

YOU & ME

The Quincy Herald-Whig

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YOURTURN

with Jeff Seefeldt

When I was a kid, I wanted to be ... the guy who groomed the beach every morning. I grew up working on my uncle's farm and have always loved vacations to the coast. I couldn't think of any other way to combine driving tractors and being at the beach.

What would you rather be doing right now? At home, hanging out with Sally Rogers. I adopted Sally a few weeks ago from the Quincy Humane Society.

Shhhhhh! Don't tell anyone that ... I can't swim, but I still love to go boating on the river.

What was your proudest moment? The mission trips I've been on in the States, Puerto Rico, Guatemala and Belize.

It really stinks when ... smokers throw their cigarette butts on the ground.

I always laugh when ... I'm hanging out with QPP (Quincy Party People).

Invite any three people, living or dead, to dinner. Who are they? Marty Wagner, Steve Jacobson and Matt Mueller. They are my three best friends from college.

At the end of a really long day at work, I like to ... stop at the Blind Pig for a drink with friends.

My most unforgettable brush with greatness was with ... Ellen Crawford. She played Lydia on "ER," and I had dinner a couple of times with her. She's married to Mike Genovese, who also appeared on "ER" numerous times. ... Mike's children - Sean, Meghan and Erin - are close friends of mine.

America should be more concerned about ... this was the hardest question for me to answer, but then I was reminded by a co-worker of JFK's quote, "... ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

I'm OK if there's ever a national shortage of ... sarcasm.

What is the most useful piece of advice you have ever received?

At the time, this wasn't intended to be advice, but it's from Merritt, my neighbor when I was in grade school. The first time he took his new dog, Sissy, hunting, her first point was on a hen pheasant. He shot it anyway, letting her know she was doing a good job. I've always remembered that and used it as my reminder to always encourage other people to try their best at whatever task they have put before them.

I always get sentimental when ... I think about my grandpa.

The older I get, the more I realize ... there will never be enough hours in the day to do everything. You'd better decide what's important.

If I had one do-over, I would ... have not listened to the director of the IHSA computer system in 1975 when he told me don't go into a computer career, because computers have reached the limit of what they can do.

My favorite item of clothing is ... my Birkenstocks.

If I've learned anything at all ... God is great, beer is good and people are crazy.



Jeff Seefeldt, 48, is originally a Railsplitter from Lincoln, Ill., and is learning to cheer for the team that beat the Railsplitters badly many times in high school. He has worked 25 years for USDA/Rural Development, the past 16 in Quincy. He's active in his church, Luther Memorial, and though he's never been married, he hopes to someday.

For the full Your Turn interview with Jeff Seefeldt, go to www.whig.com.

FIVETIMESFIVE

What do you think about local and national topics that are creating a buzz? Five people get their turn to give us their thoughts.



CharSTOCKER

Co-owner, Great Debate Books and Coffee Off Broadway



JessicaBARNES

Stay-at-home mother



MatHOLT

Supply chain resource, Premium Waters Inc.



WesleySUTTER

Starbucks barista, house designer



PamLUTHER

Elementary school counselor, Keokuk (Iowa) School District

Of declared or expected 2012 presidential candidates, with whom would you most like to have lunch?

Sarah Palin, because she seems like a no-nonsense person. My second choice would be Mitt Romney. Go, Mitt!



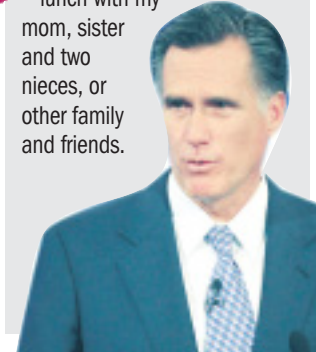
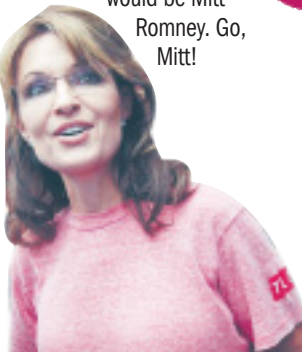
Honestly, I have no desire to have lunch with any candidate from any political race. I would much rather have lunch with my mom, sister and two nieces, or other family and friends.

I would choose Herman Cain. He has spiked my interest, and while I can't confirm that he would get my vote, he has the business knowledge to get our country back on track.

Glenn Beck. He has the knowledge and will fight for what our country was built upon.

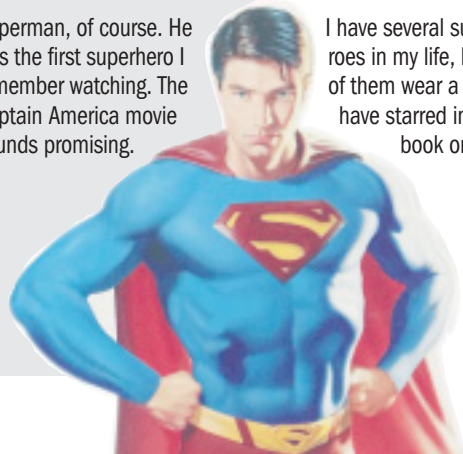


I'd like to have lunch with Michelle Bachman. She has such a vast background in business, law and politics; raised five of her own kids; plus fostered 28 some-odd kids. Pretty amazing accomplishments in my eyes and looks amazing on top of it all. I also admire her consistency to her principles. I would definitely ask her how she has done it all.



With Thor, Captain America and the Green Lantern in summer movies, who's your favorite superhero?

Superman, of course. He was the first superhero I remember watching. The Captain America movie sounds promising.



I have several superheroes in my life, but none of them wear a cape or have starred in a comic book or movie.



I would have to say that I always enjoyed Superman over the three listed. X-ray vision, flying, strength and much more make him an unstoppable force ... except for kryptonite, of course.



I don't get too big into superheroes. Is Ironman a superhero?



My husband. He is the kindest, most generous man I know. Besides, the other superheroes dress way too weird for me.

Should Major League Baseball teams have more, less or no interleague play?

About the same amount that they are doing now. It is fun to watch teams such as the Cubs and the White Sox play each other. I love baseball. By the way, I'm a Minnesota Twins fan.



I am not a big baseball fan, so I say whatever makes the season shorter (if possible). My son says: "More interleague play. Maybe then it will be more interesting."



While I follow football much closer than baseball, I would say more interleague play as long as it doesn't affect the team's record in getting to the World Series.



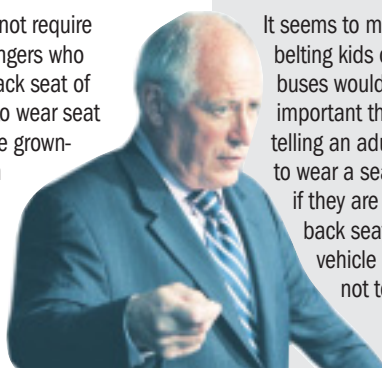
More. The games are more interesting.



I think the All-Star game is sufficient. I don't get too revved up about baseball until the Boston Red Sox get into the playoffs. I went to a lot of games at the famous Fenway Park as a kid, so they are always my team.

Gov. Quinn has yet to sign a bill requiring all vehicle passengers to buckle up. Is the bill a good idea?

No, I would not require adult passengers who are in the back seat of the vehicle to wear seat belts. We are grown-ups. We can make our own decision on this matter.



It seems to me that seat-belted kids on school buses would be more important than the state telling an adult they have to wear a seat belt, even if they are riding in the back seat of a private vehicle and choose not to wear one.

While it is a good idea to wear a seat belt, I don't believe that the government should intervene on individuals' rights. Where will the government stop? Next thing you know you won't be able to wear sunglasses because they darken your vision of the road.

No, it should be up to the individuals.



I like everyone to wear seat belts in my car, but I get a bit leery about having the state legislate so many aspects of our lives. How about seat belts on motorcycles then?

Should the guardian of a girl 17 or younger be notified 48 hours before the girl can have an abortion?

Absolutely. First, I'm pro-life. Second, anyone under 18 should receive counseling before making such a decision. Hopefully, their guardian would give them good advice and support, no matter what.

The parent/guardian absolutely needs to be notified before a life altering decision is made. Children aren't prepared to decide whether or not to take the life of an unborn child. I don't believe anyone should have an abortion, ever.

Any person under the age of 18 should have to have a guardian's permission before having surgery. Anytime a medical procedure is done, there are risks and a guardian should be involved.

Yes. At least they need to talk to someone they trust, maybe a mentor, rather just doing something based upon what their feelings are.

Absolutely! I can't think of any other procedures that kids could have without parental permission. I am most concerned that a young girl might feel pressured into having an abortion without knowing what the full ramifications of it could be.

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