Tri-Met driver assaulted by 17-year-old

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

ALOHA, Ore. -- A Tri-Met driver on bus route #52 was allegedly punched in the face by a rider Tuesday after the driver refused to open the door. The suspect became upset with the driver after he missed his stop, deputies reported. According to a news release prepared by the Washington County Sheriffâ€™s Office, deputies responded to SW 149th Avenue and SW Farmington Road in Aloha just before 5 p.m., March 10, in response to a reported assault.

A Tri-Met bus driver, unnamed by police, told deputies that he stopped at the intersection to let another passenger exit from the front door, and didnâ€™t see anyone at the rear dor. When he tried to drive away, 17-year-old Byron L. Bearyman came to the front of the bus and began to swear at him because he didnâ€™t open the rear door, the driver said.

After pulling over and telling Bearyman -- a passenger the driver said had caused problems on his bus in the past -- he was going to call police and have him removed, the driver said the teenager punched him in the face and demanded he open the door.

The driver told deputies that other passengers encouraged him to comply with Bearyman because they feared an attack. He then opened the door and Bearyman left, deputies said.

After interviewing the driver and obtaining a suspect description, deputies, believing they knew the identity of the teenager, went to a nearby apartment and arrested him after he admitted to striking the driver, the news release stated.

Bearyman was taken to the Donald E. Long School (the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Detention Facility) and was arrested for third-degree assault and interfering with public transportation.

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