

# Daily Nebraskan

COVERING THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA SINCE 1901

VOL. 94 NO. 63

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NOVEMBER 18-20, 1994

## Term limits opponents file motion

By Matthew Walte

Senior Reporter

Opponents of term limits have filed an appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court saying that the measure voters approved Nov. 8 is unconstitutional.

The measure's opponents are appealing Lancaster County District Court Judge Paul Merritt's Nov. 7 decision to leave the issue on the Nov. 8 ballot.

Wednesday's motion was filed by the same people responsible for that challenge: Tim Duggan, John Hasenauer, State Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha and Lincoln City Councilman Ken Haar.

The measure, which would limit the terms of federal, state and local elected officials, was approved by voters 68 percent to 32 percent.

Duggan filed a successful lawsuit challenging a 1992 term limits amendment approved by voters. The state Supreme Court threw out the amendment in May because the petition did not have enough valid signatures to be on the ballot.

On Aug. 30, Secretary of State Allen Beermann said his office had verified 104,000 of 131,000 signatures from a petition to get the measure on the 1994 ballot. Beermann's verification put the measure on the ballot.

Chambers, who has said term limits supporters would be politically shooting themselves in the foot, said he expected Merritt's ruling.

"We knew the lower court would rule against us, and it would end up in the supreme court," he said.

The new lawsuit alleges at least 12 technical deficiencies in the petitions circulated by term limits supporters.

The suit claims the measure is unconstitutional because it requires more of elected officials than the Constitution, Chambers said.

The suit also claims the measure's wording is flawed, contradictory and therefore invalid, he said.

In Merritt's Nov. 7 ruling, the judge called the measure "hurriedly and somewhat carelessly drafted." He did, however, say the measure was in compliance with Nebraska law and would remain on the ballot.

Assistant Attorney General Dale Comer, Todd Frazier of Nebraskans for Term Limits and Jay Bartel, also an assistant attorney general, will represent the defendants, Beermann, Guy Curtis, a petition sponsor, and Nebraskans for Term Limits.

Comer said the defense would probably have to deal with Merritt's word in the appeals process.

The defense gave Merritt a brief that counters the criticisms, he said. Nebraskans for Term Limits drafted the original measure under appeal.

The Court will review Merritt's actions and rule on the constitutionality of the term limits measure, Comer said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

## Green piece



Jay Calderon/DN

Polish artist Jędrzej Stepak works on a sculpture made from living plants and natural landscapes. Stepak is visiting the United States and is crafting his sculpture in front of East Campus.

## Artist plants sculpture at UNL

By Jeff Randall

Staff Reporter

For Polish artist Jędrzej Stepak, art can be a matter of life and death.

"My sculpture is always changing," said Stepak, who visited the University of Nebraska-Lincoln this week. "It lives and dies, just like people."

Stepak's work is made from living plants and natural landscapes. During his one-week stay at UNL, Stepak is crafting a temporary sculpture in front of East Campus.

Wendy Weiss, associate professor in the textiles, clothing and design department at UNL, helped bring Stepak to the university.

She met the Polish artist at the annual International Symposium of Artist Weavers in Lodz, Poland, in 1992.

Weiss said that when she discovered Stepak was visiting the United States, she jumped at the opportunity to bring him to UNL.

"It was important to me to bring him in,"

Weiss said. "This is a rare opportunity for students to work and study with an international artist."

Stepak is a member of an influential group of young Polish textile artists, Weiss said. She said textile art had grown considerably since the 1960s, when the "fiber revolution" spread this art from flat tapestries to a field with almost limitless forms and materials.

Stepak said his work had made a shift in both purpose and form. He began working on posters, tapestries and stage design and now works with natural landscaping, interior design and sculpture.

He said willow was one of his favorite materials. He became interested in willow about 15 years ago when he attended a willow workshop in his native Poland. He first used willow for building furniture, he said, but then expanded the way he used it.

Working with natural materials brings a different effect to his art, Stepak said.

"My work is here for just this moment, and then it changes," he said. "It's not like

*"My sculpture is always changing. It lives and dies, just like people."*

■  
**JĘDRZEJ STEPAK**

Polish artist

bronze or stone, or other permanent materials."

Stepak's visit to the United States was supported by the Konciszko Foundation in New York. He wants to show and discuss his work around North America, he said.

Stepak's travels in North America have taken him to New York, Ohio State University and, now, Nebraska. He intends to visit San Francisco and Mexico City next.

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## Engineering dean: One other scholarship was cancelled

### Minority award ended last year

By Brian Sharp

Senior Reporter

The Walter Scott engineering scholarship wasn't the only scholarship to be put on hold more than a year ago, said an engineering associate dean.

John Ballard said another award, the Peter Kiewit Sons Inc. Minority Scholarship Fund, which goes mostly to engineering students, also was discontinued last spring.

The Scott Scholarships are given

by Walter Scott Jr. in his father's name. The younger Scott is the current chairman of Peter Kiewit Son Inc.

Regent Robert Allen has said Scott put the scholarships on hold to influence the debate over forming a new engineering college at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Scott has said he halted the awards because they

were unequally distributed between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Omaha campuses.

Michael Faust, a spokesman for Scott, said Wednesday that neither decision was meant to influence the regents' December vote on the engineering issue.

The minority scholarship fund, which is awarded to more than just engineering students, was being phased out in favor of a larger fund, he said.

Faust said the old program was for disadvantaged youths. He said that direction would continue in the new program, which was developed along

with an inner-city Omaha school.

The new program will increase the amount of awards tenfold, Faust said. The discontinued minority fund awarded more than \$10,000 annually, he said.

Ballard said five engineering students were on the Kiewit minority scholarship. Those engineering students receive about \$8,000 of that \$10,000, he said.

In the past, the engineering college provided lists of candidates to the company. Kiewit officials then chose scholarship winners, Ballard said.

The college was notified in the

spring to stop awarding the Kiewit minority scholarships because the focus had changed. The corporation gave the college no further information about the scholarships' new focus, he said.

Ballard said students already receiving the renewable scholarship would be unaffected by the change.

About five or six students have Walter Scott scholarships, Ballard said. More than \$16,500 in Scott scholarships is awarded annually.

Ballard said the money for the awards came from an endowment

See **ENGINEERING** on 7



**ENGINEERING  
DEBATE**