

Triple-trailer ban is bad plan for Oregon

On Nov. 3, Oregonians will have the opportunity to cast a vote in favor of increased pollution, greater road damage, more dangerous highways and higher prices. All that's needed is for Ballot Measure 4 to pass.

Measure 4 would ban the operation of triple-trailers within the state. Proponents of the measure argue that triples are unsafe and pose a greater threat to motorists than double or single-trailer trucks.

However, these claims are not supported by any factual data. Rather, they are based upon the unsubstantiated fears of some motorists. They feel intimidated by triples; therefore, they want to ban them.

The AAA Automobile Club of Oregon, in an argument in favor of the measure, wrote, "Our members report triples swaying out of their lanes and creating near collisions." If creating "near collisions" is cause for being banned from the highways, AAA would find its number of driving members greatly reduced. Privately operated vehicles (cars) spend much more time moving in and out of lanes than do large trucks.

The club's statement goes on to say, "They (members) have told us of near rear-end collisions with these huge trucks because of the slow speed of triple trailers on hills and in mountain passes." The statement also complains about "close-calls" by members attempting to pass triples on two-lane roads and coastal highways.

Whose fault is it that AAA's members can't see far enough ahead to slow down before running into the back of a very large truck? And who in their right mind would try to pass any truck (or car for that matter) on one of Oregon's narrow coastal or mountain highways? That is what passing corridors are designed for. The impatience of motorists to wait for these passing lanes is not a problem caused by triple-trailers.

Banning triples would increase the number of trucks on the road and create greater pollution, more hazardous traffic conditions, more accidents and increased road damage. For every triple removed from service, two smaller trucks are needed to carry the same amount of material. The measure's estimate of financial impact suggests \$2.5 million worth of road damage would occur with the increased traffic.

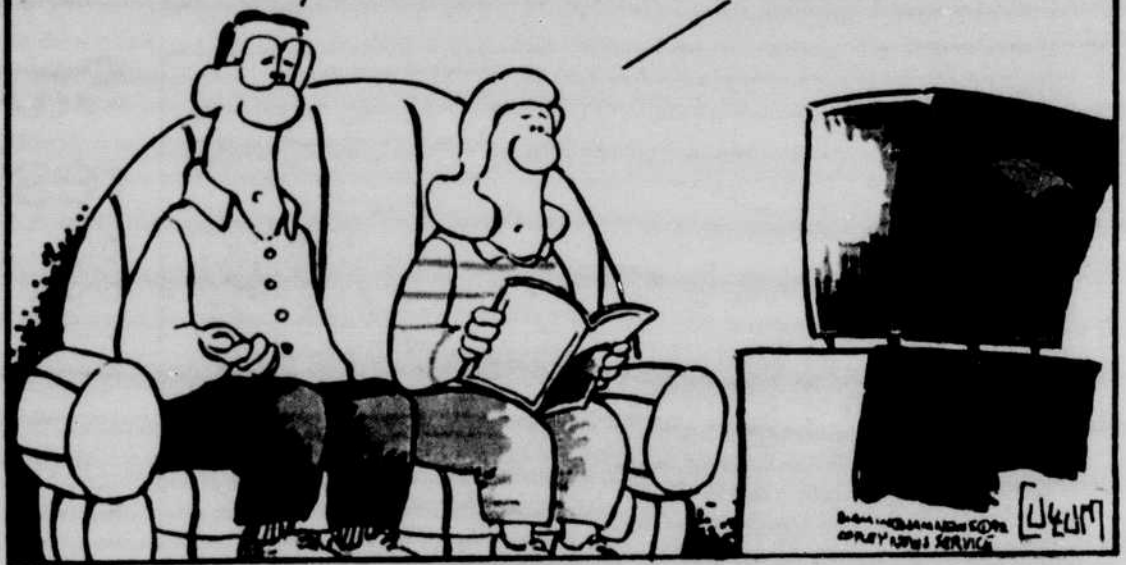
Obviously, there would be no question that triples should be banned if there were overwhelming evidence that they posed a threat to motorists. However, there is no evidence to that effect, and claims of triples being unsafe are simply unfounded. Vote no on more traffic, more pollution, damaged roads. Vote no on Measure 4.



Whose fault is it that AAA's members can't see far enough ahead to slow down before running into the back of a very large truck?

I KNOW HE'S A LONG SHOT, BUT HE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE DEBATE WHO SHOWED ANY LEADERSHIP.

BUT... JIM LEHRER ISN'T ON THE BALLOT...



LETTERS

Echoed ideal

M. Behman's letter (ODE, Oct. 16) calls for all students to join with international students to boycott foreign-related subjects until there is diversity in faculty. This echoes my sentiments as a Native American.

International scholars are recruited, but Native Americans rarely teach classes related to our people. Some teachers are considered Native American authorities but perpetuate a view from the outside, looking at our world as if we were the oddities. We are treated as foreigners in our own land.

My education depends on my grades. Without good grades, I will be back on the Indian reservation. I do not want to openly contradict classroom statements. I presume they are said out of ignorance, not bigotry. However, non-Indian teachers should not reinforce a stereotypical image of Native Americans they only think is true.

College professors influence the young students of Eugene — the future leaders. Please teach the truth. Only with truth can they see that Native American culture is not inferior.

Wyeot-tsumt-mi
Pre-Journalism

for him. Since Chen is running for state treasurer, I asked Yeutter how Chen had done. He replied, "(Chen) was a good manager and he is a fine person."

A good manager and a fine person. That says a lot, and that is the type of person we need in state government. And Chen is a professional money manager to boot.

I have noticed that Chen has one other asset that I think is equally important ... his wife Debbie. I have seen her at many, many meetings with Chen and I am confident that she provides the support, the encouragement and the love to make Chen the best he can be.

David and Debbie Chen are a great team, and David, as state treasurer, would give us the skill and integrity we need in state government.

John Schoon
State Representative
Rural Polk/Benton Counties

Toss 'em out

This is an open letter to the administration, the ASUO and the Athletic Department:

I wish to express my discontent with the comportment of certain fans at University sporting events.

Drunkenness, vomiting, brawling and general incivility are an unnecessary distraction for most students attending games. Such behavior is unbefitting of the individuals involved and harms our school's reputation.

I am especially tired of having to watch games in the midst of what is essentially a police state. The obvious and constant presence of blue security shirts and helmeted Eugene police should not be necessary to ensure the peace and safety of responsible fans.

Because the present situation is so obviously out of whack, I offer these proposals as possible solutions: Ban boda bags from Autzen Stadium and McArthur Court; give all visibly intoxicated fans blood alcohol content tests and evict them from the game if legally drunk; confine drinkers to some easily ignored corner of the stadium if they insist on swearing, vomiting and fighting among them-

selves. The extensive security measures presently required seem an incredible waste of school funds. Cracking down on the few juvenile delinquents that are necessitating these expenditures will improve the atmosphere at home games.

Consider these measures seriously. Intoxicated fans are not amusing; they are an unnecessary nuisance we should not have to endure

Iara Braithwaite
Anthropology

Why so rare?

Friday's article "Students over 30: A rare find" (ODE, Oct. 16) failed to mention the political and economic reasons behind why this group represents only five percent of the University's student population. Rising tuition and cuts in financial aid seriously limit the option of "higher ed" for many people, especially people with families to support. Time constraints and daily living expenses also make a university education seem like a luxury few can afford. If one already has a job, which may not reflect one's "true vocation" or even provide benefits, when there are bills to pay and families to feed, few can afford to walk away. The idea of sinking deeper and deeper into debt at this stage of one's life is extremely frightening. In today's economy, there are no guarantees of finding a job even with a college degree in hand.

The politics surrounding who gets to go to college and who doesn't are not what we at the University are used to thinking about. Those "over-thirties" and others struggling to balance family, finances and school have often had to make difficult choices to get where they are today. They should be supported and admired. Yet, we must not forget about the number of people who are continually denied this choice because of the economics and politics involved. We should all work to counter the race, gender and class biases these realities often reflect.

Theresa Lowrie
GTF, History

Chokes on 'Pie'

This is my third year at the University, and I have become more and more agitated everytime I hear folk-singing in the EMU Courtyard.

The next time I hear some third-rate folksinger crooning, "This'll be the day that I die," from the song "American Pie," I may very well begin shaking spasmodically and shout, "Yeah, 'cause I'll make damn sure that you do, you idiotic, tone-deaf, '60's retread." A friendly word of warning.

Vote no on 9.

Ed Carson
Student

Vote for Chen

On Oct. 1, I met Clayton Yeutter, the former Secretary of Agriculture, who mentioned that David Chen had worked

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