

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

joists. It used to be that carpenters actually had to know how to cut rafter roofs. Now only engineered truss roofs are used, which require hardly any skill whatsoever. Only thing missing is the ketchup and fries.

The end result has been a degree of waste that has wiped out 98 percent of the forests that were here when Columbus landed in return for a sea of tacky, disposable houses that aren't even interesting enough to call campy. At the sawmill, large parts of trees and those with defects are wasted to get the choice cuts for dimensional lumber. On the job site, there's a massive pile of cut-off lumber ends and plywood. It makes no economic sense for a \$20-per-hour carpenter to waste time sorting through. This leaves the question, why attack Seneca for their biomass power plant? The Recession has nearly killed the lumber industry; why not pursue the advantage? This time in history could be better spent making America's urban centers beautiful and vibrant places to live and work in concrete and steel mid-rise mixed-use buildings.

Warren Weisman
Eugene

INCOME TAX FAILURE

The city income tax did not fail because of a "mountain of obstacles." It failed because most voters have never, ever, lived in a city that imposed such a tax, and they did not want to start here.

Mike Kopf
Eugene

ELECTION COVERAGE

For a great example of excellent journalism, I highly recommend *The Register-Guard* editorial from Thursday, May 19. The newspaper editor analyzed the vote for and against the new city school tax measure in a concise, well-written and totally objective manner.

In contrast, read the cover story or any of the editorials written by Alan Pittman in the *Eugene Weekly*. Pittman pushed his pro-measure agenda with a cover story and several editorials that were published in three consecutive issues of the *Weekly*. All of these pieces were blatantly one-sided and painted the anti-measure group as a bunch of rich people who don't care about the education of our children. Looking at the election results, it's obvious that more than rich people voted against the measure. By almost a two to one margin, a lot of people across the spectrum thought the measure was a bad idea.

While Pittman loves nothing better than to write snide remarks about *The Register-Guard*, it wasn't until his third and final editorial that he casually mentioned that Art Johnson, part owner of the *Eugene Weekly*, was the biggest donor supporting the tax measure. It wasn't until the *Register-Guard* editorial on May 19 that it became publicly known that Hillary Johnson, the chairwoman of Strong Schools Eugene, is the daughter of Art Johnson. In the name of journalistic integrity, Pittman should have disclosed in his first editorial the almost incestuous



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