET



If you come to Lexington, it would be very difficult to not notice several of LexTran's buses. For the past four years LexTran has been selling bus advertisement for the sides of their buses by literally selling the sides of the buses. Actually, the entire vehicle is rented as if it were a moving billboard.

LexTran has several buses now in the advertising program, some of which are the: "Freedom Isn't Free" bus (pictured); "Buckle Your Seat Belt" bus; "WKQQ" radio bus; and the "U B LAFN" bus from Comedy on Broadway, comedy club.

VIDEO FUND RAISING

If you are looking for a new way to raise funds for your organization, consider video taping important events. Whether it's an agency dance or school graduation, you might want to record individuals and make those tapes available to parents or the individuals themselves.

Here are some tips from a school district that does this successfully:

- Charge \$10 per tape and use high quality tape. The low cost may encourage multiple purchases;
- Tape almost everything that the prospective purchasers might want to see;
- Sell the tapes at events run by your agency;
- Put copies or advertise in local stores to encourage purchases.

Sources: July 1991 edition of "Communication Briefings" and Warren C.U. District 222, Illinois Association of School Boards Public Relations Service, 1209 S. 5th Street, Springfield, IL 62703.

KTC/KPTA CONFERENCE DATES SET

The KTC/KPTA bi-annual Kentucky Public Transportation Conference is scheduled this year for October 23-25 at the Hurstbourne and I-64 Holiday Inn in Louisville, Kentucky. Please note that on Wednesday evening, an excursion on the Star of Louisville is planned. The cost of this meal is \$31.94 per person and is not included in the conference fees, however, transportation to and from the cruise will be provided by TARC at no charge. Additional information will be sent to you soon!!

AGENDA

Wednesday

11:00 - 6:00 Registration (In front of Parlor D)

1:00 - 1:30 Opening Session (Parlor D)
Jerry Ross, KYTC
David Arnett, KPTA

1:30 - 2:45 Concurrent Sessions (Parlors A & B)
A Section 9 Update - KTC Presenters
B HHS/Section 18/ 16(b)2 Coordination -
Beth Jennings, Sharon Perry and others
TBA

2:45 - 3:00 Break (Atrium)

3:00 - 5:00 Concurrent Sessions (Parlors A & B)
A Section 18/16(b)2 Update - KyTC
Presenters

B Section 9 TBA

5:30 Cruise/Dinner on the Star of Louisville
(optional- additional cost)

Thursday

8:00 - 5:00 Registration (in front of Parlor D)

8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast (Parlor D)

8:30 - 10:30 KYTC and ATE Panel Discussion
Regulation Update (Parlor D)
- Clean Air Act and ADA - Dallous Reed,
KYTC and ATE representative TBA

10:30 - 10:45 Break (Atrium)

10:45 - 12:00 Computer Workshop (Parlor D)
Bob Wiedeback, DP Manager TARC

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch (Buffet in Atrium)

1:30 - 3:00 Vehicle Specifications (Parlor D)
Speaker TBA

3:00 - 3:15 Break (Atrium)

3:15 - 5:00 "Tap on RTAP" (Parlor D)
Vickie Bourne, KYTC and RTAP
Committee

6:00 - 7:00 Hospitality Hour (Atrium)

7:00 - Banquet (Parlors A & B)
UMTA speaker TBA

Friday

8:00 - 9:00 Registration (In front of Parlor D)

8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast/KPTA Annual Mtg.
(Parlor D)

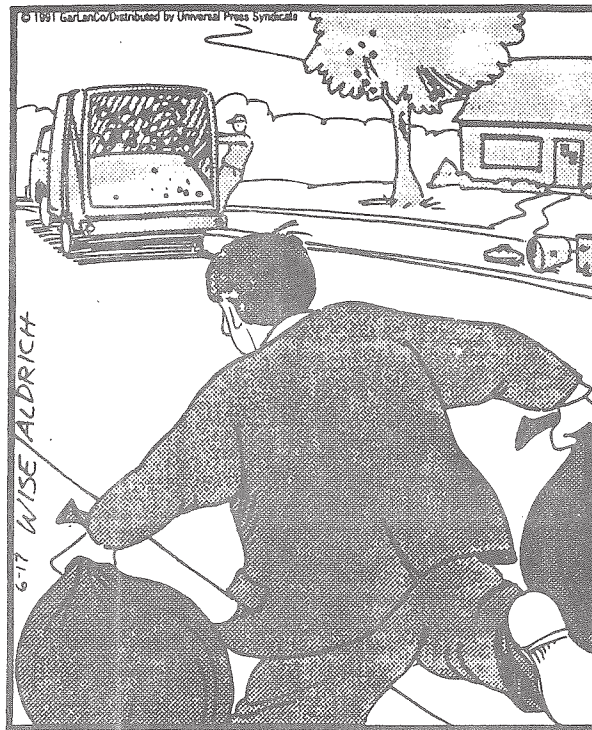
8:30 - 10:00 Aids Workshop (Parlor D)
Marilyn Peters, American Red Cross,
Louisville Chapter, Blood Center

10:00 - 10:15 Break (Atrium)

10:15 - 11:30 Overview of Mass Transportation Funding and
Surface Transportation Act (Parlor D) Jerry Ross, KYTC

11:30 - 12:00 Awards- Closing (Parlor D)
Vickie Bourne, KYTC and Dave Arnett, TARC/KPTA

(Door prize will be awarded during closing session and will
be drawn from evaluations.)



There's only one thing worse than missing
the bus.

federated
transportation
services
of
the
bluegrass,
inc.