

PORTLAND AFOOT

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



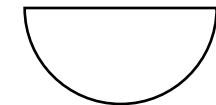
July 2010:

THE SEATING ISSUE

ONLY ON THE BUS



Carrie
TriMet #70



this negativity coming at her all the time. The kid was kind of being a brat, but you know. Still.

The kid was playing with this plastic bottle, dropping it on the ground and leaning over to pick it up. And the mom just pushed her back against the wall.

And that was it.

This one woman – just a pretty normal-looking woman in her 40s or 50s – said, "If you paid more attention to your daughter, she might behave more in a way that you want her to."

I wasn't really paying close attention

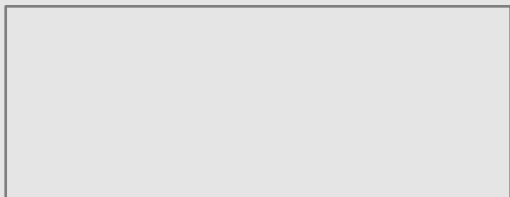
yet. But the mom didn't like it. Right away she said, "I don't think it's any of your business."

And then another woman who was sitting next to her, was like: "No, I think that's right. I think you should talk to your child."

I got off right as this all was happening. I don't know how the whole thing turned out. But it was sort of like an intervention. It was people saying, "This is not acceptable. We're not going to put up with this on the bus."

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

Portland Afoot
924 NE 65th Ave.
Portland, OR 97213



Arriving Now Four stories you can't miss this month



1

3-bike test

Peel your eyeballs: A **secret prototype for a new 3-bike rack** could hang from one lucky TriMet bus by late July, manufacturer Sportworks whispered June 25. It's built for safe turns on PDX's narrow streets. If it works, it could appear on 80 TriMet buses after their next upgrade ... in **fall 2012**.

WHY IT MATTERS

The invention could improve bike transit everywhere. "**TriMet is, like, the case study of all case studies** for how to do everything bicycle-pedestrian friendly," says Sportworks' Derek Sanden. "3-position racks really have the potential to take off."

HOW TO USE A 2-BIKE RACK

<http://pdx.be/BusesLoveBikes>



2

Rally for riders

Union workers teamed with OPAL, a Portland group training local bus riders to **speak up for their rights**, to pack downtown's Director Park June 7 in support of federal bills that would give TriMet cash to soften September's cuts. "**It makes no sense** to buy a new bus and then leave it sitting in the garage," said state AFL-CIO boss Tom Chamberlain.

HOW TO HELP THE BILLS

<http://pdx.be/SaveOurRide>

3

Freight fight

Bike and foot advocates will **circle their wagons** July 8 when businesses like Fred Meyer and Columbia Sportswear ask to block up to \$12 million from going to local paths and trails and **spend it on truck routes instead**. Grants that size "make a huge difference for bike and ped," advocate Mara Gross said June 23. "They're a

drop in the bucket for freight."

HOW TO WEIGH IN

<http://pdx.be/PreciousGrants>

4

Good news

Local bike commuting rates may be stuck in a rut, but bike fun seems to be on a roll. **Annual bike festival PedalPalooza** cranked out 297 kooky events, the most ever, and the World Naked Bike Ride supposedly drew a mind-boggling 13,000 exhibitionists. "**Your entire life has been leading up to this moment**," Bike Temple deacon Amos Hunter intoned into a megaphone while a sea of bikers endlessly looped Ladd's Circle during the kickoff ride June 10. "You will not regret having lived."

It's really great to meet you.

•

You're most likely one of our first 138 subscribers. We assume you'll want to save that figure for the grandkids.

•

Next month's issue will be full of ideas for getting into bike transportation. Chime in at <http://pdx.be/BikeTips>.

•

Published by Portland in the Round, an independent, nonprofit journalism startup. Printed on recycled paper by Eberhardt Press on SE 11th, sometimes while a dog is barking up on 13th.

•

(503) On-A-Bus-1
<http://PortlandAfoot.org>

•

Don't forget your hat.

Street Talk Five questions and someone worth asking

Whether he's chirping out sci-fi references to his 18,084 Twitter followers, tipping his top hat to favorite riders or producing web videos that explain the physics of fatal bus crashes more or less perfectly, lifeling local Dan Christensen is a TriMet treasure and the perfect Portland cheerleader. He dorked it up with us over coffee in NE.

What route are you on these days?

Saturday and Sunday, I bounce around. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the last 20. The Vomit Comet.

You've got a great blog and Twitter feed. And there's a podcast, too?

People are hungry for community. Everything else is temporary. If you're not building community, it ain't gonna work. Because you're too small.

What was the last book you read?

History, of course. The Hundred Years' War. It was, like, the most pivotal war of Europe. Cannons were just starting. The cannons were *named* – that's how few of them there were. It was like, "I hauled out Big Oscar and shot the walls of Poitiers!"

I'm worried about TriMet. You?

The new guy (GM Neil McFarlane), God bless him, he's a good manager. That's it. Good managers may not be good

leaders. It would take a leader to come in and say you've got to fix some things. We've over-invested in light rail and not kept our buses up. They're going to have to gut TriMet and rebuild it.

What's your favorite Portland secret?

82nd gets such a bad rap, but there's so much commerce there. All the little Chinese restaurants! I was probably Chinese in my last life. (Pause.) Or German. Italian. Thai. I could have been any of those.

Edited for brevity. Links to Dan's work at <http://pdx.be/DriverDan>. Also, we're collecting: <http://pdx.be/PortlandSecrets>.

Dan Christensen

Internet celebrity &
TriMet bus driver

LIFE'S TOO SHORT TO SIT ANYWHERE EXCEPT THE PERFECT MAX SEAT



TYPE I

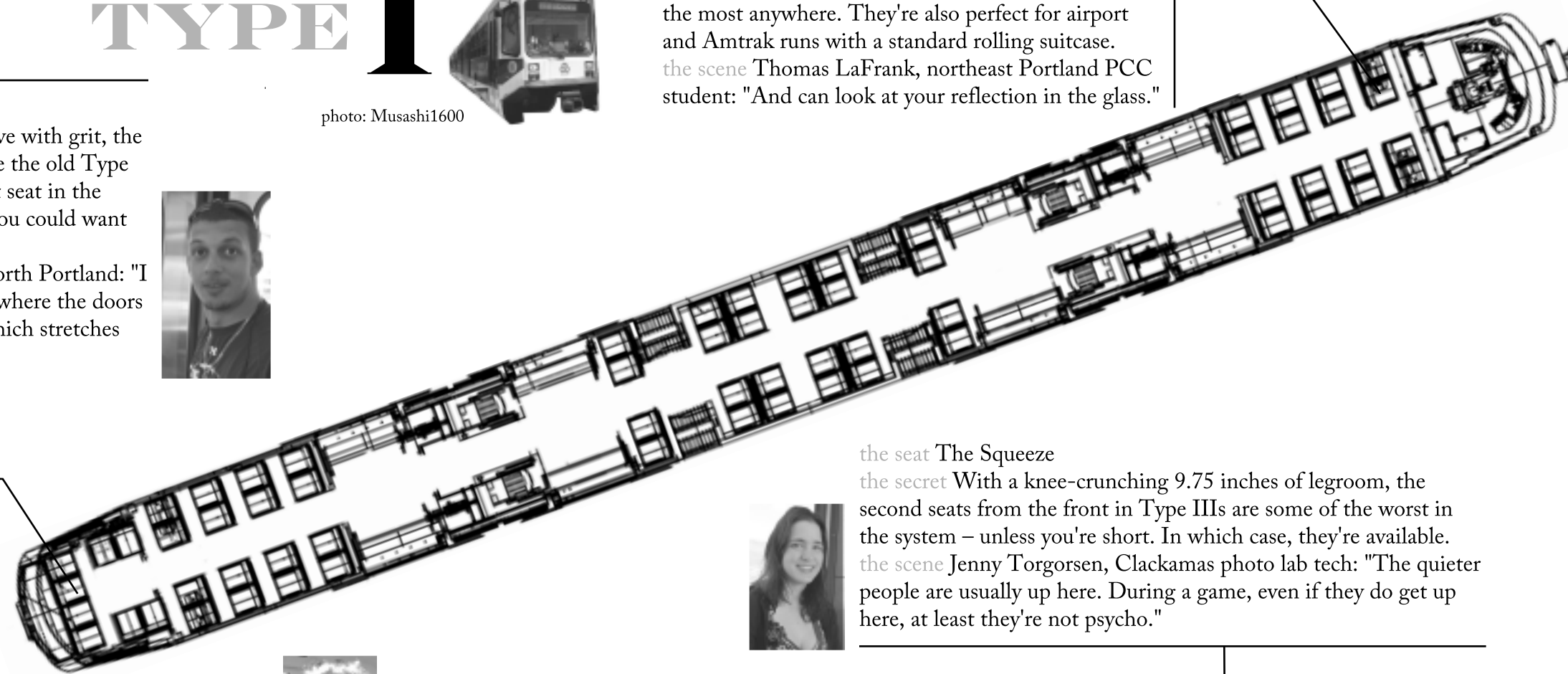


photo: Musashi1600

the seat The Steps
the secret If you can live with grit, the raised platforms on the the old Type I's are actually the best seat in the house – all the room you could want and a big bay window.
the scene Nate Ells, north Portland: "I usually sit on the side where the doors won't open. I know which stretches are which."



the seat The Lounge
the secret True story: If you had the key, you could open this bench and steer the train using the hidden controls underneath. Siemens engineer Pete Clark, who led design of the Type IV train in 2006, says the hardest part of the job was figuring out a way to make these controls waterproof. Which is to say: You never know quite what could happen (or recently has happened) in the Lounge.
the scene Steve Wack, north Portland horsetrack gambler



the seat Shotgun
the secret The only way on MAX to be sure you sit alone.
the scene Ed Borasky, Aloha software developer.



TYPE III



the seat The Squeeze
the secret With a knee-crunching 9.75 inches of legroom, the second seats from the front in Type IIIs are some of the worst in the system – unless you're short. In which case, they're available.
the scene Jenny Torgorsen, Clackamas photo lab tech: "The quieter people are usually up here. During a game, even if they do get up here, at least they're not psycho."



the seat The Stretch
the secret If you're taller than 6'1", you're too tall for MAX to worry about. Engineers weren't required to design for the comfort of anyone in the top 5 percent of men or the shortest 5 percent of women. But here's a trick, tall kids: the very front row of the newest MAX trains have 16.25 inches of luxurious legroom, the most anywhere. They're also perfect for airport and Amtrak runs with a standard rolling suitcase.
the scene Thomas LaFrank, northeast Portland PCC student: "And can look at your reflection in the glass."

TYPE IV



photo: Steve Morgan



the seat The Home Office
the secret One seat for you. One for your briefcase. One for your laptop. It's a slice of workaholic paradise.
the scene Stanley Jackson, Johns Landing retail manager.



the seat The Couch
the secret The perfect place to start conversations ... because you can leave.
the scene Janet Winner, northeast Portland retiree: "You can learn to crochet on MAX, you know, if you sit next to somebody." ♪

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***

110 NW 10th Avenue

21 and under allowed upstairs until 9 PM

503.222.2229



BIKEREALTOR.COM

Kirsten Kaufman

503-233-9513

kirsten@bikerealtor.com



Prudential
Northwest Properties



specializing in homes for cyclists + alt commuters

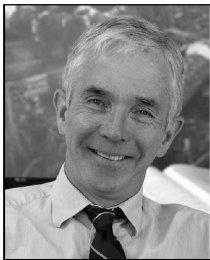
P We're having a
PARTY!

Polish the wingtips. Sharpen the stilettos. We're having a footwear party.

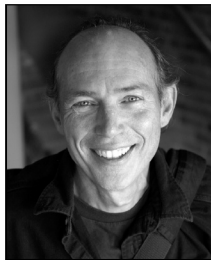
You're invited to join Portland Afoot's board, sponsors, friends, foes, tipsters, and fellow charter subscribers at our **launch party** on Thursday, July 15. It's 7 p.m. at the Blitz Pearl, right on the streetcar at NW 10th & Couch.

We'll bring the free food. You'll bring **your favorite footgear** and that megawatt smile.

It's really going to be terrific.



James Coon



Raymond Thomas



Cynthia Newton



Kimberly Tucker



Chris Frost

The team at SWANSON, THOMAS & COON can help you:

*Get Workers' Compensation benefits
for on-the-job injuries or illness.*

*Get Social Security benefits
if you can't work.*

*Recover damages if you are injured
by someone's negligence.*

*Helping injured people
for over 25 years.*

Workers Compensation

Construction Injuries

Death Claims

Personal Injury/Product Liability

Social Security Disability

Occupational Disease/Mesothelioma

Call us today at

503-228-5222

*Straight answers.
No cost for consultation.*



SWANSON, THOMAS & COON ATTORNEYS AT LAW
820 S.W. Second Avenue, Suite 200
Portland, Oregon 97204

www.stc-law.com

Visit our bicycle law blog at www.oregonbikelaw.com

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



Bicycle Transportation Alliance
www.bta4bikes.org



Willamette Pedestrian Coalition
www.wpcwalks.org



**Institute for Transportation
& Development Policy**
Promoting sustainable and equitable transportation worldwide.

ITPD
www.itdp.org

America Walks

ENGAGE. EDUCATE. CONNECT.

America Walks
www.americawalks.org