

Franklin News Herald, March 14, 2007

## His choice of words shows arrogance, anger

Editor:

I attended the March 6 Barkeyville Borough Council meeting. The meeting was well-attended, informative and provided a forum for borough residents to lobby council on a variety of topics.

The topic receiving the most attention was the proposed Hawbaker asphalt plant which was given a zoning permit on Sunday, Dec. 31, by zoning officer Gary Dovey. Mr. Dovey was an employee of the Oil Region Alliance at the time, and according to a press release, "led the recruitment of new businesses to the Barkeyville Industrial Park."

Randy Seitz, president of the ORA, informed the group that we are "doing hurtful things out of fear and ignorance." Does he define exercising our legal right to appeal an interpretation of the Barkeyville zoning ordinance as "hurtful?" Does he equate "ignorance" with understanding our own ordinance? He said: "If I bring in a food plant,

you won't like the smell of peanut butter and tomatoes. If I bring in a plastic molding plant, you won't like the smell of plastic. If I bring in a metal stamping plant, the noise will be too loud. You've labeled people monsters and money fiends."

We are a group of citizens that are not concerned with giving ourselves an A-plus, and we resent Mr. Seitz' choice of words and his inference that our grandchildren will be destitute if they cannot work at a coal-fired asphalt plant in Barkeyville.

Most of us can eek out an existence and expect economic prosperity for our grandchildren without an asphalt plant. Mr. Seitz has an important position as steward of our county's economic development, and he would be better received if he was less condescending, arrogant and angry.

— Carol E. Coursen  
Harrisville