

# Communique

## Tri-met improvements: Right idea, wrong area

Well Tri-met's done it to us again. The next (un) fare hike will take effect in June of '82. This was decided weeks ago, but now the lone mass transit system in the area has recently come to the conclusion that they need new buses.

Okay, okay, buses, just like any other type of transportation are prone to break down every now and then. Being driven for long periods of time will wear out any vehicle.

But, will new buses mean better service? The buses should be more dependable on the schedules already mapped out, but that doesn't mean much better service to areas such as Molalla. Molalla is one area Tri-met doesn't give much attention. Currently, there are only five buses traveling from the College to Molalla in a single day, with the last one leaving the College at 6:26 p.m. This doesn't allow students who live in Molalla, the opportunity to take evening classes or activities unless they have another form of transportation.

As for getting from Molalla to the College, the earliest bus arrives at 7:10 a.m. which should be fine with most people.

But again there are only five buses that make the trip from Molalla to the College in one day.

The Associated Student Government is attempting to improve Tri-met service for the students. One of the goals decided upon at the recent ASG retreat is to get Tri-met to run buses down to Clairmont and to get better service to Molalla.

In regard to the additional stop at Clairmont, ASG President Sam Crosby said, "It is a long way to Clairmont and this would help handicapped students." It would be a big aid to other students as well.

ASG will also make an attempt to secure lower rates for students. This is something everyone can use. Tri-met can't seem to figure out why their ridership keeps decreasing. Every time the fares are increased, the ridership goes down, and every time the ridership goes down the fares go up.

New buses or not, ridership on Tri-met will not go up until fares go down, and better service is given to areas that need it.

EDGERTON



## OC Mayor indifferent to public interest

I was a little upset last Friday. I stormed and ranted and raved around in the student publications trailer for a good half an hour yelling at anyone or thing that would listen. I was "mad as hell and not going to

By Duffy Coffman

take it anymore!", and I think it's important that you know why.

As a photographer for the Print, I had been assigned to photograph a debate between Oregon City Commissioner Jim Johnson and Oregon City Mayor Don Anderson. The debate was held Friday at noon in the Fireside Lounge and presented the opposing opinions on Ballot Measure No.

51, which concerns Metropolitan Service District's proposed Resource Recovery plant, a garbage incinerator.

An almost fuedal controversy has enshrouded measure No. 51, with proponents and opponents screaming "foul" at one another.

Proponents state that approving measure 51 gives the public the right to vote on whether or not to allow the plant to be constructed in Oregon City.

Opponents claim that 51 hinders the democratic process, because it prevents the Oregon City commission from acting on behalf of the public in the decision. Witnessing the debate, I watched and listened as Anderson and Johnson battled back and forth.

Johnson spoke heatedly of dangerous toxic emissions,

of steam explosions, of cost overruns, of sooty particulate pollution, and of disregard for the public welfare and public opinion against the plant by the mayor and his fellow city commissioners.

Mayor Anderson spoke calmly of lower property taxes, increased tax revenue, assured environmental quality, of more jobs, and that the city commissioners had acted in the best interests of the public by approving construction of the plant.

About three quarters of the way through the debate, I suddenly realized that here was the city mayor, a publicly elected official, debating against a ballot measure that would simply allow the public he represents to have the right to vote on an issue that they had expressed enough concern over to successfully petition for an initiative ballot measure.

True, the petition was led by Johnson, but as an elected representative of the public, that is his job. If the public expresses strong enough interest in an issue to petition for a ballot measure and get it, then the public, above all other considerations, ought to be listened to.

There should be no need for debate of this issue. Who cares if the city commission says that it is acting in the best interest of the people of Oregon City should be able to act in their own best interest if they want; and without any interference from their city government.

Measure 51 does not terminate construction of the plant, it would amend the city charter so that approval of construction of the plant would be

determined by a vote of the general public.

That is absolutely all it does.

Well almost.

It does force further study of the project and much further disclosure of information about the plant to the public, and it takes the power of approval out of the hands of the city commissioners and puts it into the hand of us common folk.

I fail to see anything wrong with that, but four of the five city commissioners--Don Anderson, Ed Allick, Joan Cartales, and Ron Thom do. They are all in opposition to measure 51, and I can't help but wonder why?

At the debate I asked Mayor Anderson why he, as a public elected servant, opposed measure 51 when there seemed to me to be such strong support of it. He replied that he wasn't in opposition to the people's right to vote on the garbage plant, he just wanted to point out some misinformation about the recovery plant--that was being used by proponents of measure 51, specifically Johnson.

Bullshit! I noticed Mayor Anderson's name is on a full page ad in the November 2 edition of the "Enterprise Courier." The ad states in big, black type: "We support Resource Recovery and will Vote **No on 51** tomorrow. I don't know about you, but that sounds like opposition to me, and that is opposition to public opinion and public desire to

have a choice in the matter.

People wanting to have choice in an issue, people having the right to vote on an issue, elected government officials supporting and being responsive to public opinion and desires, is the democratic process in action.

Even if measure passes, the Resource Recovery Plant could still be approved but it would be up to public choice. Yet we have a

mayor and three city commissioners who don't seem to want the public to have a choice to have an interest in making.

There are some 14,000 people who live within Oregon City's limits, thousands more who live just outside the limits as well as the residents of West Linn and Gladstone.

All of these people have to live with the plant, its benefits or suffer damage. If they want it, they

vote it in. If they don't want it, they vote it out, but either way the public has the choice. It's masses deciding for

masses, majority rule, is the democratic process, and I would like to know what the hell four people get

deciding that the public does not need the right to vote on an issue of this importance.

That is not democracy, that is aristocracy.

Due to Veteran's Day next Wednesday, **The Print** will be taking a holiday with you. We will return to the stands the following Wednesday in an expanded edition.

### staff

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