

Opinions are a dime a dozen – here's 7 cents

I'm not knowledgeable enough about any single topic to write 650 words about it, but I do have a number of half-baked opinions that I'm more than happy to write a few sentences about, including

>FryFest – what a great event! Hayden is 80 years old, and I hope I'm as sharp as he is when I get to be that age. Come to think of it, I may not be that sharp now. Coralville had the economic and promotional benefits of FryFest all to itself, which is one more reason why I sometimes feel that

>Coralville and Iowa City should merge – and Kelly Hayworth should run them both. Iowa City has a City Manager opening, why not consolidate? Kelly may not be interested in the combined job, because I think his tolerance for B.S. (although more than adequate for Coralville) may be a tad low when you throw Iowa City into the mix. This is only partially due to

>Iowa City's City Council – why does anyone run for this job? Certainly not to make friends and influence people. Unlike most people, I happen to believe they do a great job and get it right 90% of the time. They even get paid a token amount, which (if I were them) I would spend exclusively on liquor to be consumed immediately prior to endless public meetings. Public meetings are also a necessary evil for the

>Iowa City School Board – it has even fewer perks than the City Council, i.e. they don't get paid. It's the perfect job for masochistic people with too much spare time and too few enemies – they get to make unpopular decisions regularly. Speaking of which - and not to beat a dead horse - I spent six years at Roosevelt School (no, just one year per grade) and my grandfather was on the school board when it was built. Even so, I think the right call was eventually made to retire it, which gives this topic something in common with

>Last week's UI football game – I'm as big a Hawkeye fan as the next guy, but at the end of the game (May God forgive me) I was pulling for UNI to

make the field goal. They deserved it, and it would have meant a lot to their football program. Which brings us to

>This week's UI football game – I'm not quite as altruistically concerned about the gridiron fortunes of the Cyclones, but I do root for them whenever they're not playing the Hawkeyes. We Iowa teams need to hang together. This topic actually has nothing to do with

>A state ban on handheld cell phone use while driving – I actually support this, mostly because it's dangerous and I seldom use my cell phone while driving anyway. What I do not support is a ban on eating Dairy Queen Chocolate Extreme Blizzards while driving, which I do regularly. It requires me to steer with my knees to keep both hands free for the task at hand, but I'm getting better at it. Finally, we have

>Crime in the streets – I suppose it was just a matter of time before our small town with big town amenities started manifesting some big town problems. It's really irritating that I need to start locking my house and car doors after all these years. Sooner or later, we'll find the money to put some more cops on the street proportional to other cities our size. If you are as concerned as I am, write your city council members – there's a 90% chance they will do the right thing.