

To Black Issues

Symposium To Draw National Attention

Special To The Post
 Atlanta - A year's hard work will soon culminate in a symposium to be held at Atlanta University. Entitled "Public Transit and Minorities: A New Awareness," the symposium will be conducted November 13-15. The Minority Affairs Committee of the American Public Transit Association (APTA) is the co-sponsor of this event.

When APTA's Minority Affairs Committee met in Oakland, Ca., last January to discuss the prospect of continuing its sponsorship of an annual transportation symposium, committee members emphatically spoke of the successes of past such conferences. As a result, plans were immediately put in motion for the 1985 symposium.

"We wasted no time," recalls committee chairman Claude Swanson of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. "As a first step I assigned a subcommittee to develop a request-for-proposal (RFP) document." The subcommittee, chaired by Myrna Valdez of Oakland's Metropolitan Transit Commission, prepared an RFP and a list of colleges and universities which were later invited to express interest in hosting the event.

In response, four proposals were received. Then another subcommittee which chairman Swanson appointed took over. Headed by John "Chuck" Schadi of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), the symposium selection subcommittee carefully screened each of the proposals. "All four university proposals were comprehensive," stated Schadi, "but my fellow subcommittee members did an excellent job of taking the time to thoroughly screen and deliberate." Selection subcommittee members included New Jersey training consultant Gere Timberlake Moore, David Munoz of Santa Clara's transportation agency, Larry Wright of the Pinellas County, Florida, transit authority, and Boston MBTA's Gwynne Dilday. The selection subcommittee unanimously chose Atlanta University for 1985 and Texas Southern of Houston for the 1986 symposiums.

Atlanta University president Luther Williams expressed enthusiasm when informed of the selection and the subsequent federal funding. "We are both proud and grateful for the opportunity to continue the tradition of this important transit issues symposium." The first symposium was conducted in 1983 by Morgan State University. The second one was held at the University of the District of Columbia. "I feel strongly," Dr. Williams continued, "that this kind of public-private partnership is an appropriate role for the university. We have a responsibility to provide forums such as this where businesspeople, the public sector, and acad-

emia can work together more closely."

Shortly after the selection, the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) awarded a grant, through APTA, to Atlanta University to help underwrite the venture. "We are pleased to assist in this worthwhile effort," explained Robert Owens, UMTA's civil rights director. "My office is always willing to consider innovative approaches to address minority, women's, and related issues in an atmosphere as dynamic as that outlined by Atlanta University."

Dr. Edward Davis, professor of decision sciences at Atlanta University, outlined plans for the symposium by explaining the workshop structure. "We vitally want this year's gathering to reflect new faces, new ideas, new issues for discussion," he said. "That is why we tapped the resources and leadership of not only APTA, but MARTA and the local chapters of COMTO and WTS as well." COMTO is the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials, and WTS is the Women's Transportation Seminar. "These organizations have been extremely helpful in lining up transit leaders nationally to conduct meaningful workshops. APTA's Minority Affairs Committee has provided the right atmosphere for a forum that should be unparalleled this year."

"For an official engaged in transit planning, development, contracting, or employment," Claude Swanson sums up, "this is a meeting that should not be missed. Workshop sessions - conducted by transportation specialists from industry, government, and education - are scheduled on the subjects of transit service delivery in both urban and rural areas, minority and female business participation in contracts, economic development, and careers in transit. Special emphasis is being given to topics on training and career paths for minorities and women in the transit industry."

Continuing education units (CEUs) for participation in at the symposium's training sessions will be awarded to all attendees.

For further information, or to register for the symposium, interested parties should contact: Dr. E.L. Davis, Graduate School of Business Administration, Atlanta University, 223 James P. Brawley Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Ga. 30314. Dr. Davis may be reached by phone at 404-681-0251, ext. 185. Registration packets are also available from APTA's Department of Human Resources at 202-828-2876 and MARTA 404-586-5243.



Mrs. Linda Corbett, CMS teacher, conducts workshop on test-taking skills. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is sponsoring a series of workshops for area high school students.

Child Safety Lessons To Remember

Every year, nearly two million children are reported missing - and over 50,000 of those never come home.

Some are abducted by parents in custody fights, others are kidnapped by strangers. It is a very sad but true story that many of these children are victims of sexual abuse, imprisonment and murder.

We have all heard the reports on the evening news about the tragic loss that families face almost daily. And we hope and pray it won't happen to us. It doesn't have to.

Precautions Can Be Taken
 In communities all over the country, public awareness programs for young people tell them how to avoid these situations. The main goal of these programs is to teach children to simply say "no" when strangers ask them into their home or car, offer them candy or try to get them into other compromising situations.

As parents, we must all take the responsibility of not only teaching our children what precautions they must take, but also to keep our eye out for other children who might become victims.

Halloween Is Time For Safety

In three weeks, our children will be out for "Trick or Treat" and this is just the time to take extra precautions.

Be sure your child does not go out alone and if he or she is small, please be sure to accompany them yourself. For older children, urge them to go from house to house in a group.

As tempting as it may be, candy and treats should not be eaten before your children can bring them home

for you to examine.

Halloween can still be fun if we all are careful. The Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued several other safety tips for parents and children. Please write Congressman McMillan's office if you would like a copy.

Community Groups Helping With Problem

The issue of missing children is certainly not new. This national tragedy has been part of our society for many years. Lately, however, the media and community groups have given it particular attention.

I am pleased by the efforts of WSOC-TV as they sponsor their "Child Safety Days." Many grocery stores are printing the pictures and descriptions of missing

children on bags and some milk companies are doing the same on cartons.

You can become involved, too. Educate your children on safety by attending a public safety awareness program in your area. Be sure your child has all of the proper identification that can be obtained at a "Child Safety Day." And, most importantly, keep a watch in your community for any strangers who might try to harm a child in your neighborhood.

Together, we can make sure crime does not hurt our children. A healthy awareness of potential danger means effective prevention.

IS IT THURSDAY YET?
 Yes, because The Charlotte Post is at newsstands now!

Troopers Issue Warning Tickets

Raleigh - During the first six days of the new mandatory seat belt law, troopers from the North Carolina State Highway Patrol issued more than 3,000 warning tickets to motorists for failing to buckle up.

From October 1 through 6, state troopers issued 3,362 warning tickets to motorists for not using their seat belts. The Patrol reports that of all motorists checked statewide, 66 percent of the motorists were in compliance with the seat belt law.

Colonel Jack Cardwell, commander of the Highway Patrol, said, "It is encouraging that so many people are complying with the law and wearing seat belts. When you consider that traffic deaths are increasing every year, many North Carolinians are buckling up for safety to reverse that trend."

The Highway Patrol will continue its efforts to educate the public about the use of seat belts and to urge voluntary compliance by all motorists. Special road blocks will not be set up to find drivers and passengers not using seat belts. Troopers will check for seat belts during routine traffic stops.

The mandatory seat belt law took effect on October 1. It requires drivers and front seat passengers to wear seat belts. Violators will be given warning tickets until December 31, 1986. After that, the penalty is a \$25 fine.

WARNING!

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