Dear Mr. Berry,

Upon my first reading of your article, I must say that I found your arguments against technology flawed and somewhat backwards. After reading through a second time, I realized that perhaps your reasoning had validity. In fact, were we not capable of research, writing, and publication long before the creation of even your beloved typewriter? Some readers might concur with your claim that technology potentially causes more harm than good.

If we live our lives based upon the “greater good”, as your seemingly preferred way to live suggests, we would, to a certain extent, need to ascribe to your belief that saving natural resources and interacting with others are more essential than making our lives more convenient. While convenience and modernization seem appealing, we should seek to preserve our “humanness.” Extending the human component further, you point out that anything that replaces the typewriter “should be purchasable repairable and as near to home as possible….” This concept would benefit our communities by supporting local businesses. Local business success is another positive aspect of building relationships.

Your wife’s editing and helping with your writing not only shows a deep respect for your work, but it also exemplifies how working together toward a common goal strengthens a relationship. Computers would eliminate that component, allowing another outward force to diminish the need for human interaction. In fact, I believe that if we rely increasingly upon technology, our need for human relationships and interactions will lose their desirability. In such instances, we may conclude that increasing reliability upon inanimate objects will decrease reliability upon friends, family, and community.

Not only does dependence upon electronic devices harm relationships, but it also harms the environment. If we don’t commit to preserving our natural resources, we will someday look around and see the wasteland that we have created through our “rape of nature.” Your assertion that what you stand for is what you stand on should be a concept that we all embrace. Furthermore, if we truly embrace conservation, we must educate our farmers on the harm that advanced equipment can cause to their land.

I believe that I can reasonably compare expensive technologically-advanced farm equipment to the computer and the horse and plow to the typewriter. After all, did not early farmers use the horse and plow to plant and care for their crops long before the advancement of farming tools overtook those “outdated” forms of farming? If a simple horse and plow can feasibly produce crops without endangering the environment, why not continue with that form of farming? It is greed only that compels some farmers to “rape” the very environment that has so abundantly provided for them.

While many may think you’re foolish and your ideas antiquated, I see value in your beliefs. Nature is a resource that is limited, and interaction between humans and nature is as vitally important as interaction among humans. So, I say write on, Mr. Berry. After all, your pen is mightier than the computer!