

HOOD RIVER NEWS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR  
January 4, 2003

### **Outside in?**

A recurring theme stated by supporters of a destination resort is that outsiders are telling the folks in Hood River County what to do. That's rich.

A Portlander is the only one begging our commissioners to let him build a resort in our county that will impact our county roads, our businesses, our property taxes, our farmland and our water supply. This would cast our business climate and prospects into the Stone Age. We have more low-wage seasonal service jobs than anything else. If we have more jobs like that, then obviously our unemployment rate will be even higher than it is now. Where will this county get that extra seasonal unemployment check money? From your property taxes? Out of your school's budget like this year? Get a grip on reality. Just because the mills closed and a bunch of windsurfers showed up does not mean you would be better off all bitter and surrounded by rich outsiders who bought hundreds of condos from a Portland contractor. What if we all made minimum wages serving outsiders weekendng here? Would we be fiercely independent then? How many minimum wage workers can buy homes now, much less if condo people colonize Hood River? Choose dignity and make a career or a real job for yourself or someone else, but stop asking the commissioners to let outsiders turn you or your kid into a resort peasant.

**John Wood**  
**Hood River**