

I Have it All Figured Out

One of the things that make our country great is the fact that one can be ignorant, misinformed and desperately dull while still being able to hold an opinion, vote, and have a monthly column published in the local newspaper.

Keep that in mind while reading my opinions on...

>Easter – It's not one of the 10 official federal holidays, maybe because it relentlessly falls on a day that most people don't work anyway. Moving it to a Monday would make it much more popular – I suggest you write your congressperson.

>Gender-Neutral Terminology – Like “congressperson” instead of “congressman.” It's only awkward the first few times you use it – you'll get over it. Do you really miss being able to say “stewardess?” Our traditional gender relationships are also taking a beating due to...

>Same Sex Marriage – I've never been a big fan of anyone spending time prosecuting victimless crimes or preventing victimless civil unions (or marriages). The right for people to swing their arms ends where my nose begins, and so far, my nose doesn't perceive itself to be in peril. We should be keeping our collective noses out of this one. Not to mention...

>Federal Income Tax Deductibility on Iowa Tax Forms – Why are so many people upset about it going away? Let Louisiana and Alabama be the only states left that have it. Damn the tax-on-a-tax aspect, it's a revenue-neutral package in which 74% of Iowans will pay the same or less, and the ones who will pay more can afford it. Coincidentally, the more affluent also tend to support...

>Public Art – I happen to believe that a ridiculously small number of tax dollars are traditionally spent on public art (not to mention conservation issues). I submit that city councilors who vote in favor of the former are not necessarily idiots, except when they do so during a historic recession.

>Historic Recession – I know a number of people who are hurting, but I know even more people like me who are relatively unaffected and likely to remain that way. It's up to us to continue to spend normally – it's pointless and counterproductive for those of us who can afford it to be unnecessarily pinching our pennies. And maybe those pennies will be going toward a...

>One Cent Sales Tax Increase – What, another one already? What the heck. Call me cynical, but most if not all of these flood mitigation projects are going to get completed sooner or later, one way or another. I get to decide if I'm paying for it directly or if it will be paid for mostly by people I don't know who inexplicably will continue to flock to the Coral Ridge Mall. Speaking of flood mitigation projects, what about...

>Idiots Who Buy Property in a Flood Plain – Why should we be expected to bail them out? I suppose I might feel differently if I wasn't one of them. If you're middle-aged and you buy a property that hasn't flooded in your lifetime, how high does that register on anyone's Irresponsibility Meter? Sure, I'm running a risk but until last year it seemed negligibly tiny - my bad. Given similar longshot odds, how come I never win the lottery? Finally, we have...

>Security Cameras on the Ped Mall – This may never happen, but it wouldn't bother me if it did. What we're doing now to maintain order there isn't working. The same people who think their privacy is being invaded by cameras presumably wouldn't mind seeing policemen (oops - "police officers") standing in those same spots. Makes no sense to me. If camera surveillance does come to pass, buy stock in Silly String – that seems to be a popular (but illegal) countermeasure.

Dave Parsons has even more half-baked opinions that he keeps mostly to himself while running a business on the Coralville Strip.