

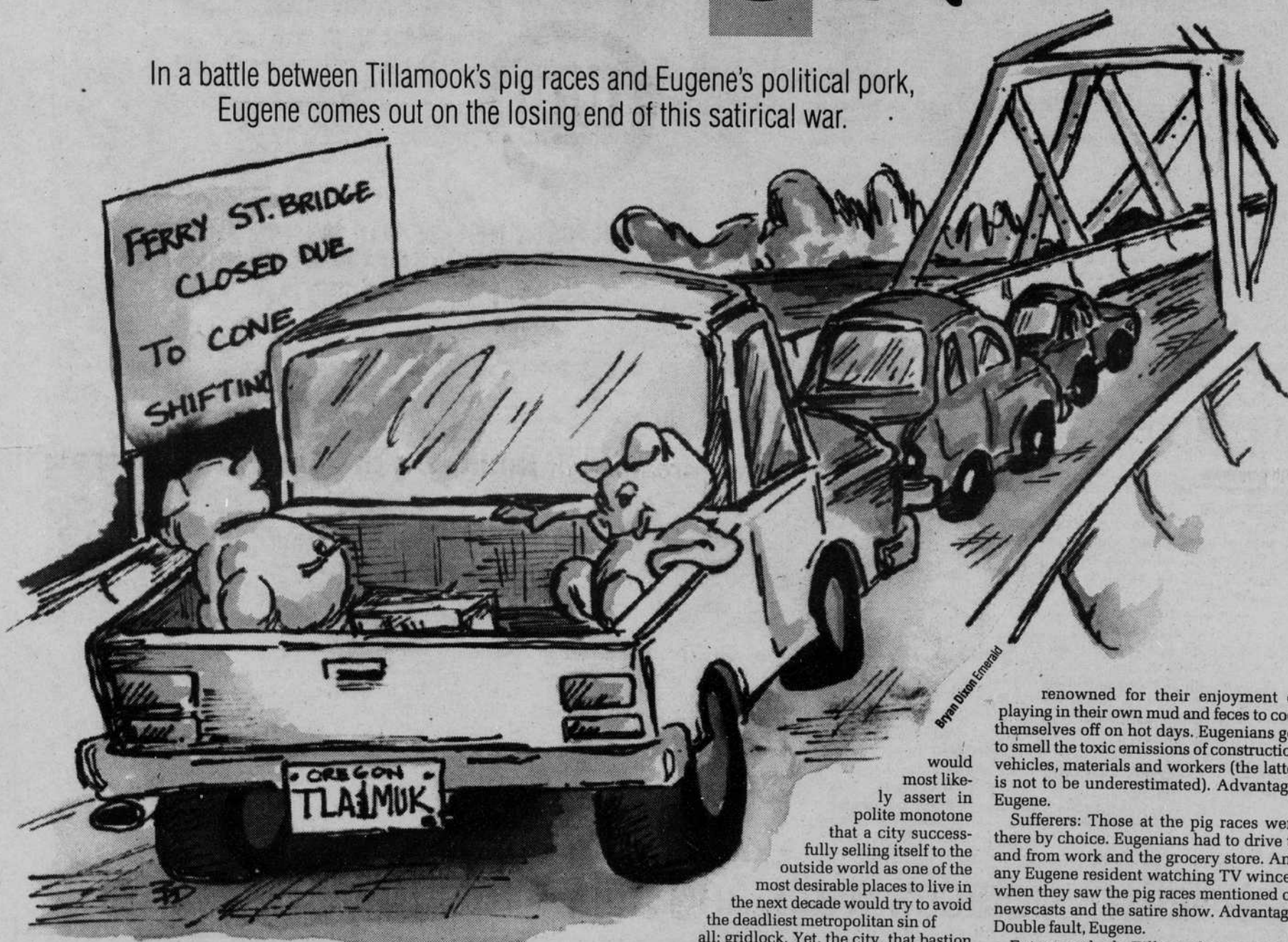
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Emerald**  
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# Perspectives

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## the pride of OREGON

In a battle between Tillamook's pig races and Eugene's political pork, Eugene comes out on the losing end of this satirical war.



renowned for their enjoyment of playing in their own mud and feces to cool themselves off on hot days. Eugenians got to smell the toxic emissions of construction vehicles, materials and workers (the latter is not to be underestimated). Advantage: Eugene.

Sufferers: Those at the pig races were there by choice. Eugenians had to drive to and from work and the grocery store. And any Eugene resident watching TV winced when they saw the pig races mentioned on newscasts and the satire show. Advantage: Double fault, Eugene.

Future outlook: Tillamook seems to be ready to root for their oinkers over the long haul while the bridge issue is settled, until residents finally demand real solutions to their problems with traffic as Eugene continues its growth in the next decade. Advantage: Always go with longevity, we give this one to Tillamook.

So, the numbers tell the tale. Despite the northerly town's commitment to excelling at the oddest sport besides midget tossing, Eugene's use of political pork wins the statistical battle over which city is worse off for its use of swine.

No doubt the bridge was the more bone-headed civil action. But in such cases of intrastate discord, we must remember there are no winners here. Perhaps the best idea would be to heed the proud cattle rancher of eastern Oregon. Forget the running pigs and questionable pork: beef — it's what's for dinner.

*Bret Jacobson is an editorial editor for the Emerald. His views do not necessarily represent those of the newspaper. He can be reached via email at bjacobso@gladstone.uoregon.edu*



**Bret  
Jacobson**

**H**ealthy pigs and rotten pork usually aren't separated by 200 miles, but the cities of Tillamook and Eugene have demonstrated that such a wonderful co-existence can happen all within one quaint little state. About three hours south of Tillamook's infamous pig races, Eugene spent three years and exorbitant amounts of money aggravating commuters through restrictive construction on a key city thoroughfare, the Ferry Street Bridge, in a gross display of political pork. So, there must be an examination to decide which situation was the worst transgression.

Think it's a stretch to compare snouts and

hooves like this? Not when both smell like slop.

Take Tillamook's pig races. Spectators actually sit in grandstands to view a bunch of men crank up little cars, grab a pig, dip the pig in mud and drive to a finish line. And these onlookers aren't even being held at gunpoint as you'd probably initially guess. Its legend has even spread to Comedy Central's *The Daily Show With Jon Stewart*, where the entire country was allowed to gawk at the farmers and by extension the rest of us in Oregon.

It's not like Oregon needs any more embarrassments for the next decade after ice skater Tonya Harding kneecapped her competition and Senator Bob Packwood was forced out of office after his sexual harassment scandal. But his was a political crime similar to Eugene's little farce of a public works program.

Eugene has two main bridges and one rush hour each way to work and back. Logic

would most likely assert in polite monotone that a city successfully selling itself to the outside world as one of the most desirable places to live in the next decade would try to avoid the deadliest metropolitan sin of all: gridlock. Yet, the city, that bastion of realistic visionaries, decided it would be better to spend three years building bike and bus lanes in an attempt to force commuters to environment-friendly forms of transport. This form of political pork spending is a tiresome weight around the necks of taxpayers and commuters.

True, the environment is one of the most critical issues of the coming century, but locking up a city wasn't the answer. Every year effective solutions to gasoline engines are becoming more realistic alternatives, which will drastically reduce the hazards of automobile travel on the environment. But when all these new cars hit the streets of Eugene they won't be any better at getting to a destination than they were before construction on the bridge commenced.

But the pig races are also offensive to the senses of most city folk. So to reach a decision as to the more heinous situation, let us take the logical method prescribed by ESPN's Nick Bakay of examining how each side stacks up on relevant issues.

Smell: Tillamook boasts animals