WITH HARD TIMES

Greyhound worker vows 'to stay with strike'

"We're doing everything we possibly can. We're walking around in the dark to save electricity."

AFRO Photo by Paul Greene

DADDY'S HOME—Twins Rachel and Rhonda Goodman take advantage of Daddy's lap while he's home from Greyhound.

By Eddie King
AFRO Staff Writer

What do you do when you have no income, your children have the flu, bills are behind and there's very little food in the house?

According to striking Greyhound driver Jay Goodman, you don't go to welfare. He tried that.

For Jay, life has totally turned itself around.

Just three weeks ago he was making an average of $25,000 a year and buying a house. Now he's losing a house and making no money at all.

"But I got to stay with the strike," exclaims Jay. "If Greyhound gets away with this, they'll try other things. They'll keep reducing our wages. The union worked 40 years for what we have now and there is no way we can just give it up just like that."

But as he looks at his wife and four children, he wonders just how much longer his family can bear it.

Welfare was just one of the ways he tried to get some aid for his family of six. But somehow he couldn't get across that there was no food and no money. They said due to the work stoppage at Greyhound, he was not eligible.

That news wasn't good. Already he knew he wasn't eligible for unemployment, veterans assistance, the city's food assistance program or even medical assistance for his four-year-old twins, Rhonda and Rachel, who had the flu.

There was more. The gas bill had to be paid. The phone, electricity and water bills were backed up and a mortgage payment was due.

"We're doing everything we possibly can," explains Jay. "We walk around in the dark to cut down on electricity, take less baths to cut down on water, and we usually have other people cooking for us to save gas."

The Goodmans have been getting support from relatives and neighbors. For Thanksgiving, relatives came over with prepared meals to give to the family.

"Such meals are not frequent," says Mrs. Goodman. "People are kind, but we just cannot go on expecting them to support the family."

Mrs. Goodman said there is one thing about the strike for her family. "Daddy's home and the children love it," she says. "I want him to leave the job. He is gone away for weeks sometimes."

Jay says that possibility is not altogether out. He is thinking about leaving. "I just cannot believe that after all of these years of dedication to Greyhound, they are doing this to us," says Jay.

The Goodman family looks back at better times in the family photo album.

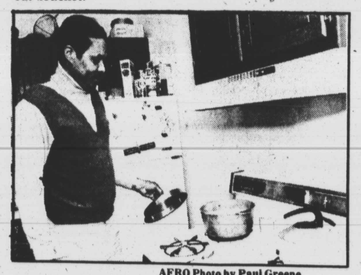
"They can't say they are losing money when just last year they gave the president of the company a 50 percent raise and this year a 40 percent raise bringing his total salary up to $594,000 a year.

"When you make $17 million in profit in your first three quarters, you're not losing money. When you aren't even asking for cuts in the salaries of 17 vice-presidents, you're not losing money and when a company is number one in its field in the country, you're not losing money.

"Even in our attempt to understand Greyhound's predicament, we're not asking them to give us any more money, just keep what we got. Greyhound doesn't even want to negotiate in what I think are realistic terms.

"Now the company calling itself being strategic is offering us a 7.5 percent cut in wages as oppose to the original 9.5 percent cut in wages. However, cuts in our fringe benefits would remain the same.

"The company's original idea was to have a 20-25 percent across the board cut in everything. We don't want that, and this new proposal would still have us in the 20 percent cut bracket.



AFRO Photo by Paul Greene

'WELL THAT'S ALL WE GOT' says Jay Goodman looking at the beans given him by the Dept. of Social Services to feed his family. Jay was not eligible for welfare since he was one of the strikers for Greyhound, but some food was given to help feed the children.

"You have to understand. The original 20-25 percent cut included wages and benefits. With this new proposal, they are only reducing the wages, not the benefits. That's what's making the entire cut remain in the 20 percent bracket.

"I'm about tired now of giving children beans from the welfare. Greyhound can do better than this. They are sacrificing people lives just to make a point.

"I'm just so sorry that many people don't understand why we're fighting this thing. Greyhound is trying to bust our union, and it's important to remember that nobody probably would be getting the wages they are today if it had not been for unions."

In another week or so, the union will become quite handy for Jay. That's when he will receive his first union check for $50, most of which has to go towards repaying debts.

Talk about going to Urban Services to see if oil can be gotten to keep the family warm is unusual in the Goodman family. Not being able to ride in the family car is odder and for the child not being able to watch television is upsetting.

This nationwide strike of Greyhound Bus Lines employees began on Nov. 3 after company and union officials failed were to come to an agreement after several meetings.

Greyhound officials insisted that a cut in wages and employee benefits was necessary if the company was to remain competitive with other major bus lines as well as with other growing air lines.

The walkout by employees affected Greyhound, strikers and avid passengers. Students attending colleges and universities in small towns were for the most part stranded.

Employees on strike are faced with much of the same problems as the Goodman family.

Greyhound Corporation buses have been subject to attack forcing the company to use unmarked buses in order for safe transportation of its passengers.

At a downtown demonstration Wednesday in front of the Greyhound Bus Station, other local and national unions marched to show their support.

Wednesday's demonstrations included representatives of the United Steelworkers, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Food and Commercial Workers and The Amalgamated Garment and Textile Union.

"These unions are sticking with us," says Jay. "They understand what we're fighting for. They have even set up coffee and some desserts at their local union halls for us."

"We will support the Greyhound workers in any way they need it, financially or with food and clothing. We will be soliciting locals under our jurisdiction to make contributions to a strike fund for them, said Ed Lamon, recently named president of the AFL-CIO after past president Tom Bradley's death.

For Jay this is good. "Our funds are completely exhausted. Our savings and everything," says Mrs. Goodman.

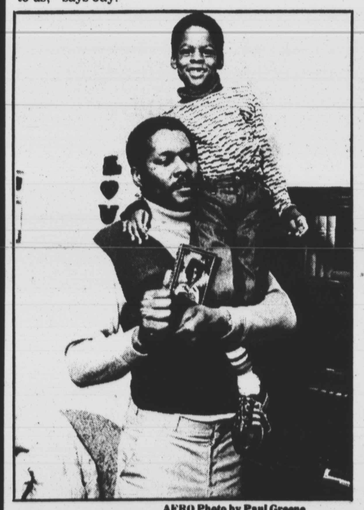
Jay Goodman is just one of about 70 Greyhound workers based in Baltimore and 280 in Washington, D.C. He has been working for Greyhound over 10 years.

Jay said he seriously believes that what he's doing is right and others must agree with him. Of the 12,700 employees believed to have gone on strike, only around 200 are estimated to have crossed the picket lines.

"I will not do that," says Jay. "I'll get another job first."

So far there have been no real incidences of violence. The only incidents outside of Baltimore's Greyhound station have been the arrest of a few strikers for disorderly conduct.

"I'm going to stay with the strike. There's a matter of principle behind all of this. I believe we'll win. We have to because we're right!" said Jay.

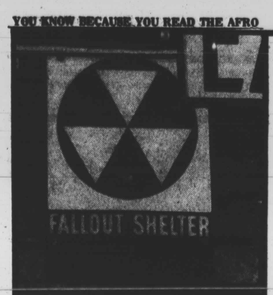


AFRO Photo by Paul Greene

Mark Goodman is happy because Daddy is home. Usually Jay Goodman is away from his family when driving for Greyhound. Since the strike he is home quite often.

AFRO Photo by Paul Greene

Gaynelle Goodman holds her daughter Rhonda during a tender moment that Daddy is home.



Nuclear war could be right at your Baltimore doorstep

By Tyrone Vines
AFRO Staff Writer

Most people believe that it will never happen, while others simply bury their heads in the sand, not bothering to care one way or the other. It's like if you don't think about it, then it will never happen. But it could happen. A nuclear war could be dropped right at your Baltimore City doorstep.

Since the first dropping of an atomic weapon at Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945, the people of the world have lived with the fears of the Nuclear Age.

Just recently the movie "The Day After...Beyond Imagining" has shown how humanity is overshadowed by its own deadly weapons that zoom overhead like great clenched fists, shaping the character of nations and causing international unrest.

The citizens of Baltimore had a glimpse of what would happen to Lawrence, Kansas in the event of a nuclear explosion, but what about Baltimore City. What would the effects be like? It is easy to say that the effects of a nuclear explosion over or on an urban area like "Charm City" would be catastrophic.

This means that if Baltimore were hit over the weekend there would have been no Thanksgiving Day parade. In fact there would have been very little of what we know as Baltimore left. All of those 5,000 participating in the parade and the approximately 776,775 residents that live in the city would have been just charred bodies or a mass of unidentifiable shapes.

For example, if a one megaton (1MT equals the energy released by one million tons of TNT) were to be exploded on the Inner Harbor, everything from that center out to six miles would be destroyed. Charles Center, the State Office Buildings, the Civic Center, Patterson Park, Fort McHenry, Cherry Hill, Mount Winans, Franklin Street, Mulberry Street, Walbrook Junction, Druid Hill Zoo Park, and Clifton Park would be nothing but rubble. A crater about a quarter of a mile in diameter would be where the Inner Harbor and the Charles Center use to be located.

The human suffering in that six-mile area would be devastating. The first seconds of the blast would produce a sudden change in air pressure that would crush people against objects. Hurling objects would move through the air, killing people on impact. In a circle that is 1.5 miles in diameter around the Inner Harbor there would be 98 percent fatalities, and another 1.5 miles away from the Harbor there would be 50 percent fatalities.

The World Trade Center, Old Town Mall, Lexington Market, and Mondawmin would be destroyed by the overpressure, bury the people who are shopping or working there at the time of the explosion, under piles of stones, steel beams, glass, smoldering paper, wood, and human flesh. The wind in that area would be as high as 500 mph in a 1.5 mile radius and 300 mph in the three-mile radius.

The thermal radiation from a nuclear explosion would directly ignite kindling materials. Fires more likely to spread are those caused by thermal radiation passing through windows to ignite beds and overstuffed furniture inside houses. The blast wave, which arrives after most thermal energy has been expended, will have some extinguishing effect on the fires.

This, however, will not have a great effect on the amount of damage and death by fire that this three-mile area would experience. People living in public housing high-rise units and privately rented houses would be consumed in fire. The homeless in this area would be burned beyond recognition. The clothes that they would be wearing would catch on fire around their bodies as they stumbled along. Many would die instantly.

Most of the people in Baltimore, for the most part, will be killed in a nuclear blast by indirect means rather than by direct pressure. Thus, during the average working day in Baltimore there would be high numbers of fatalities caused by the high office buildings like like the World Trade Center, the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the Maryland National Bank, and several other completed skyscrapers.

Most blast deaths would result from the collapse of occupied buildings and from city workers being blown into objects, out of windows, or from buildings or smaller objects being blown by 300 to 500 mph winds.

City Hall would be destroyed by the blast, the fire, and direct nuclear radiation. Therefore, the center of city government for Charm City would no longer exist to regulate the function of saving what is left of the residents of Crabtown.

Another consequence is that nuclear weapons inflict ionizing radiation on people, animals, and plants in two different ways.

Direct radiation occurs at the time of the explosion; it can be very intense, but its range is limited. Fallout radiation is received from particles that are made radioactive by the effects of the explosion and are subsequently distributed at varying distances from the site of the blast.

A radiation dose of 600 REMS (a measure of biological damage) within a week has a 90 percent chance of causing a fatal cancer, with deaths occurring within a few [illegible] will [illegible] serious genetic damage [illegible] of exposed to smaller doses. There is scientific controversy about whether any dose of radiation, however small, is really safe. However, a nuclear blast on Baltimore would expose the survivors, however well-sheltered, to levels of radiation far greater than the U.S. Government considers safe in peacetime.

Approximately 35 percent of the energy from a nuclear explosion would be an intense burst of thermal radiation or heat. The effects are roughly analogous to the effect of a two-second flash from an enormous sunlamp. Since the thermal radiation travels at essentially the speed of light, the flash of light and heat precedes the blast wave by several seconds.

Most residents living in the Woodlawn area who are looking in the direction of the explosion would suffer from flashblindness. If the flash is focused through the lens of the eye, a permanent retinal burn will result. For Charm City this would mean that an IMT explosion could cause flashblindness at distances as great as 13 miles on a clear day. Residents as far as Leakin Park, Lansdowne, Herring Run Park, and Morgan State University would experience flashblindness if they happened to be looking toward the Inner Harbor when the explosion occurs.

Dr. Vikas Saini, president of Baltimore Physicians for Social Responsibility, an organization of doctors and health professionals dedicated to the prevention of a nuclear holocaust, described the medical effects of a nuclear explosion on Baltimore.

"Skin burns would result from higher intensities of light and therefore would occur closer to the point of explosion. At a distance of about seven miles the Eastpoint, Arbutus, Liberty Heights, the University of Baltimore areas would experience first-degree burns (equivalent to a bad sunburn), second-degree burns (producing blisters that would lead to infection if untreated) would occur at distances of about six miles and third-degree burns (which destroy skin tissue) would be suffered at distances of up to five miles from the explosion. That means that the Five Mile House would be five miles up in the air," he said.

"Third-degree burns would cover 24 percent of the body of Baltimore's best, or second-degree burns over 30 percent of the body will result in serious shock, and would probably prove fatal without prompt, specialized medical care is available. Which may not be. However, the entire United States has facilities to treat one to two thousand severe burn cases; a single nuclear weapon explosion in the Inner Harbor could produce more than ten thousand fatalities," Dr. Saini calculated.

Hospitals such as Johns Hopkins Hospital, Provident, Lutheran, and the University of Maryland would be destroyed totally or to the point of being out of commission. "The situation is further complicated by this fact. Since most hospitals and other medical facilities, and their doctors would either be destroyed or killed after the blast and fallout, there will be a shortage of medical care to those who survive. There would be thousands of injured people wandering throughout the outlying areas of the city with very little hope of finding sufficient medical help," Dr. Saini said.

Therefore, Baltimore City would be a mass of fire, radiation, confusion, and death. Those participants and parade watchers would be destroyed in the very spot that they stood. Their reaction time would only allow them to look in the direction of the exploding Inner Harbor long enough to be disintegrated.

Another hazard of a nuclear explosion in Harbor City would be the 'radioactive fallout'. The radioactive particles that rise only a short distance (those in the stem of the familiar mushroom cloud) will fall back to the earth within a matter of minutes, landing close to the center of the explosion. Such particles are unlikely to cause many deaths because they will fall in areas where most people have already been killed.

However, the intense radioactivity will complicate efforts at rescue or eventual reconstruction of the inner city. This will occur along with the blacking out of the sun and heavy rains occurring throughout the city and surrounding areas as far as seven miles from the center of the explosion.

If the radiation intensity from fallout was great enough to pose an immediate threat to health, fallout would be visible as a thin layer of dust.

The idea of survivors after a nuclear explosion and their possible evacuation is another area of concern for many people that live in and around Baltimore City. Their first cry for help would be for civil defense officials to provide the necessary shelters and medical treatment. Dr. Saini said that from his understanding of civil defense, "there is none. All notions about civil defense is either misguided or misleading."

This idea was presented to John McMahon, of the Office of Disaster Control and Civil Defense for Baltimore. He explained what evacuation means. "Evacuation is conceptually simple: People move from high-risk to low-risk areas. In effect, evacuation (or crisis relocation) uses safe distances for protection from immediate nuclear effects."

"City and State officials worked with Federal planners to develop an evacuation plan for the Baltimore area if a nuclear war broke out," said McMahon.

"That plan involved sending most of the 1.4 million metro-area residents to small towns in West Virginia and the Eastern Shore, however, officials stated that they needed seven years to make the plans work," he said.

The city currently has "1,053 facilities located by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that will provide radioactive fallout protection. But there is no coordination with state and federal civil defense officials. So unless there's a state plan, you're dead," McMahon said.

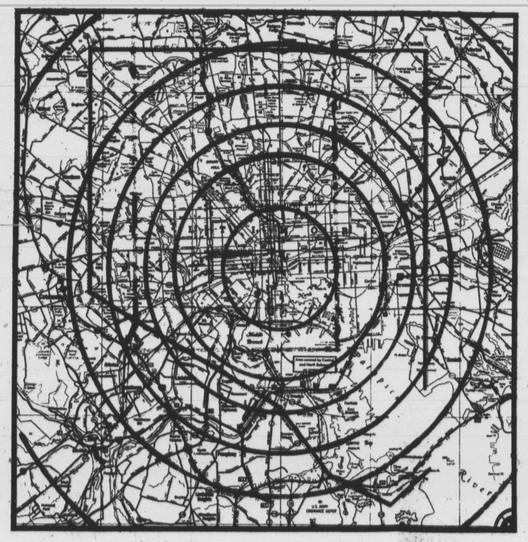
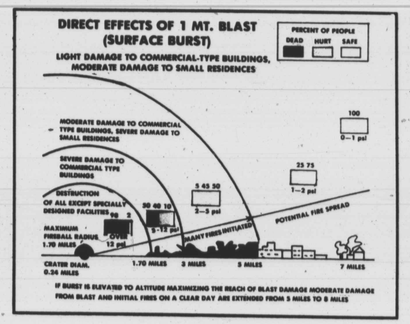
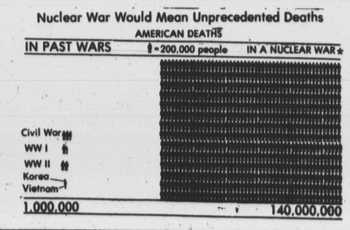
The Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman, Hugh Laine said, "although the legislature may have barred planning for a nuclear attack, there are other plans that could be used."

Planning for natural disasters continues in Maryland, Laine stated noting such plans could be put into effect in a nuclear attack.

"It's the same kind of planning for an enemy attack. They're still planning to move people, and the communications with federal agencies are set up," he added.

In regards to how effective the planning for natural disasters would be in the case of a nuclear attack, and how many people would be saved if the city followed that plan.

Laine stated, "In regard to that issue, I agree that we could do some evacuation and protect some of the public, but it would be very limited."

"However," he added, "If the 1984 general assembly approves funding for the evacuation

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