

PORTLAND AFOOT

PDX's 10-minute newsmagazine
on buses, bikes, and low-car life



August 2010:

THE NEWBIE ISSUE

Arriving Now *Four stories you can't miss this month*



photo: SpecialKolin, Flickr

1 Good news
PDX Bus, a free app that turns your phone into a **portable arrival board and trip planner** and might be the single best reason to spring for an iPhone, won \$4,000 in a city contest July 20. It's Andy Wallace's first income from his program, used by 17,000 TriMet riders. **"I thought it was more fun to give it away,"** the Intel engineer said.

WHY IT MATTERS
Today's apps are just the beginning. New data TriMet is preparing will let apps like Wallace's **make the bus system less and less confusing to occasional riders.** If smartphone prices keep dropping, expect to see lots of new faces on TriMet.

WE RATE LOCAL TRIMET APPS
<http://pdx.be/AppReviews>

2 Bikes beat trucks
Bike boosters cheered a local committee's 7-6 vote on July 8 to target **\$10 million in mini-grants for bike routes** rather than freight improvements. "Let's put our freight effort where it belongs," said Clark County Commissioner Steve Stuart, who drove in from Vancouver to cast his swing vote for bikes **because he'd gotten so many calls on the issue.** "Going to the feds, going to the legislature, and getting *real* money."

GET TRAILS FOR YOUR AREA
<http://pdx.be/PreciousGrants>

3 Silent fare hike
When TriMet hikes per-trip fares by a nickel Sept. 1, it'll be described as a small 2% rise. But frequent adult riders in central PDX will get a shock: TriMet **quietly dropped its 2-zone, \$847-a year pass** in April. When 2-zoners renew, they'll have to buy a 3-zone

pass instead, for an extra \$121 – a 14% hike. A TriMet spokeswoman said July 27 that the agency cut the pass as part of a transition to **"a universal all-zone photo ID pass for all customers."** Monthly 2-zone passes will still sell for \$77.

WHICH PASS SHOULD I BUY?
<http://pdx.be/TheBestPass>

4 Rail plan derails
Obama's federal spending freeze hit south Portland July 22 when the feds told TriMet they **couldn't pay for more than half of a new Orange Line** from PSU to OMSI, Sellwood and Milwaukie. That leaves the project \$300 million short. Unless TriMet finds money by fall, work can't start until 2012, putting it at further risk. **Do our candidates for governor care?** Until they answer, we'll keep calling. 

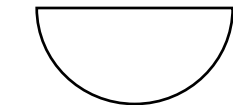
OUR LOW-CAR VOTER GUIDE
<http://pdx.be/LowCarVote>

ONLY ON THE BUS



Milton

TriMet No. 35



I'm like, "How did your arm break?"
"I got into a fight," he says.
I was like, "Tell me."

He's purchasing some things, and apparently his wallet was on top of the counter. This guy he knew – he'd just given him 20 bucks! – takes the guy's wallet off the countertop. It turns into a scuffle.

The thing going through my head is: *Damn, did he win or lose? His arm's messed up.*

Then he said, "I was a state champion in wrestling." Aw, man!

He told me he punched the guy about 16 times in a row. He gets the wallet back, and his arm is like drenched in blood, because he beat the guy up so bad.

Stories like that get my day going. We talked the whole bus ride. He grew up a country boy, went to jail. Has a nice little girlfriend.

He told me he punched this guy about 16 times in a row. We talked the whole bus ride.

You really can't trust anybody. Because we all want money. That's why I'm on my go to be

the richest man in the world. I'm pretty much on my way now.

What's your favorite bus story? Write michael@portlandafoot.org or call 503-662-2871. Storytellers get a gift card to our favorite bar or coffee shop. 

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924 NE 65th Ave.
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Join the fun:

Visit portlandafoot.org/subscribe or just mail in \$14. Gift subscriptions: \$5.

It's sort of like a cycletrack. Except for *information.*

We've really been working on our web site.

<http://pdx.be/SouthWaterfont>
<http://pdx.be/EveryBikeShop>
<http://pdx.be/BikingLaws>
<http://pdx.be/CheaperBusPass>

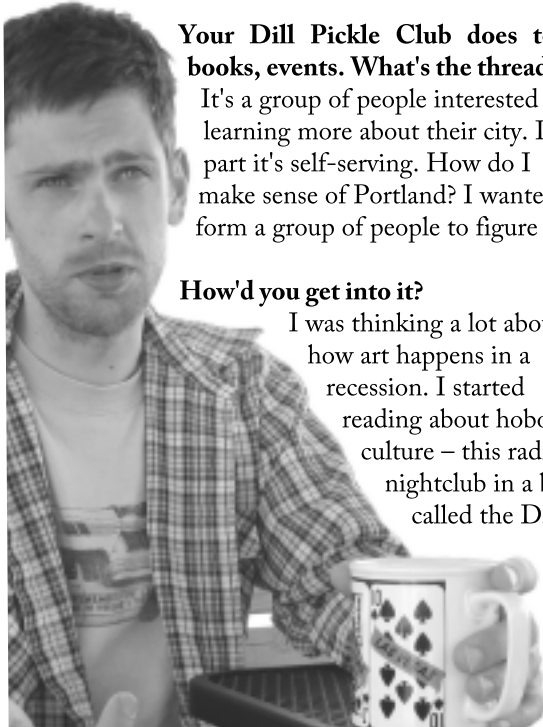
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(503) On-A-Bus-1
<http://PortlandAfoot.org>
\$14 per year. Details on back.

Welcome home.

Street Talk *Five questions and someone worth asking*

*Six years after moving to PDX, Marc Moscato decided to put himself on a mission: leading bus, bike and foot tours that peel back **corners of Portland's history** before they're papered over by – well, by him and his fellow white boys. We met on his downtown roof to talk about **our city of immigrants** and his thing for **hobos in 1930s Chicago.***



Your Dill Pickle Club does tours, books, events. What's the thread?

It's a group of people interested in learning more about their city. In part it's self-serving. How do I make sense of Portland? I wanted to form a group of people to figure out.

How'd you get into it?

I was thinking a lot about how art happens in a recession. I started reading about hobo culture – this radical nightclub in a barn called the Dill

Pickle Club. They had jazz concerts and put on one-act plays and this "soapbox forum" every Sunday night. So I was like, we should restart the club, 80 years later. Educational space that's not school – that's really needed in Portland. Everywhere, really.

Why do you do your events on-site?

In Portland, there's not a deep connection with place or history. Growing up in Buffalo, there were these huge ruins downtown, like the Roman forum. You had no choice but to acknowledge there was something here before, an industrial culture.

Who are the hobos of 2010?

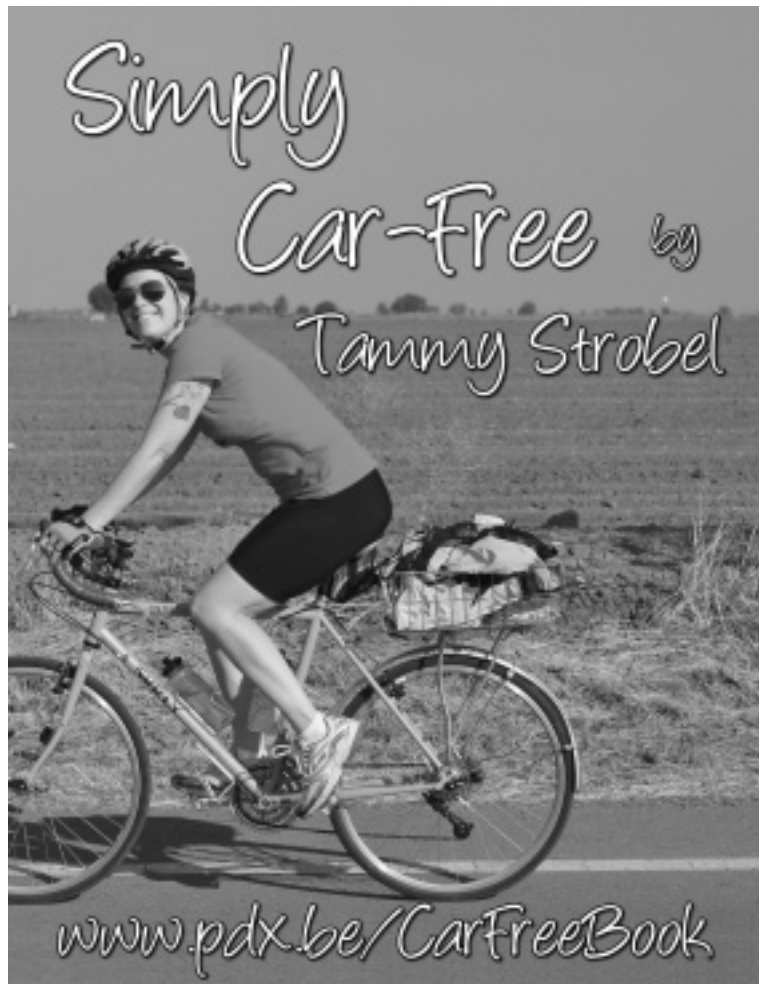
Hobos were really part of the working class. Now the counterculture is kind of a refuting of working-class culture: punk, zine, independent hip-hop, even freelance designers. Anyone who isn't tied down.

What's your favorite Portland secret?

Mmm. Okay: A little restaurant in the bottom of a church on Interstate, where they have the Polish Festival every year, called Grandpa's Cafe. Only open around services. Good pierogis and potato pancakes. 

Marc Moscato
director, Dill Pickle Club

Catch the club's events through December at <http://pdx.be/PickleClub>. Qs & As edited for brevity.



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have you seen these feet?



By a **glorious vote of the people**, these new-fangled contraptions owned by readers **Brian Buchanan** (left) and **Alexis Grant** (right) were named the best footwear at our **awesome launch party** last month. Couldn't make it? Live vicariously through the photos at facebook.com/PortlandAfoot or check out the Blitz yourself – see their ad for a special deal for our readers. And **congratulations**. You crazy kids.



There's always something happening at Blitz

Espresso- Specialty Roasted Coffee
Breakfast All Day
Burgers-Sandwiches-Pizza
House Made Fish & Chips
Taco Tuesday's
Free Wi-Fi and good times
Watch Blazers-Soccer- Sports
Pool-Darts-Shuffleboard-Air Hockey

21 and under allowed upstairs until 9 PM
503.222.2229

110 NW-10th Avenue

Have you checked out the Blitz's upstairs annex yet? They've brought an "everyman's cafe" to the Pearl. Bring in this ad to join their victory lap and get **half off any breakfast item**.



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



Kimberly Tucker



Chris Frost

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We're delighted to support these like-minded organizations.



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www.bta4bikes.org



Willamette Pedestrian Coalition
www.wpcwalks.org



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ITPD
www.itdp.org

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America Walks
www.americawalks.org

Beaverton commuter **Simon Ahn** walked away from his bike when he was a sophomore in high school. This spring, he realized he could hardly run a mile, freaked out, bought a \$300 fixie and started biking the wide westside streets each morning. So Portland Afoot put together a one-stop reference page for Ahn and other folks getting...

Problem: Riding on sidewalks Is it safe? **Solution: Don't do it** Studies show sidewalk biking is actually twice as dangerous as street riding, because cars aren't expecting you. Details at pdx.be/RideTheRoad •

Problem: Maps Which streets have bike lanes? **Solution: Free maps by mail** The best regional map is Metro's Bike There! map, available in most shops for \$6. But the City of Portland offers maps for free and even mails them to you. Beaverton is included! Order at pdx.be/FreeBikeMap •

Problem: Bike shopping It's intimidating. **Solution: Bike consultants** If you can't ask a biker friend for help, two local businesses charge hourly rates to come along and ask all the right questions: the Cycling Salon, which specializes in middle-age and older women, and Gracie's Wrench. Details at pdx.be/BikeShopping • **Problem:**

Fenders Do they go on and off? **Solution: Sweet Pea Bicycles** Local bike builder keeps a handy flowchart on this subject. See pdx.be/FenderChart

• **Problem: More questions** There's a lot to learn! **Solution: BTA commuter workshops** The Bicycle Transportation Alliance offers free hour-long intros to bike commuting. The next is Aug. 11

in Vancouver. Details at pdx.be/Biking101 • **Problem:**

Basic gear How do you spot a good deal? **Solution:**

David Cox This mechanic at the Community Cycling Center rattled off the lowest prices for entry-level equipment these days. New

helmet: \$15. New Kryptonite U-lock:

\$40. Used cargo rack: \$10. New

bell: \$4. New blinky lights,

front and rear: \$12. New

multitool: \$12.

BikePortland close calls forum The local bike blog keeps cities

posted on the corners people complain about most, and cities listen. pdx.be/CloseCalls • **Problem: Repair classes** Where can I learn bike

repair? **Solution: City of Portland** They keep a list at

pdx.be/RepairClasses • **Problem: DIY repairs** You've got some

skills, but not much money. **Solution: Kerr Bikes** This rental kiosk

just north of the Hawthorne Bridge on the west bank of the

Willamette offers two repair stands, tools and air to the public for

free. There's also the Bike Farm (305 NE Wygant near Alberta and

MLK), which rents its stands and tools for \$5 per hour or \$60 per

year and offers volunteer advice while you work. Or the Bicycle

Repair Collective (44th and Belmont) which rents stands and tools

for \$10 per hour and offers professional advice. Details at

pdx.be/DIYRepairs • **Problem: The Internet** What are some good

websites for bikers? **Solution: Jonathan Maus** The tireless editor

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Local "bike fun" group, "the place to find out where to go

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really good event calendar."

SheldonBrown.com: Thrillingly

minute bike repair details by

"an Internet legend who

passed away a couple

years ago."

emergencies. It's called TriMet. 📍

Problem: Groceries A nice saddlebag from

REI costs \$93. Your friends say to steal a milk

crate from the back of Whole Foods, but you don't

want to be a jerk. **Solution: Tidy Cats** A sturdy cat litter

bucket costs \$11 at Freddy's. And it even comes with cat

litter inside! Assembly instructions at pdx.be/BikeBucket •

Problem: The law When do cars have to yield to bikes, anyway?

Solution: BTA legal clinics Local bike lawyer Ray Thomas offers free

one-hour tutorials of Oregon bike law every couple months. The next is

Sept. 15. Details at pdx.be/BikeLaw101 • **Problem: Your period** Once

a month, biking gets much worse for women. **Solution: The diva cup**

Local bike writer Elly Blue says it's the best of an inevitably bad

situation. Grab her quarterly feminist bike zine for \$3 at

pdx.be/GalsOnBikes • **Problem: The Couv** How do you bike across

the I-5 bridge from Vancouver to Portland? **Solution: The Bike**

Temple These NoPo bike believers have a map and video guide to the

journey. As you'll see from their work, it's not the bridge itself that

causes trouble – there are sidewalks on both sides – it's Hayden Island

and the Columbia Slough. pdx.be/GoToTheCouv • **Problem: Basic**

activism There's a dangerous corner on your route. **Solution:**

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bright idea." • **Problem: Roadside breakdowns** What if my tire

blows on a crosstown trip and I don't have my tools? **Solution:**

Roadside assistance Stephanie Noll of the Bicycle

Transportation Alliance tipped us off to a service even expert

bikers don't always know about. It's an after-hours curbside

pickup service that will give you and your broken bike a ride

home or anywhere else in you need to go in the Portland area –

and you can even buy a book of prepaid ride vouchers in

advance at any local supermarket, to keep in your wallet for

emergencies. It's called TriMet. 📍

Old hat?

Maybe

nothing here is

news to you. Maybe

biking's not your thing.

Either way, we guarantee you

know someone who could use this

guide someday. Our recommendation: be a

hero and stick it in a drawer until then.

Back in the Saddle

Problem: The \$200 bike Bike newcomers are often surprised that it's

hard to get a decent used bike for less than \$300. This is because it

takes 3 to 5 hours, at \$45 an hour for a trained mechanic with space

and tools, to fully refurbish an old bike. **Solution: A la carte repairs**

The Community Cycling Center (NE 17th and Alberta) sells dirt-

cheap unrefurbished bikes, lets you work on them for free with their

tools, and lets you hire their mechanics for whichever repairs

intimidate you. • **Problem: Moving day** How can you do without an

auto when you get to a new place? **Solution: Move by bike** Almost

every weekend in Portland, a group of bikers shows up at someone's

house to load their stuff onto bike trailers and move it. All they ask

for is breakfast first, lunch afterward and your help on a few other

people's moves. Details at pdx.be/MoveByBike • **Problem:**

Insurance When car owners get in bike crashes, their insurance

covers them. What if you don't own a car? **Solution: Buy a car you**

won't drive Local bike lawyer Ray Thomas suggested this on

BikePortland: buy a junk car for a few hundred bucks; let it sit,

insured, in the driveway; and bike your heart out. • **Problem:**

Employment You always wanted to be a bike messenger. **Solution:**

Move to New York "There aren't any bike messenger jobs to get,"

said Dee Branham of Magpie Messenger Collective. "I have a

folder in my email that just contains several hundred requests.

You could do what we did, which is start your own company.

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pretty much on its way out, unless you've got a cargo bike and a

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