

# Southwest motorists need to be particularly aware of bicyclists, pedestrians

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By Don Snedecor  
The Southwest Portland Post

It's late October, and Steven Cahill, 43, is riding his bicycle in the bike lane along Capitol Highway, in a northwest direction from Multnomah towards Hillsdale.

A line of cars is waiting to merge onto Capitol Highway at Vermont Street, not far from the Fanno Creek Medical Clinic.

As the bicyclist approaches the intersection, Roberta Yeaman, 53, driving a black Chevrolet Tahoe, suddenly darts out into traffic, hitting Cahill, who is then thrown up

onto the hood of the truck. Police and an ambulance quickly respond and Cahill is rushed to St. Vincent Hospital where he is treated for a broken hand and leg. Yeaman is cited at the scene of the accident for failure to yield the right-of-way. She was uninjured.

Luckily, Cahill's injuries weren't life threatening. He is gradually recovering at home with the help of his wife, Maria, who was forced to take time off from work to care for her husband.

This accident might have been understandable if the circumstances had been different. If Cahill had been wearing dark clothing, without lights, at night-time, in the rain.

Or if Cahill had done something stupid. Like cutting in front of the truck while turning right onto Vermont Street, for example.

But the bicyclist was lit up like a Christmas tree. Cahill was wearing reflective clothing. It was during daylight hours. Visibility was excellent. There was no excuse.

In traditionally auto-oriented roads in Southwest Portland, motorists have to make a special effort to look out for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Because of the hills and dales, sightlines are often obstructed. Blind spots are everywhere. Sidewalks and bicycle lanes are few and far between.

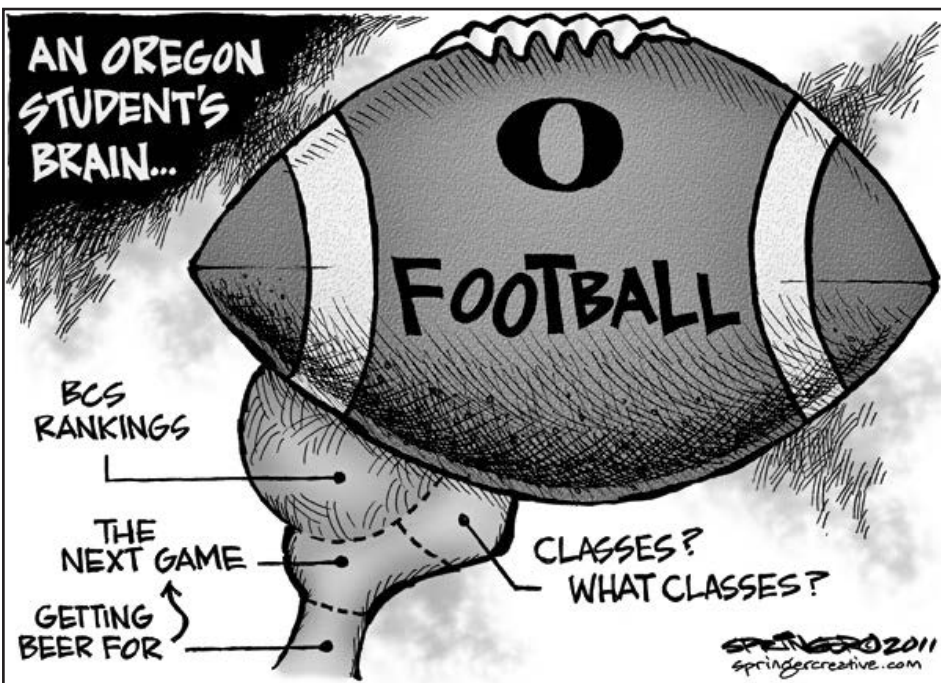
It's easy to blame accidents on bicyclists and pedestrians. But motorists need to remember that not everyone using the streets is protected by two tons of steel. By law we are all responsible

for sharing the road, and looking out for others.

Steven Cahill is recovering from his injuries, hopefully without any long-term effects or suffering. Angela Burke, a 26-year-old bicyclist killed a year ago while crossing Barbur Boulevard near Hamilton Street, wasn't so lucky.



Bicyclist Maria Cahill pedals northbound along Capitol Highway towards Vermont Street in late December. (Photo courtesy of Mary Rossi)




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