

# OPINION PAGES

Campaign '96  
**ENDORSEMENTS**

## No on 409

*Election is limit enough on Congressional terms*

Terms have always been limited in democracy — but not by arbitrary time constraints set out in state constitutions or in the U.S. Constitution. Politicians are limited to the number of years in office they are allowed by voters.

To "instruct Nebraska's members of Congress and state legislators to support passage and ratification of an amendment to the U.S. Constitution limiting U.S. representatives to three terms and senators to two terms" is to say voters don't know what is good for them. There's nothing democratic about that.

If this measure passes, those candidates who opposed term limits would be branded on future ballots as having violated voter instruction. Such "Scarlet Letter" scare tactics should not be tolerated.

That's why voters should let it be known that what they mark on their ballots makes a difference. They should vote no on ballot initiative 409 and end the attempts by the term-limit supporters to force the issue.

**BRIEFLY**

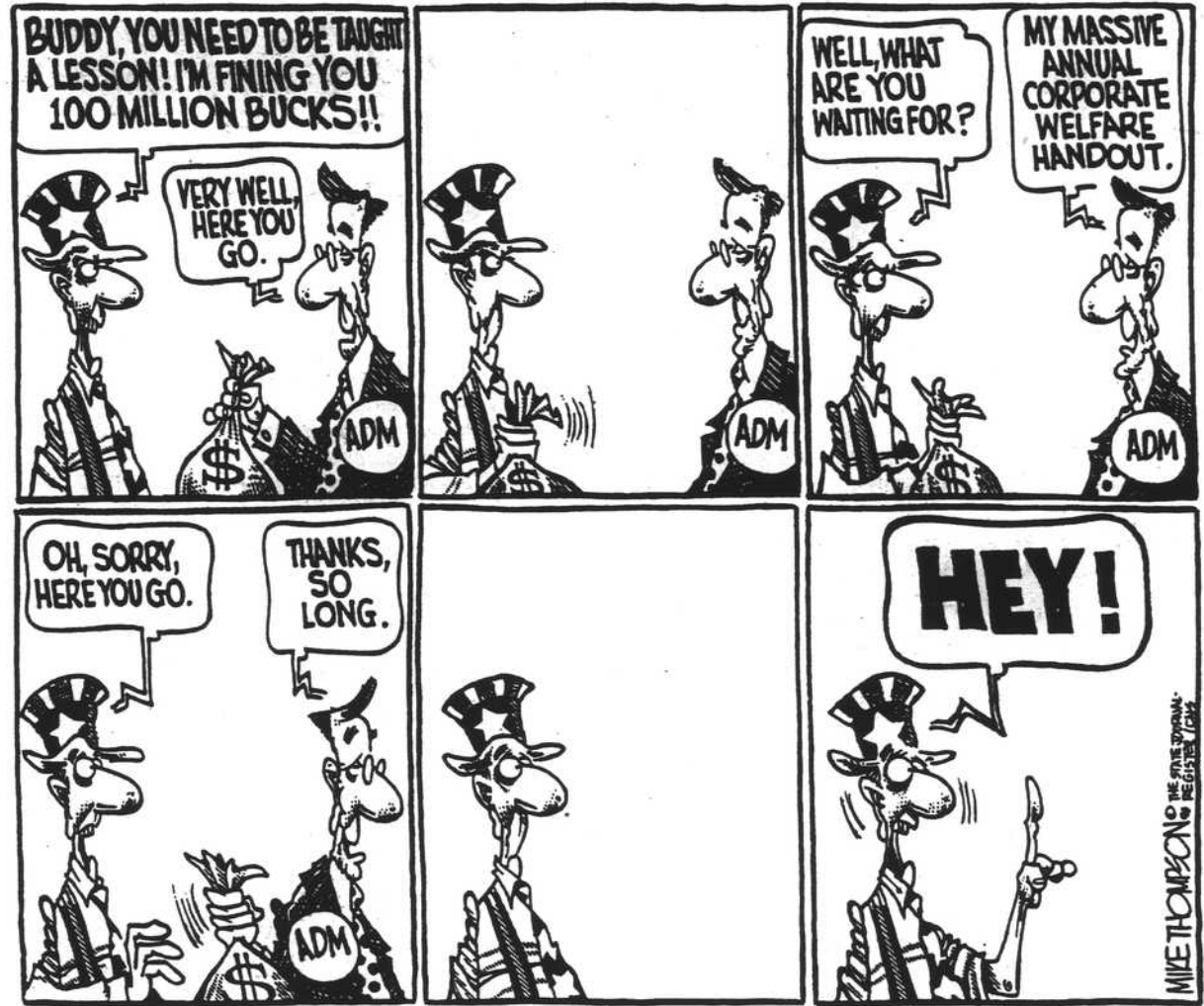
### Say no to gambling

All bets are off for voting to allow the Legislature to authorize off-track, pari-mutuel betting on horse races in Nebraska. A vote for Amendment 1 would extend betting outside of licensed racetracks. The weak show of interest in horse-racing in Nebraska is proof that such an amendment would not be beneficial. And the amendment's supporters admit off-track betting is the first step toward casino gambling, against which Nebraska voters have already voiced their opposition. Don't gamble with Amendment 1. Vote no.

### Say yes to benefits

Legislators deserve the same employee benefits granted to other state officers. Members of the Nebraska Legislature now receive \$12,000 a year — less than representatives in almost every other state. When it becomes too expensive and time-consuming for ordinary citizens to run for office, the people who run will be wealthy, retired citizens — people who do not represent the majority of Nebraska's voters. Benefits are a small step toward lessening this gap and letting Joe Citizen make his way to the State Capitol. Secure a representative government in the Nebraska Legislature by voting yes on Amendment 3.

**CARTOONIST'S VIEW**



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**BROYHILL BLUES**

I'm a former student of UNL and native Nebraskan who has since transferred to the great vast expanse of land they call the University of North Dakota.

I was reading Kasey Kerber's column on the impending doom of the Broyhill Fountain. I hadn't heard about the fate of the fountain until reading this column and was a little disturbed at hearing the news.

When I think of my experience at UNL, that fountain is always one of the first images that pops into my mind. I always just assumed that it would be around as long as the campus was. I guess I was mistaken.

It is sad to know that when I visit the campus in the future, the Broyhill Fountain will be just what it is to me now ... a memory.

Dan Richardson  
senior  
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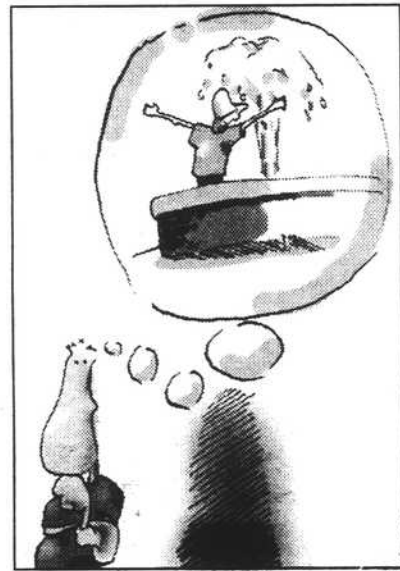
**'QUALITY' INITIATIVE**

English Professor Frances W. Kaye calls for us to "stick up for all education" by supporting a ballot initiative that would guarantee "quality education" (Letters, Oct. 22 DN).

However, the initiative in question has no definition of a quality education, and if this ill-designed initiative passes, competing definitions will find their way to the courts.

For example, a father in a small school decides that his child needs to learn Japanese in order to be properly educated for a world in which so much trading is done with Japan. If the school doesn't offer Japanese, he sues, claiming that his child's right to a quality education has been violated.

**LETTERS**



AARON STECKELBERG/DN

Rest assured, this WILL happen regardless of what happens with tax revenues, and in our lawsuit-obsessed society, we WILL have school districts where money that should have gone to education is spent instead on lawyers, as they defend their definition of "quality" in the courts.

The end result is that the courts will determine the curriculum, the courts will determine appropriate budgets, and local control of education will cease to exist.

Nobody opposes quality education, and nobody wants to see schools bear an undue burden in the event that tax revenues decrease. But this vaguely worded initiative is NOT the answer.

Parents, unless you want unelected and unaccountable judges usurping the role of the school boards and taking away your control over the schools that educate your kids, then vote NO on the quality education initiative.

The kids deserve better.  
Brad Pardee  
Love Library

**ON EXTREMES**

I agreed with Nick Wiltgen in his column, "Of extreme importance," that valuable politics should not be compromised. I believe that politicians should have an "extreme" belief in their ideologies. Well, I do as long as they are also my ideologies.

See, Nick, while you were busy writing what politicians don't do and defend, you forgot one "extremely" important thing — those are *your* ideological beliefs, not mine, not everyone else's.

See, that is where the idea of representative government comes into play. The government represents *all* of us, not just you and not just me. That is why compromise is an important role of the politician.

Ideally speaking, we, the people, control the government. To say that "they compromise your right to keep what is yours in order to pay for all their government programs" is completely ridiculous.

We are paying for *our* programs. (Believe it or not, we do use them.)

This is the problem with American society today. We don't realize we have a say in *our* government.

If you don't like something, say so. Politicians can't read minds.

We are not compromising our liberties with "arbitrary restrictions." To me, they help to further recognize our liberties.

This is my opinion. Obviously, yours is different. That is why American is called the melting pot of diverse and extreme ideas. Politicians must represent the mainstream of ideas, because they represent *all* of us and our "extremely" important ideas.

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freshman  
biochemistry

**P.S. Write Back**

Send letters to: Daily Nebraskan, 34 Nebraska Union, 1400 "R" St., Lincoln, NE 68588, or fax to (402) 472-1761, or e-mail <letters@unlinfo.unl.edu>. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification