

## CARE LESS

Concerned about the government's recent disclosure of terrorist threats to London Underground? Be reassured, your employer couldn't care more – or is that less? – about your safety.

Union reps asked LUL how we could be safe without the fire service in this situation. Management's reply? The availability of the LFB is irrelevant, because we would all be dead anyway. Well, that's a novel interpretation of 'duty of care'.

## UP IN SMOKE

Faced with a report of smoke in the pipe between Knightsbridge and Hyde Park Corner on an FBU strike day, Picc controllers decided not to bother calling the replacement fire service. Perhaps they realised that the Green Goddesses would take all day to get there and be useless when they did show up. Or maybe they thought the press would come with them and it would look bad on LUL, suggesting that the system is not safe without proper firefighters.

Either way, it showed that LUL is prepared to gamble with our – and the passengers' – safety. And the RMT told the press anyway: good thing too.

## WHITE VEST

**The rule book says that if your station closes for a fire alert, you can only open it with the authority of the LFB. In fact, Station Supervisors are often asked this in the ATOR fire exam, and if you get it wrong, you've failed.**

**So next time, make sure you get the answer right: "The LFB, except when there is a firefighters' strike, in which case you can take orders from the geezer in the white vest who hitched a lift on the Green Goddess".**

## TRUE SPIES

Management on the Piccadilly line sunk to new lows in their treatment of staff, when an RMT health & safety rep had the company's spy cameras follow him all over north London. Nothing odd, you may say – but after only three or four days off sick?!

The DB panel threw the case out unproven, as the GSM had got a little

**Tubeworker is produced by tubeworkers in the Alliance for Workers' Liberty, an organisation fighting in the unions, the Socialist Alliance and the Labour Party for a socialist alternative to both capitalism and Stalinism, based on common ownership and democracy.**

**We want one democratic, fighting union for all railworkers. We reject artificial divisions between workers of different grades. We oppose racism, sexism, homophobia and all prejudice that divides us. Only our bosses benefit from a divided workforce.**

Workers' Liberty London Forum

**Weds 11 December,  
7.30pm, central London**  
(phone 7207-3997 for venue)

**Victory to the  
fire-fighters - why  
working class  
struggle will win**

Speakers from the FBU and  
Workers' Liberty

**All welcome**

over-excited and not compiled as much evidence as was necessary in the brief. The thought of sacking a union rep was obviously more important than getting his staff back to work in good health.

## DRY ICE

**H&C drivers are troubled by clouds of smoke in the sidings at Farringdon. Usually, it turns out to be dry ice from Turnmill's nightclub upstairs. Look, we know that we have to work while other people are out having a good time. There is no need to rub our noses in it.**

## PAPER TRAIL

The form-designers at Number 55 have produced a new one for the hugely important issue of ... SAs signing out gate permits. My goodness, they must be nearing that World Record for Paperwork Generation by now. We suspect that this one will have a very short shelf life, as once we start using smart-card gate permits, another new form will be needed.

Are any of our readers aware that there is a problem with gate permits? Or could this be a case of LUL's vast bureaucracy keeping themselves busy trying to prove the dubious point of their existence?

## SEVEN SICK SISTERS

**Seven Sisters depot has lost ten drivers this year for health reasons – that's 5% of the depot! Now, this could just be coincidence, but the drivers suspect it might have something to do with the working conditions – ie. the poor state of the track and suspension, vibration, heat, and stress caused by**

managers.

**Drivers can either wait to be the next one down the doctor's, or they can get together and do something about it.**

*Tubeworker* recommends the latter.

## FAULT REPORT

Desperate to improve their MSS scores, DSMs at certain stations are requiring Supervisors to carry out a fine-tooth-comb station inspection on Sunday nights, noting every dodgy light bulb and patch of flaky paintwork. Surprise, surprise, another hefty form is involved.

The problem being: it misses the point. The Supervisors have already reported the aforementioned light bulbs and flaky paintwork, but the Fault Reporting Centre has failed to get the contractors to carry out the work. Hassle the FRC, not the Supervisors. Better still, dump the cowboys and get the faults repaired by a massively-expanded LUL engineering workforce.

## OPO INTERVIEWS?

***Tubeworker* is disturbed by reports that some people going up for promotion have been grilled by a lone interviewer, instead of a panel. Problem is: if that person takes a dislike to you – for whatever reason – then you've had it.**

**That's the point of having panels in the first place – balance, fairness, that kind of thing. We know that LUL is very committed to such values, don't we?**

## CRIME PAYS

Jarvis' 'first half' profit has gone up by 17% to £19m. Its turnover has also increased, by 26% to £534.4 m. Yep, that's the same Jarvis which 'maintained' the points in the Potters Bar area.

Obviously, one good way to make a load of money is to rake in the charges whilst not actually doing your job properly. The whole system has this incentive built in to it. It is not just Jarvis that should go – it is all the private-sector companies on our railways.

Want to get every issue of *Tubeworker* (published twice a month) sent to you? Send us a fiver (cheques payable to *WL Bulletins*) - and your address!

Got a story for *Tubeworker*? We welcome and will publish reports and comments from all Tube workers. Also get in touch if you want to come to our regular readers' meetings, or to get involved in action about any of the issues we've covered.

Contact Workers' Liberty, PO Box 823, London SE15 4NA 020-7207-3997  
e-mail: office@workersliberty.org - Website www.workersliberty.org.uk

*Tubeworker* p&p S. Matgamna