

12 million reasons MTN. MESS OCT. 15, 2005**Dear Editor:**

It's all for the kids again, isn't it?

That's why Don Blankenship bought a Supreme Court judge for us, right? For the kids? Remember when he said that he was gonna put in a like amount of money (that would be about \$3,500,000) for the kids themselves? Your kid got any of that yet? No? Imagine that.

I have children both grown and in public school in Kanawha County and several friends and acquaintances in the education business and I pay attention.

And when y'all are done with your morning coffee and gone through the rest of the *Messenger*, I want to urge you to go on out there and loudly vote NO on this \$12,000,000 construction project (if you already haven't). Because near as I can tell, that's all it is. Just like the rest of the "consolidation" initiative.

Oh, here in Greenbrier County there are surely other issues and considerations relative to this vote, but I want to (as Mr. Curry asked us to last week) focus only on the needs of the kids.

It was Mr. Curry's letter, last week in the *Messenger* that sort of tore it for me: "Yesterday's buildings can't meet tomorrow's needs" and "Tomorrow's curriculum can't be delivered in old schools." Pretty snappy stuff there, Mr. Curry. Devoid of meaning, perhaps, but snappy. Kinda reminds me of the sort of slogans that are used when someone is running for president of his or her high school student council.

Then you want me to trust you with \$12,000,000 for a new school after you have demonstrated a complete lack of interest in or ability to maintain the current facilities. Right.

And it's not like anyone

asked for money to renovate and bring existing schools up to better standard, is it? I'da gone for that in a heartbeat.

It's supposed to cost about the same for that new courthouse thingy also, isn't it? Except I feel even less inclined to want that. If that's possible.

We've gotten to a pretty scary place in this culture. I don't feel near as much represented as ruled by both my elected and appointed administrators. They tell me what they're gonna do for me and then I'm supposed to be good and do as I'm told. I'm about tired of it, aren't you?

Like Mr. Blankenship is fond of saying, "We live here, too."

Which brings us to why I'm against this Wind Farm idea. How many of you are even aware of that little deal? I have the fear that only readers of the *Mountain Messenger* and the 200 or so attendees of the last meeting to discuss the issue know anything about it.

And I'll also say that the company guy was a much more effective presenter than was John Stroud who spoke in opposition. He pretty well refuted or mitigated almost all the objections that were raised to the project. And he did this in the face of a completely hostile group of concerned citizens. Brave man, I thought.

And at the end, that's all he did: he spoke to objections. And left me with no one positive reason why I should support his enterprise. So, like virtually everyone else at that last meeting, a strong alternative energy supporter, I'm not supporting this particular piece of corporate alternative energy.

And, yeah, to be completely honest, I'm not really crazy about the idea of seeing the windmills on the ridge top.

Okay, now go vote...

Alan Freeman
Rentek