

PORTLAND SAFOOT

*PDX's 10-minute newsmagazine
about buses, bikes & low-car life*



May 2012:

- The city's **best bikeshops** for this and that
- The unbelievable **\$7 bus** to Seattle
- The **legend** of the racing bus driver

THE TUNEUP ISSUE



bus photo: Mr. T in DC

1

Health cut

One way or the other, it's the end of the line for TriMet workers' free health care. Union members voted April 27 to **pay 1.5% of active workers' health insurance premiums** in their new contract. The next week, TriMet's own final offer included higher deductibles and copays for both retirees and active workers.

WHY IT MATTERS

TriMet's real problem isn't current workers – it's the vast future retiree medical expenses the agency has **never bothered to save money for**. Management's plan foists this failure on current and future retirees; the union's plan puts most of it on either riders or taxpayers.

UNION BATTLE UPDATE

<http://pdx.be/ContractFight>

2

\$7 to Seattle

Amtrak? Forget it, baby. **Chinatown-style buses hit the Pacific Northwest** May 17, when the first BoltBus rolls to the curb at SW 6th & Salmon, a few blocks south of Pioneer Courthouse Square. The new 50-seat buses offer **leather seats, free Wi-fi and mind-boggling \$7-\$9 fares** made possible by curbside parking and do-it-yourself bag check. Each of the four daily runs will take 3 hours 30 minutes, with no intermediate stops on the way to or from Seattle's noodle district. Slurp.

COMPLETE DETAILS

<http://pdx.be/7DollarBus>

3

Secret surplus?

If TriMet's so broke, bus organizers asked the agency April 25, how can it afford to **sock away \$10 million**? OPAL's Bus Riders Unite team reported that even as it raises \$6 million with a record fare hike, TriMet is quietly increasing

its rainy-day fund. Cutting that increase to \$5 million would be enough to **hold fares at \$2.25, offer cheap daypasses in the former Free Rail Zone and extend transfers to 3 hours**, OPAL estimated.

OPAL'S FULL PROPOSAL

<http://pdx.be/Alternabudget>

4

Good news

Old Town Pizza has delivered food by bike for years, *BikePortland.org* reported April 26, but this summer it's got a new angle: **home-delivered beer**. Residents within 2 miles of one of their 2 locations (downtown and inner NE) can now **summon a 64-ounce growler of Old Town's brew to their door for \$10**. "Goodbye milkman," wrote Portlander Evan Ross. "Hello beer man." 

DELIVERY AREA MAP

<http://pdx.be/BeerMe>



Credit due.

Mostly because of trouble assigning Bike Commute Challenge data, a few of last month's "best employers" rankings needed adjustment. PECL, SERA and Beth Allen Law all did better than our print edition said: fixed list at pdx.be/LowCarJobs.

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924 NE 65th Ave.
Portland, OR 97213
503-On-A-Bus-1

Let's roll.

Foot fuel

A tiny review of a former parking space

It's called: Euro Dish.

So it sells: Traditional Polish food: goulash, paprikash, schnitzel sandwiches, blintz strawberry-cheese pancakes, imported chocolates.

Corner of: SW 9th & Alder.

Hours: 11-6 weekdays.

Proprietor: Linda Patkowski. After starting an intercontinental marriage with her Polish-American husband, Tad, she immigrated from Poland 16 years ago to raise their family.

Characterizing statements from proprietor:

"People love fish deep fried. Not for me. I do fish a little bit grilled on each side and steamed. Lemon juice. *[smacks lips against fingers]* Delicious!" "Health is very important. If we eat some foods, the liver and other things in our body, they say 'No! No!'"

Menu range: Patkowski's no minimalist; it's a big menu. \$4.75 for grilled Polish sausage to \$8.75 for a plate of pierogi, kielbasa, golabek and bigos. Lots of



gluten-free and vegetarian options.

On-site ingredients: 38, including 10 spices (Patkowski's favorite is marjoram). Hardest to find: extra lean beef. She doesn't like to go below 93%.

If it were a haiku:

It's so authentic,
She may not understand you.
Tip: It helps to point.

Cause of the month: Each month, we give 2% of ad + subscription revenue to a charity picked by a random paid subscriber. For May, "avid walker" Don H. sends \$22 to the Willamette Pedestrian Coalition, an advocacy group for better sidewalks and crosswalks in the Portland metro area. pdx.be/WPCwalks

PDX.be links: If you have a smartphone, download a scanner app (say, i-Nigma), point your lens at this 2D barcode and it'll send you to a mobile-friendly online list of the month's goodies: pdx.be/may12links



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wrapped in bacon,
deep fried, topped with
mustard and onion crunch



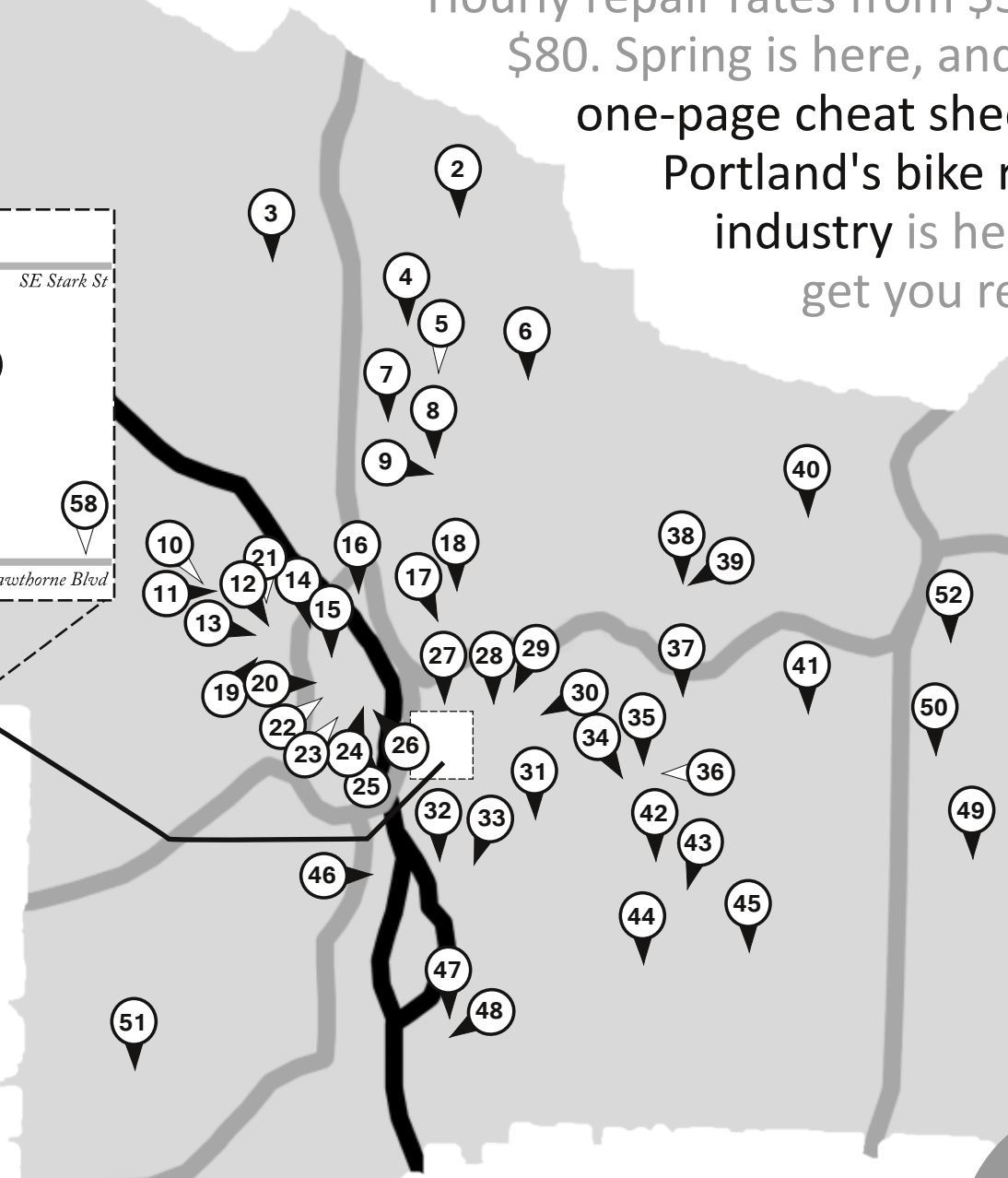
WRENCH

1 Weir's Cyclery 8247 N Lombard 283-3883; closed Su; 3 staff; \$60/hr; \$250-\$1200. Founded 1925, it's the city's oldest bike shop by 45 years. • **2 Upcycles** 911 NE Dekum 388-0305; closed Tu; 2 staff; 4 days; \$60/hr; \$200-\$800. Open build Sundays. New + used. • **3 Revolver Bicycles** N Interstate & Rosa Parks 285-1084; closed Su; 6 staff; \$60/hr; \$220-\$2700. • **4 Cascade Cycling** N Killingsworth & Vancouver 281-0255; 7 days; 2 staff; \$50/hr; \$400-\$1050. • **5 The eBike Store** N Alberta & Killingsworth 360-1432; closed Tu-W; 2 staff; \$55/hour (e-bikes only); \$1175-\$4500. Also converts other bikes to e-bikes and sells e-trailers (\$700). • **6 Community Cycling Center** NE Alberta & 17th 288-8864; 7 days; 18 staff; \$45/hr; \$35-\$1000. Used only. Programs include bike clubs, weeklong daycamps for ages 5-15, evening repair classes; scholarships available. All profits support bike education & access. 2-week wait for repairs when we called. • **7 North Portland Bike Works** N Mississippi & Shaver 287-1098; 7 days; 4 staff; \$75 tuneup; \$200-\$1800. On-site women/trans workshop Th 6-8pm. Monthly pay-what-you-will maint workshop. • **8 Goods BMX** 2808 NE MLK 282-5408; closed Su; 2 staff; \$50 BMX tuneup; \$300-\$1500. Events on goodsbmx.net/blog. • **9 Abraham Fixes Bikes** N Williams & Fremont 893-2485; closed Sa-Su; \$49 tuneup. • **10 Fat Tire Farm** NW Thurman & 27th 222-3276; 7 days; \$60/hr; \$419-\$6800. High-performance mountain bikes. • **11 Athletes Lounge** NW Vaughn & 26th 477-5906; 7 days; 11 staff; \$85 tuneup; \$1800-\$10,000. Racing, road, cross. • **12 Western Bike Works** NW 17th & Lovejoy 342-9985; 7 days; 20 staff; \$60/hr; \$600-\$30,000; occasional maint classes. Rentals. 30-day demos for saddles & wheelsets. • **13 21st Ave Bikes** NW 21st & Lovejoy 222-2851; 7 days; 4 staff; \$60/hr; \$399-\$2800. • **14 REI** NW Johnson & 14th 221-1938; 7 days; 9 staff; \$50/hr members, \$60 nonmembers; \$450-\$2000; frequent free & paid classes. • **15 Kalkhoff Electric Bicycle** 528 NW 11th 220-2300; 7 days; 6 staff; \$60 tuneup; \$1,999-\$5299. Sells only Kalkhoff Electrics. Rentals, starting at \$65/day. • **16 Green Garage Bicycle Repair** N Mississippi & Interstate 227-4799; M-F 6-6; 2 staff; \$75/hr; \$150-\$1000. Same-day repairs before 10am. • **17 Metropolis Cycle Repair** 2249 N Williams 287-

Portland's Miracle Mile This swatch of less than one square mile in inner Southeast Portland – Oak to Hawthorne, MLK to 21st – might be the epicenter of the U.S. bike retail industry. 25% of Portland's bike retail workforce is at these 6 stores, which include 4 of PDX's most specialized. Rounding out ground zero: the Grand Ave HQ of Alta Planning, a national civic consulting firm dedicated to exporting Portland's transportation revolution.

7116; 7 days; 4 staff; \$60 tuneup; \$369-\$1899. • **18 Cyclepath** 2436 NE MLK 281-0485; closed Sa; 6 staff; \$60/hr; \$1650-\$17,000. • **19 Performance Bicycles** SW 18th & Burnside & Alder 224-0297; 7 days; 12 staff; \$50 tuneup; \$200-\$4000; 2 free clinics monthly. • **20 Bike Gallery** SW 10th & Salmon 222-3821; 7 days; 10 staff; \$85 tuneup; \$370-\$5000. Free flat clinics alternate Sundays. • **21 Portland Bicycle Studio** NW 17h & Quimby 335-8356; closed Sa-Su; 4 staff; \$75/hr; \$1500-\$15,000. • **22 The Recyclery** SW 11th & Yambill 971-544-5472; closed Su; 1 staff; no standard rates; \$300-\$1000. Used only. • **23 West End Bikes** SW 11th & Stark 208-2933; 7 days; 12 staff; \$60/hr; \$400-\$12,000. Mostly specialized bikes; many tandems. • **24 Portland Bike Station** SW 3rd & Washington 265-8068; closed Su; 4 staff; \$65 tuneup. Repairs only. • **25 Waterfront**

58 bike shops. 372 employees. Hourly repair rates from \$35 to \$80. Spring is here, and our one-page cheat sheet to Portland's bike retail industry is here to get you ready.



how to read the guide

See this month's insert page for a breakdown.

28

...Portland bike shops in 2005: 11 in SE, 5 in SW, 4 in N, 5 in NE, 3 in NW

58

...Portland bike shops in 2012: 25 in SE, 9 in SW, 9 in NE, 8 in N, 7 in NW

Bicycles SW Ash & Naito 227-1719. • **26 Bike Central** SW 1st & Oak 227-4439; closed Su and sometimes Sa; 2 staff; \$75/hr. 95% of sales are custom. • **27 Citybikes Annex** SE 7th & Ankeny 239-6951; 7 days; 30 staff during season; \$75 tuneup; \$100-\$1150. Paid maint & wheelbuilding classes, free monthly open shop for women & trans. New + used. • **28 Citybikes** SE 19th & Ankeny 239-0553; 7 days; \$75 tuneup. Classes during winter. • **29**

notable specialties

Electric bikes: 5, 15. Open early: 16, 46. Worrisomely cheap: 36. Steel commuters: 27. BMX: 8, 41. Dutch-style uprights: 30, 56. Open repair space: 35, 48. Tandems: 23. Vintage 10-speeds: 55. Cargo: 56, 57. Woman-friendly: 54. Folding: 56, 58. High-performance mountain: 10, 41. Recumbent: 58. 10-day+ waits for repairs when we called: 14, 26, 31, 49, 53. Same-day service when we called: 16, 46.

Universal Cycles E Burnside & 22nd 943-6152; 7 days; 19 staff; \$60/hour; \$1000-\$3400. • **30 Crank** SE 27th & Ash 610-8356; closed Sun; 4 staff; \$50/hr; \$595-\$1300. 1/3 of business is fitting sessions. • **31 A Better Cycle** SE 23rd & Division 265-8595; 7 days; \$60/hr. • **32 WTF Bikes** SE Milwaukie & Powell 232-4WTF; closed Su-M; \$45/hr. • **33 Seven Corners Cycles** SE 21st & Powell 230-0317; closed Su-M; 4 staff; \$50 tuneup; \$450-\$1300. • **34 Joe Bike** SE 40th & Hawthorne 232-1107; 4 staff; \$60/hr; \$800-\$2000. Most bikes have rain-friendly disc brakes & belt drives. • **35 Bicycle Repair Collective** SE Belmont & 45th 233-0564; closed Su; 3 staff; \$75 tuneup. Repairs only. Workspace and tools rent for \$10/hr as available. • **36 Bike Cellar** SE Hawthorne & 47th 473-6606; 7 days; 2 staff; \$35/hr; \$125-\$350. Used only. • **37 Cyclopedia** NE Burnside & 57th 308-1245; closed M; \$70 tuneup. • **38 Bike Gallery** 5329 NE Sandy 281-9800; 7 days; 15-20 staff; \$85 tuneup; \$350-\$6000. Free maint clinics. • **39 Hollywood Cycling** 5258 NE Sandy 281-1671; closed Mon; \$59 tuneup; \$72-\$2800. • **40 The Missing Link** NE Sandy & Fremont 740-3539; closed M; 2 staff; \$90 tuneup; \$250-\$5000. • **41 Oregon Bike Shop** SE 81st N of Stark 575-1804; closed M; 2 staff; \$75 tuneup; \$100-\$5000. Road & mountain racing and BMX. • **42 Lucky 13 Bikes** SE Division & 50th 234-1313; closed M; 2 staff; \$65 tuneup; \$350-\$2000. • **43 Meticon Bikes** SE 60th & Foster 771-1737; closed Su; 2 staff; \$60/hr; new + used by June. • **44 Bike Gallery** SE Woodstock & 43rd 771-3531; 7 days; \$85 tuneup. • **45 BackPedal Cycle Works** SE Harold & 72nd 891-9842; closed M; 2 staff; \$60/hr; \$160-\$500. • **46 Go By Bike Shop** base of the Tram 971-271-9270; closed Sa-Su; 5 staff; \$75/hr. Repairs only. Same-day service. Flat repair, group rides, bike repair clinic. Rentals free to OHSU employees during business hours, paid for the public. • **47 Sellwood Cycle Repair** SE 13th N of Tacoma 233-9392; closed Su-M; 12 staff; \$75 or so for tuneup; \$125-\$4500. New + used. • **48 Bike Commuter** SE 13th S of Tacoma 505-9200; closed M; 6 staff; \$50 tuneup or \$60/hr; \$1-\$2500. New + used. Self-service space opening in June. • **49 Bike Gallery** SE Division & 109th 254-2663; 7 days; 8 staff; \$85 tuneup; \$240-\$6000. Free clinics. • **50 Performance Bicycles in Mall** 205 408-8150; 7 days; 12 staff; \$50 tuneup; \$250-\$5000. Two free clinics monthly. • **51 Southwest Bicycle** Multnomah Village 246-0333; 7 days; 3 staff; \$65 tuneup; \$350-\$2500. New + used. • **52 The Outer Rim** NE Halsey & 106th 278-3235; 7 days; 7 staff; \$85 tuneup. Free lifetime service with purchase. • **53 River City Bicycles** SE MLK & Alder 233-5973; 7 days; 70 staff; \$60/hr; \$400-\$14,000; free maint clinic Th 5pm. • **54 Bike N' Hike** SE Grand & Oak 736-1074; 7 days; 9 staff; \$60/hr; \$230-\$14,000. Open shop first Th for all, 3rd Th for women; beginner women's rides Sa 8:30 am. • **55 A Convenient Cycle** 833 SE Main #115; closed Su-M; 1 staff; \$55/hr; \$300-\$900. • **56 Clever Cycles** SE 9th & Hawthorne 334-1560; 7 days; 8 staff; \$65/hr; \$400-\$6000. First PDX shop to sell bakfiets. • **57 Splendid Cycles** SE Belmont & 14th 954-2620; 7 days; 3 staff; \$1900-\$5400. Sales and repairs for cargo bikes only. • **58 Coventry Cycle Works** SE Hawthorne & 20th 230-7723; closed Su-M; 6 staff; \$80 tuneup; \$550-\$1500 folding, \$740-\$7000 recumbent.



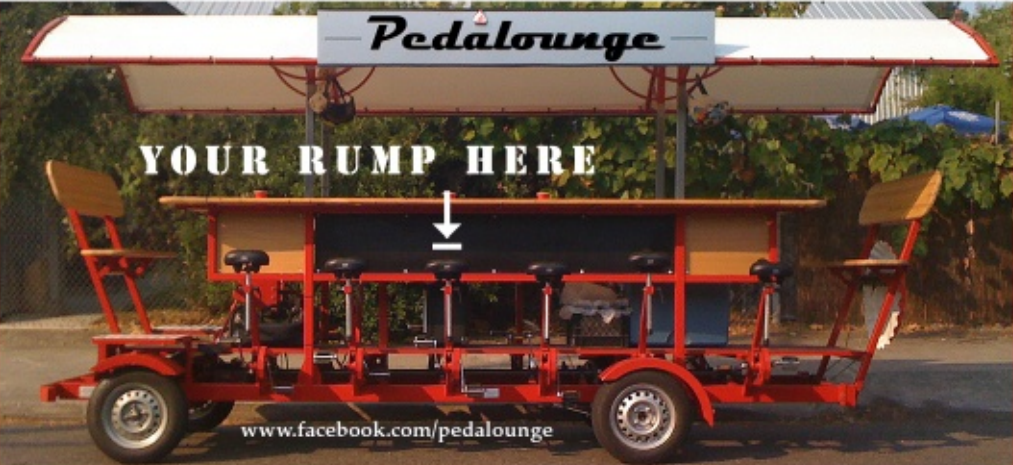
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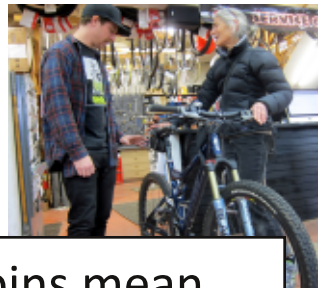
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Talking shops More about May's cover story

what each entry says

Shop name *location* phone (area code 503 unless noted); days open; # staff; hourly rate or, if unavailable, standard tuneup (packages vary a bit, but usually costs a bit more than an hour's labor); price range of bikes on floor. Other notes.

Fat Tire Farm



what the map pins mean

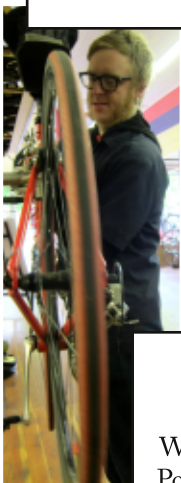
-  specialty shop
-  generalist or neighborhood shop

our repair time poll

To ensure that their mechanics stay busy, most bike shops maintain a repair backlog of several days – but when good weather hits an understaffed shop, that delay can spill into weeks. Just after the sun came out in late April, we called every bike shop on our list and, before identifying this as a journalism project, asked how long a bike tuneup would take. See "notable specialties" for shops that took the longest and the quickest. Average wait: 5.2 days, with two shops (Go By Bike and Green Garage) promising same-day service and one (A Better Cycle) estimating 18 days until repair – the hazards of success. 

who we called

We started this project with the best list of local bike shops that we know of: the City of Portland's, online at pdx.be/BikeShops. (To chart bike shop growth since 2005, we asked each shop when they were founded and also checked the city's old list using Archive.org.) If a shop wasn't on that list, it's not in our guide. Sadly, this left out suburban shops; we just didn't have room.



Weir's Cyclery



River City Bicycles

ONLY ON THE BUS



Ian
TriMet #15

It was like 2002, 2003 – I would have been 29. Summer. It was a nice night.

I was out biking around for the evening, on my way home. It was 11 o'clock at night and I was on Belmont, in the bike lane – Belmont and Seventh. There was a bus there at the stop. We're both sitting at the red light.

I'm in my first or second year back on the bike as a full-time bike commuter – I think that was the year I discovered fenders, things like that. I had just gotten my first road bike since I was a kid. I must have looked like I was raring to go.

The driver gets on the PA outside the bus and says, "HEY BUDDY. WANNA RACE?"

I didn't see anybody around. I couldn't tell if there were people on the bus or not.

I think I said something like, "I'll take you."

Then he got back on the PA and said, "HEY EVERYBODY ON THE BUS! I'M GONNA RACE

THIS GUY ON THE BIKE OVER HERE!"

If I was on that bus, I would have thought, *This driver is crazy. And I like it.*

Usually when you play leapfrog with a bus, the bike wins. The light changes and I jump on.

He passes me at about Ninth or Tenth Avenue.

He was going to beat me.

There's a green light at 11th, and then I realized there was a bus stop between 11th and 12th. He was slowing down. *Yes! he has to stop!*

And I hear him getting on the PA again, and as I pass he says, "JUST BECAUSE I

HAVE TO STOP DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO WIN."

I got up by 20th, by Col. Summers Park. I turned back and looked at him working his way up the hill.

We'd never decided where the finish line was. I decided I won.

I'd like to think it was just me, but I'd love to

know if the legend of the racing bus driver goes on. If I'm not the only one.

As told to editor Michael Andersen. Also featured at the March Humanity on Wheels event sponsored by TriMetDiaries.com and Kick Ass Oregon History. What's your favorite bus story? Call 503-OnABus-1 or write onlyonthebus@portlandafot.org. 📧

Electronic mail.

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