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Safety on the T: Random drug testing won't help

A recent article in the Globe said that the MBTA was instituting a program of random drug tests to protect passenger safety.

Unfortunately, random drug tests are not the solution. While in some instances they uncover chronic users, they may miss the bus or trolley driver who is drunk or high on drugs when a vehicle is checked out.

Performance testing would be better. In performance testing, a driver would submit to a computerized reaction test - similar to a video game - each time the driver reported to work. If the driver's reactions were not up to par, he or she would not be permitted to endanger the lives of passengers.

In addition to detecting drug use at the time the vehicle is checked out, performance testing also protects public safety by weeding out drivers who are too angry or depressed, or simply have not had enough sleep, to drive safely. And it does this all without violating the privacy of the driver involved.

SIMSON L. GARFINKEL
Cambridge

Scrooge

Scrooge is alive and well. Axing all those Tiny Tims from the welfare rolls. Reneging on his \$800 million commitment to education. Cutting back wherever possible. Even thinking he's above paying taxes.

HALE LAMONT-HAVERS
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