

## Take My Advice

Election Day – November 7 – is right around the corner. This means that all the registered voters in Johnson County that actually get off their keesters to vote – about 27 of us – need to make up our minds about several significant issues.

In case you are one of the 27 and need some guidance, I am weighing in with my partially informed opinions on the following:

**First Avenue Extension.** May as well start with the toughest one. Let me start by saying intelligent people can disagree on this topic, and so can I.

I live on the East side of town, and – it's all but true - you can't get there from here. Even with Scott Boulevard completed, there is a big void on my street map where First Avenue should be, and nature abhors a vacuum.

I figure there is a fixed amount of traffic in town, and we get to decide how to distribute it. If cars go places we don't want them to, we have ways of influencing that. Take Highland Avenue for example. After the City put traffic-calming chicanes on that road, nobody would use it.

In a storage shed somewhere, I figure the City still has some of those chicanes it finally removed from Highland. We could always drop a few onto the First Avenue extension if we need to.

Actually, it is my theory that when the chicanery was originally performed on Highland Avenue, the contractor accidentally grabbed the plans for the Terrill Mill Skateboard Park and built it on Highland by mistake.

**Johnson County Jail.** According to somewhat reliable polling, this bond issue is the one most likely to go down in flames.

Myself, I have this quirk about preferring that axe murderers not be allowed to walk the streets alongside law-abiding folk like you and me. The state won't allow us to stack them like cordwood in our current jail, so we need a bigger one.

It's a little late now to try to lobby the government to change the definition of what constitutes an axe murderer, but if we start working on that right away we may be able to get it done before we need an even bigger jail in another 20 years.

**Iowa City Public Library.** Call me brainwashed, but I believe the Library Board, City Council and city staffers when they say that out of the 247 proposals studied this is clearly the best option.

Despite popular opinion to the contrary, I finally came to the conclusion that these people cannot all be idiots. Don't argue – I took a statistical probability course once, and the odds really are stacked against this possibility.

If you believe the current library is bursting at the seams and something must be done, vote for this bond issue.

**President of the United States.** After a painstaking evaluation of the platforms and positions of the two major-party candidates, I came to the conclusion I cannot vote for George W. Bush because of his uncanny resemblance to Alfred E. Newman of MAD Magazine.

**Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioner:** Nobody seems to know what this is, who the people are that run for it, or if anyone ever actually wins. Someone should look into this.

**Englert Theatre.** I know, it's not on the ballot but it also deserves your support – especially financial. Several other worthy nonprofit groups are running capital campaigns as well, not to mention the current United Way fund drive which should be #1 on your donation list. That is, assuming you have any money left after we pass all these bond issues.

*Misery loves company, so it's OK with me if you want to join the 27 of us other voters and change our little corner of the world. Anything to help spread the blame.*