

Sound Off: Should you be able to use your cellular phone while driving a car?



"Banning [cell phones] is a bit extreme, but I do hate people who have to drive 25mph just to dial some digits."

-Molly Corcoran



"They cannot drive safely while talking on the phone. If they cannot keep their mind on the road, it is unsafe... It causes accidents. Most of the time people on the cell phone are not in the accident, they just cause it."

-Don Young

Professional Truck Driver

Driving and talking is just fine; don't pass stupid laws!

Traveling home from college yesterday, I picked up my cell phone and made a call to work to check in with my boss. I traveled down the on-ramp to 205, chattering away. At the bottom of the ramp, I checked my blind spot, signaled, and made a proper merge onto the highway.

A fellow student was traveling down the ramp behind me. He failed to signal, cut off the pickup truck in front of me, and immediately merged into the fast lane, traveling at least twenty or thirty miles per hour faster than I was.

Therefore, I have to assume that even though I'm using a cell phone, I'm still a better driver than someone who is not using a cell phone. This indicates that the bill currently in front of Oregon's congress is invalid.

This bill argues that people who use cell phones cause more accidents than people who are simply stupid. The bill would make it illegal to use a cellular phone while driving.

How about, instead of making it illegal to drive with a cell phone, we make it illegal to

drive while putting on makeup, putting clothes on, or drinking any sort of beverage? Or maybe the best idea would be to simply make it illegal to drive while under the influence of stupidity.

Better yet, let's make it illegal to propose laws under the influence of stupidity.

The problem with the United States is that our government sees fit to protect us from ourselves. We are no longer a democracy when our government has to tell us when and where we can make cellular phone calls. I don't call someone who smashed into a highway barrier and died while

talking on a cell phone a tragedy; I call it natural selection.

So, before they pass a law saying that it's illegal to accelerate while you're driving, let's take it easy on the freeways. We don't need our government to protect us from ourselves, so let's use some common sense.

And for goodness' sake, listen to me when I put my phone down, lean on my horn, and shout, "LEARN TO DRIVE!"

TO BE IN A PERFECT WORLD

KARL KATZKE
Assoc. Editor



"I don't know if [cell phones] should be totally banned... it should require a hands-free phone."

-Star Muramaru



"You have a right to talk on your phone whether you're in your car at home or anywhere else."

-Leah Merritt



"I am against cell phones in cars. I think it's like putting on make-up in the car. You're distracted."

-Bobbi Felix



"I think it is a good idea because there are a lot of stupid rich middle aged ladies driving BMWs and Mercedes Benzes that talk on their cell phones and pay no attention to the road."

-Tyler McNamara

"If you are mentally incapable of driving and talking [at the same time], you shouldn't drive."

-Dan Frye

"I think it would probably be a good idea for safety's sake...A car can do a lot of damage."

-Marilyn Houlihan



The Clackamas Print aims to report the news in an honest, unbiased, professional manner. The opinions expressed in The Clackamas Print do not necessarily reflect those of the student body, college administration, its faculty, or The Clackamas Print advertisers. Products and services advertised are not necessarily endorsed by anyone associated with The Clackamas Print. All signed letters to the editor should be 300 words or less and will be considered for publication if submitted by 1 pm the Friday prior to publication. The Clackamas Print is a weekly publication.

THE CLACKAMAS PRINT
CCCPRINT@CLACKAMAS.CC.OR.US
(503) 657-6958 EXT 2309

News Editor: Robert Schoenberg (x2576)	Associate Editors: Angie Daschel Karl Katzke Mandi Linstrom
Feature Editor: Jeremy Stallwood	Cartoonist: Joel "Israel" Gunderson
Sports Editor: John Thorburn	Staff Photographers: Sarah Welch Toni McMichael
Advertising: Kristina Brooks (x2578)	Staff Writers: Salena De La Cruz James Khosravi Janos J. Plesko Maria Raymond Angela Waddell Shelbi Wescott
Copy Editor: Joel P. Shempert	
Photo Editor: Timothy A. Bell	
Design Editor: Megan Oldenstadt	
Secretary: JoAnne Gale	
Advisor: Linda Vogt (x2310)	