

Muni Rider Says Driver Hit Her

By Maitland Zane

Municipal Railway officials yesterday were investigating a charge by a woman that she was threatened and roughed up by a Muni driver Wednesday night.

Jennifer Woodward, 31, a computer analyst, said the driver left her with a broken necklace, a scratch on her neck and a bruised lip. The operator denied the charge.

The incident occurred about 10:10 p.m., Woodward claimed, when she interceded on behalf of a "old weak man" who had pulled the exit lanyard on a No. 14 Mission trolley coach.

Woodward said that she complained when the driver didn't stop at Sixth and Mission to let the old man dismount, and the driver threatened to throw her off at the end of the line.

The unidentified male passenger departed near Fourth street, she said, and she thought the incident was over. But at Third Street the coach stopped again, she said, and the driver "whapped me. I don't remember a slap, I remember a blow to the face. I got off and called the police."

Muni officials identified the driver as Robert Hollins, 33, a nine-



ROBERT HOLLINS
'Reliable...no troublemaker'



JENNIFER WOODWARD
She displayed a scratch

year veteran they described as "reliable...no troublemaker."

Hollins was quoted as telling Muni inspector Fred Herrin that a male passenger and he had gotten into an argument because he hadn't let the unidentified passenger off.

Coarse language ensued, but Hollins denied hitting Woodward. "Nothing like this happened," he was quoted as saying.

Expert's View

A Little Surprise On Swine Flu Shots

By Robert Bartlett

It is a "coin-toss" decision whether healthy persons younger than 60 should go for a swine flu shot, the director of disease control for the San Francisco Department of Public Health said yesterday.

Dr. Erwin Braff's comment came during a lengthy press conference called by the health department, ostensibly to defend the mass immunization program from critics who say it is unnecessary.

Braff emphasized, however, that for persons 60 and over, and certain chronically ill younger people, the shots are vital.

The reason: the nationwide swine flu inoculation campaign actually offers two, separate inoculations.

The first — monovalent vaccine — immunizes humans against swine flu only. The second — bivalent vaccine — creates immunities against both swine flu and Victoria flu.

Bivalent vaccine is being given throughout California to persons over 60, and younger people who suffer from diabetes and chronic heart, lung and kidney ailments — the "high risk categories," Braff said.

Because there have been no recent swine flu outbreaks anywhere in the United States, officials conceded that it is extremely unlikely that this particular influenza virus will crop up in California.

However, there have been recent Victoria flu epidemics of "significant proportions" in the Southern Hemisphere, Braff said, and this makes it "almost certain" that this type of influenza will appear in California during the coming winter months.

Should a healthy person under 60 get a monovalent swine flu shot, when it won't protect him against Victoria flu?, Dr. Braff was asked.

"That's a speculative decision at best," the physician answered. "You can toss a coin as well as I."

The public health specialist complained that press, television

and radio reports have misinterpreted the controversy over the nationwide swine flu inoculation campaign.

Public health officials had to use their best judgment last spring about which of the many influenza viruses would be most likely to become epidemic this winter, Braff said.

Swine flu broke out in Ft. Dix, N.J., last winter and the experts unanimously decided this virus was the greatest threat for the coming winter months, he said.

Hence, the swine flu inoculation campaign seemed last spring to be the best way to avoid thousands of deaths this winter, Braff said.

He also complained that news reports of elderly persons dying shortly after receiving swine flu shots wrongly implied that the inoculations caused the deaths.

"This makes as much sense," he said, "as if the media were to imply that participating in an election causes death when someone dies shortly after voting."



DR. ERWIN BRAFF
Disease control expert

Every day, Braff said, 18 of every 100,000 Americans 65 or older will die.

"And that death rate was absolutely unchanged by swine flu inoculations," the physician concluded.

He urged San Franciscans — especially those in the "high risk categories" — to visit one of 31 clinics being held throughout the city and get a flu shot.

New Probe of Sexual Hijinks By L.A. Cops

Los Angeles

As one Hollywood division police officer pleaded not guilty to a misdemeanor charge that he had engaged in sex with a teenage girl, officials acknowledged yesterday that another probe is under way into new charges of sexual misconduct by other officers.

Kevin M. Kirsch, 24, on the force for three years, is accused of having sexual relations with a member of a police Explorer Scout troop.

Meanwhile, Commandore Pete Hagan confirmed reports that a new investigation had begun into allegations involving officers' activities during their off-duty hours.

Associated Press

County Jail Flag Dispute Follows Death of Inmate

A sheriff's sergeant refused an order yesterday to fly the American flag at half staff over the county jail after the death of an inmate.

Undersheriff James Denman then personally had the flag lowered at the administration building of the county jail in San Bruno and demanded that Sergeant Jeremiah Murphy explain in writing why he had refused the order.

Denman had ordered the flag lowered in memorial tribute to Larry Davis, 30, a diabetic who was serving a one-year term for auto theft and burglary.

Davis was found unconscious in bed Sunday. He was removed to

Mary's Help Hospital in Daly City where he died Wednesday night.

Denman said he expects to make the lowering of the flag to half staff a departmental policy.

"It is a sign of grief for him (Davis) or for anyone else," Denman said adding that he will order the flag lowered on the death "of an inmate, the sheriff, a congressman or anyone else who is in my custody."

Sergeant Murphy called the gesture "disrespectful." He complained that when he flew the flag at half staff after a San Quentin guard was killed in line of duty some months ago, his superiors ordered him to raise the flag.

U.S. Swine Flu Program Seems to Be Going Better

Atlanta

More than three million Americans received swine influenza shots last week, a "significant" increase over the previous week, the national center for Disease Control said yesterday.

Despite publicity over the deaths more than two weeks ago of 41 elderly persons who had received the vaccine, center spokesman Don Berreth said officials generally are pleased with the way the nationwide program is going.

Local, state and federal health officials say the deaths were not connected with the vaccine.

The center released a state-by-

state breakdown of how its flu shot program is progressing. Through last week, 5,698,716 doses of vaccine had been given since the start of inoculations October 1, with more than half that number, 3,005,294, getting their immunizations last week.

There are 135,255,112 persons 18 years of age or older eligible to receive the vaccinations. Immunization recommendations for those under 18 will be announced later.

Although more than five million people have received the vaccine, that represents only 4.2 percent of the eligible population.

United Press

The Population Growth Slows

Washington

World population growth has slowed significantly during the past five years, the president of the Worldwatch Institute said yesterday.

Lester R. Brown said most of the slowdown stems from declining birth rates and a global trend toward smaller families, but he said increasing death rates in some of the poorest nations accounted for at least two million avoidable deaths between 1970 and 1975.

"Neither war nor epidemics but hunger and nutritional stress are to blame," he said in a report on a study of population trends for the independent research organization. Hardest hit were Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and parts of Africa.

Brown said the rate of annual population increase around the world last year was 1.64 per cent, down from 1.9 per cent in 1970. That difference means the annual increase in global population dropped by five million in 1975 compared with 1970.

The earth's population hit the four billion mark last March.

United Press

S.F. Hearing On Billboard Ban

After a lively hearing attended by more than 150 persons, the Planning Commission last night put off until January 13 a decision on Supervisor Dianne Feinstein's proposed citywide ban on billboards.

Alternate pro and con testimony was heard from several dozen witnesses — most of those in favor represented by neighborhood groups, and most of those opposed were from industry, space-leasing and taxpayer groups.

"Billboards have become a public nuisance and an unwarranted blight on the landscape," declared Feinstein for the pro forces.

Paul Huff, Foster & Kleiser billboard attorney, responded that the supervisor's opinion amounted to "a matter of pique and an objection to an industry."

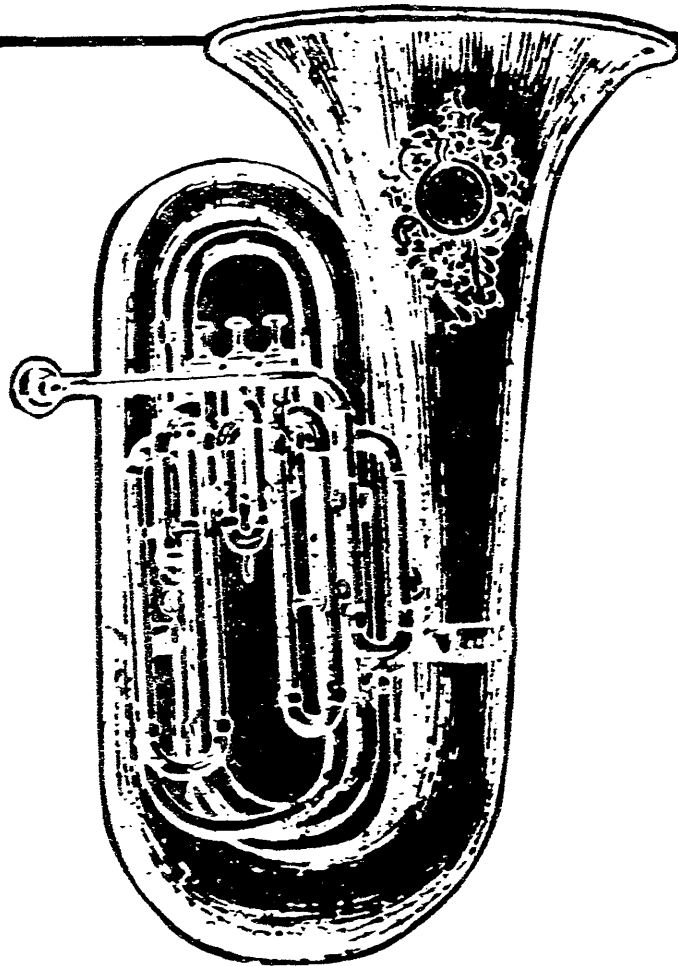
Foster & Kleiser and the city's other major billboard firm, Eller, say their billboards have dwindled from 1900 ten years ago to a current 1106. Banning them would deprive the city of tax revenue, as well as deprive employees of \$2.6 million in salaries and space lessors of \$1 million in rental income, the companies argue.

The proposed ban would forbid any new billboards, and would give the industry ten years to phase out those in place. Planning Commission findings will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for action.

Already before the board is another measure to remove billboards from Market street. Another measure — to ban billboards from freeways in San Francisco — is tied up in court action.

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See needlepoint originals designed and hand painted by renowned San Francisco artist Peter Ashe. 11 to 4.

Sew-Easy Class/Pants Fitting Clinic: a potpourri of tips and suggestions from sewing authority Clare Revelli. You'll receive a personal consultation and fitting assistance—gratis. 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

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