The Blind Leading The Blind

With the most recent divisional sign up, drivers got shuffled all over the district, particularly those of us with less seniority. For some folks who got sent to D2 and D4, they were told by AC management that they were not entitled to training on new routes. They were told to “train on their own” and begin servicing the new runs immediately. It is a violation of the contract and it takes away work from the line instructors, but most importantly, it is extremely reckless! Imagine taking a wrong turn on a D4 run in East Oakland and getting stuck in the narrow streets. What is AC thinking? It’s the blind leading the blind!

Justice For Brittney Griner! Justice For Us All!

Since March of this year, WNBA’s basketball star Brittney Griner has been incarcerated in Russia. She has played professionally for seven years in Russia because she hasn’t made enough money playing in the U.S.. She is potentially facing 10 years in prison. Her crime? She was detained at an airport near Moscow for having two THC vape cartridges in her luggage. Griner is likely being used by Russia as a bargaining chip with the U.S. for a potential prisoner swap.

While it is outrageous what Russia is doing, the U.S. isn’t in much of a position to criticize. In 2020, there were close to a quarter million Americans behind bars for drug related offenses. In addition, African Americans continue to be arrested for possession of marijuana four times as much as whites, despite consuming the drug at roughly the same rates. From Russia to the U.S., Justice For Brittney Griner, Justice For Us All!

Who’s Bringing the Heat?

Not long ago at AC Transit (the AC doesn’t stand for Air Conditioned Transit, for those who didn’t know), we were forced to drive buses that would heat up like frying pans on hot days. These were ‘VanHell’ buses that were bought without air conditioning supposedly due to our ‘mild bay area climate’. That sounds like it would work, except during certain times of the year, we get upper 90 degree temperatures, which could easily translate to 110-120 degree temperatures on the bus!

And what was done to resolve these issues? At the time, not much. It was planned that these buses would be phased out in 5-10 years, and new buses would be bought with air conditioning, as that would increase their resale value when they get retired. So for the passengers and drivers at the time, it was “tough cookie”, and “keep it pushing”. For those who suffered any type of heat stroke, or heat related illness, to this day, they are still very sensitive to the heat.

Now imagine that UPS, Amazon and other delivery workers are currently going through that same mess now. You don’t even have to try that hard, because it actually is happening. Delivery drivers and warehouse workers around the country are passing out due to extreme heat, and trucks that make them feel like they are cooking on a mild simmer. In fact, two workers recently died! We should be able to relate to our fellow workers, as it happened to us. What if when we were suffering, we had joined together to do something? Do you think it would have taken 5-10 years to fix the issue?

Save the Date:
The Fight For Abortion Today -
Online Townhall With Author Jenny Brown
Sunday, September 25 at 4pm

tinyurl.com/ycxdwc47