

MANITOWOC

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Manitowoc Weather

**16°F**
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Letters to the Editor:

Act now to correct wind farm mistake

DEAR EDITOR:

It sounds so perfect — tower business for Manitowoc, green power, tax revenue free for the taking, town government support, general public support and no safety issues. What a great sales pitch that was presented to the county board. Well, it is time to wake up to reality. Quite frankly, I believe Manitowoc County cannot afford wind farms.

Let's start with the support of the general public. That is the biggest fabrication. This bear is just waking up. There are still people in the affected townships that do not realize the enormous size of these wind machines or that we are just weeks away from this nightmare materializing. When talking to people, the majority are against wind farms, some are unsure how they feel and very few support wind farms.

Health and safety issues abound. These include ice fling, flicker, stray voltage, noise (which includes the potential to wash out the sound of emergency sirens), radio interference and groundwater contamination. Add to this property value decrease and the negative visual impact of these wind machines and you realize a significant decline in the quality of life for the general population around and within the wind farm.

When the ordinance invites any and all wind energy companies to come into Manitowoc County and turn our beautiful county into a monster pinwheel forest, what knowledgeable person is going to want to seek residence or employment in Manitowoc County?

Support of town government is going to evaporate. As people realize that their government is not acting in their best interest, they will be quickly replaced. County supervisor replacement will not be far behind as the public realizes that they have been betrayed by their elected officials on this level, also.

County supervisors need to act now and correct this terrible mistake before it is too late.

Gary French,**Mishicot**

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Conservative ideas must be challenged

DEAR EDITOR:

“The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.” — Hubert Humphrey

It is amazing how conservatives, drunk on the ideological ale purchased with President Bush’s “political capital,” forget that this past election was very close and by no means a mandate. In the election hangover it seems Republicans suffer from a blackout of enormous historical proportion. And with his column “Gingrich, Coulter represent 2 strains of conservatism,” (HTR, Feb. 27) we must endure another episode of the pabulum perpetrated upon us by that severely politically challenged editorialist, Chuck Raasch.

In this episode we read Raasch attempting to resurrect one of the far right’s favorite tyrants, Newt Gingrich, and vilifying Ann Coulter with a conjured slap on the hand for her Machiavellian desire to purge American intelligentsia of any dissenting viewpoints but good ol’ fashioned Anglo virtues, as decided by the wealthy white folk.

Gingrich exemplifies the hypocritical values of the far right. We can disturbingly remember him as architect of the “Contract on America” as he sought to lower the deficit on the backs of the impoverished (AFDC \$22 billion) while leaving corporate welfare untouched (more than \$100 billion).

Touting “family values,” he criticized others’ marital indiscretions as he himself has numerous extramarital affairs and divorces. Most notably, on a personal level, he criticizes President Clinton for the Lewinski affair after he had a parallel experience with Anne Manning in 1977. Wrong is wrong, no matter what party.

And wrong is clearly the word for Coulter. Her particular brand of bigotry deserves space in newspapers only as a sad example of what is wrong with xenophobic ideology.

Raasch’s analogy was right in that the views espoused by these heroes of the right represent different strains, virulent hate-mongering strains for which, unfortunately, we also have a shortage of vaccine.

Mike Sheridan,

Manitowoc

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