

Brian Shellito/DN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

People should make the rules, rules should not make people

People make the rules, people apply the rules, people change the rules — yet something that happened last Sunday at the Lee and Helene Sapp Recreation Facility really pisses us off. It makes us think that Americans too often are trapped slaves of rules.

We were planning to play squash when one of our student ID numbers was rejected by the computer system. Something was obviously wrong with the system because this student was registered as a full-time student for the semester. The only possible cause of this electronic breakdown that he could think of was that the University of Nebraska-Lincoln administration

had failed to send relevant information to the computer checking system.

However, the rigidly conforming "gatekeeper," whose only job was to check ID numbers, was unable to solve the problem, thus a so-called "manager" was summoned in the hope of providing a sensible solution. But to our disappointment, talking to the manager generated the same mechanical result as the computer: no pass. She would just not listen to our reasoning: "Rules are the rules . . . I understand your problem but I can't let you in unless you pay \$3." Why would we pay an extra fee when we

already pay full out-of-state tuition?

As a matter of fact, the American rigidity and bureaucracy were not new to us even before our arrival at UNL. Subsequent experiences of this kind during our stay in this country are really starting to break our backs.

Do people make the rules, or should rules make the people?

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Limiting Congressional terms foolish, unfit candidates should be voted out

A recent measure put before Washington voters compels one to look at what is really wrong with the opinion many people have of our political system.

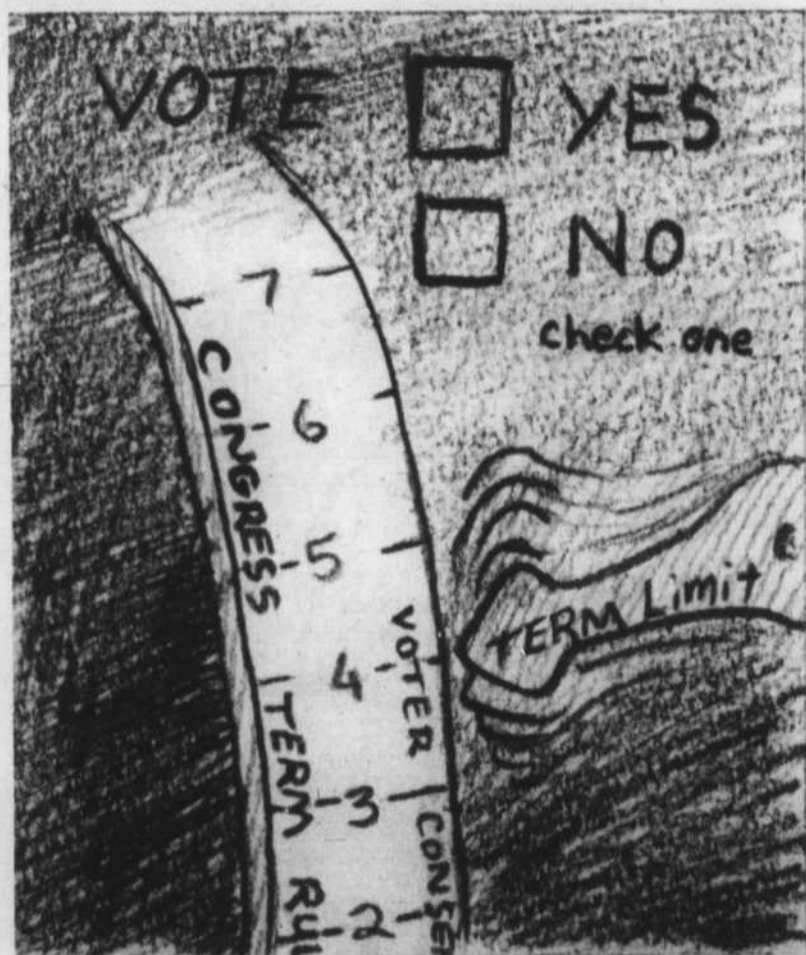
A term limit for members of Congress would, admittedly, make it impossible for senators and representatives to become mainstays in their positions. Lengthy terms are usually associated with corruption, and those members of Congress who are in the incumbent positions are generally disliked.

This is the first part of the foolishness of a mandatory limit. Most people do not want to hear about members of Congress who do their jobs well; the press is begged to dig up information about the lives of those whom we elect, whether it is pertinent in association with job performance.

Elected officials should be reprimanded for their unethical actions and should not be elected if these actions have a direct bearing on their performance in those important positions. If the candidates are not suited for the job that they are running for, they should not be elected. It is the right that all Americans have, and that same right applies to voting out members of Congress or of the state legislatures who do not execute their duties as they should.

The Declaration of Independence states, "Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends (Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness), it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it." This could not be stated more clearly: We have the right to not reelect officials who do not do their jobs well. Why, then, do we need to make into law that which is our fundamental privilege?

The founders would cringe if they saw what we were doing to ourselves,



Robert Borzekofski/DN

we members of a country that was to have limited government. Unfortunately, it is not limited because "we the people" keep waiting for others to make decisions for us, decisions that we are supposed to make ourselves in the originally designed limited government of America. We are the problems that are now apparent, but also the solution. As Homer says, "The pledges of the worthless are worth-

less to be kept as pledges."

We are far from worthless, but if we cannot use our rights to do our duties, and if we cannot live up to the moral standards we expect from others, what are we destined to be?

Brian Croft
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Got an opinion?

The Daily Nebraskan is seeking a broad range of viewpoints in its columnists for the spring semester. Applications are now being accepted.

Stop by room 34 of the Nebraska Union to pick up an application and sign up for an interview. Positions will be announced Nov. 25.

Applicants must be UNL students and must show dependability and solid knowledge of grammar and writing skills.

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