New Faces on the Lines

Frontline workers have been seeing strangers, often wearing blue coats, coming through the stations and riding the trains lately. They are not contributing to revenue, but they are also not fare evading.

Some look lost. When word came out that they are managers, some workers thought they were being punished and sent from their nice offices in BART HQ to ride the trains.

So, what’s the deal? Are they learning about the system they are supposedly managing? Are they checking up on workers in the stations and TOs? If that’s the reason, maybe we should check on them from time to time.

Ask the Workers?

The higher-ups have been telling some System Service workers that they need to always be seen with their carts when cleaning the stations.

If you have done the job, you know this is not realistic and not the most efficient way to clean a station, especially when you are one worker responsible for cleaning a station with platforms on different floors where the elevators may not be working.

If you see something that maybe only needs to be broomed up or spot-cleaned, is the quickest way to do that to roll the whole cart down there? Probably not.

There hasn’t been an explanation thus far as to why this is the policy. It doesn’t make sense if the goal is to have stations cleaned as efficiently as possible. If workers actually doing the job were consulted, a solution could be found, if there’s really a problem...

The West Oakland Olympics

The new gates in West Oakland are creating new challenges for some riders. And the skills that some have shown in getting over and through the gates – both exiting and entering – are remarkable. Some are even scaling the new wire grating along the sides, like they are in a climbing gym, others have crawled under. Some are so impressive that recordings of them are making it onto the Facebook pages of BART workers.

It’s a real shame that our society is set up in ways that don’t really include many young people so they could develop and share their talents in other ways.