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Readers' views

PRO-MINING RALLY DESERVED BETTER NEWS COVERAGE

The *Herald-Leader's* inadequate reporting on the large rally March 13 in Frankfort by several thousand coal miners in opposition to House Bill 164 is the worst case of selective reporting in my memory. The rally was one of the largest in recent history, and the *Herald-Leader* published only an Associated Press photograph with a caption.

This paper rarely publishes anything favorable about the coal industry. In 2007, there was not a single fatality in underground mines in Kentucky, and this was reported on the second page of the second section below the fold in a short article. Serious injuries have annually been dramatically reduced, and the *Herald-Leader* does not bother to report the same.

This behavior proves that if you publish untruths long enough, people will eventually start believing them. Despite how many times the *Herald-Leader* prints derogatory stories, it can never make what is untrue true.

The *Herald-Leader* repeatedly defames the coal industry, coal operators and miners who work hard to provide Kentucky with the cheapest electric rates in the country. The paper's defamatory and one-sided articles may influence people outside the coal regions, but they have absolutely no credibility in the coalfields.

It is fortunate that most people who live in Eastern Kentucky fully support mountaintop removal. The *Herald-Leader's* articles will not influence the people of the coalfields who know the facts and benefits of mountaintop-removal mining.

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