

Term limitations are simply a bad idea

Term limitations. Those two words combined send a cold chill down the spines of career politicians while throwing a warm glow over the disenchanted U.S. voting public.

The anger and resentment manifesting itself in the minds of Americana has been brewing for some time now. It's probably traceable back 20 years to the fantastic scandal known as Watergate.

A steady stream of corruption and mismanagement in government followed. Politicians caught with their pants down and crack-smoking mayors have not helped raise the reputation of the public servants on the Potomac.

Then came the Reagan years. And as we wait to find out which of his cabinet members will be indicted for some scam next, voter resentment grows stronger each day. During "campaignfest" 1988, the anti-incumbent engine seemed to be running full speed ahead. But when it came to voting time, the good ol' boys whose feet seem to be rooted in the woodwork of the capitol buildings were still standing.

What happened to the people's revolution? One common answer is that even though many of the incumbents were scumbags, their campaign machines and chests were too large for the challengers to take them out. So out of the ashes, the political brainstorm called "term limitations" was born. No one would be allowed to stay in government long enough to become too powerful to remove.

Well, there are already term limitations in place. They are called elections.

Passing a mandatory term limitation measure would be akin to saying, "I'm too stupid to see through an expensive media campaign. I'm too lazy to read about platforms and issues rather than get my information from two-minute TV sound bites."

If the current election process is failing, the first reaction doesn't have to be to scrap it. Maybe the problem is that the people aren't using it right.

The energy used to forward the term limitation would be better spent educating the public about how to educate themselves during an election.

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'...BUT I NEVER REALLY INHALE.'

COMMENTARY

Explore schools before choosing

By M. Reza Behnam

It has been brought to my attention that students from the Middle East have become the victims of ridicule and disrespect by some University professors and staff.

This is most unfortunate because this campus and community are far too isolated and sorely in need of diversity. A healthy university is rich in diversity. Diversity is more than gender and race; it is a celebration of the infinite richness and variety of human experience, and it is about embracing differences, not stifling them.

All international students should be treated without prejudice and without a jaundiced view of the world. The cultural and educational contributions of international students to any campus and community are numerous. Without them the university would be bland and devoid of cultural and intellectual variety of necessary in the marketplace of ideas.

Middle Eastern students should recognize that the University is one among many universities and that perhaps their educational dollars would be better spent elsewhere. Currently there are no courses on the Middle East in any department or school on this campus. There are no professors, administrators or counselors from the Middle East represented either. This is astonishing in light of the significance and history of the area. It goes with out saying that international student tuition is exorbitant, but their representation on campus is negligible.

It is time that international students become aware of the deficits present on this campus

and others. In an educational selection, international students, in cooperation with their educational ministries, should pay attention to certain specifics about campus and community.

Visiting the city or town where the university is located is critical. Every city has a character and history all its own, and reading about about it will give a sense of the community. Become acquainted with the makeup of local government. Are minorities represented in major ways in that government? How about the judiciary — what percentage of the judges are women and minorities, and how are they elected or appointed? Learn something about the political climate of the state — about the composition of its congressional delegation and the executive branch. Does the delegation represent a broad spectrum of people and ideas? Take note of the local newspaper, observing its sensitivities and editorial sensibilities to international issues.

Consider the history of the university you might attend. International students should examine course offerings to understand the import it places on global perspective. Visit the administrative staff at the institution. Introduce yourself and interview them; tell them your interests and concerns. Visit the department of your choice, and talk to the professors and staff. Pay attention to its cultural diversity and if there are bilingual instructors represented in the department.

If a graduate student, be sure the instructor you might work with is to you liking. Is the person considered competent in his or her chosen field of instruction? Does the professor

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come to campus everyday or only two days a week, cramming instruction and office hours within those days? Finally, students should inquire into the international interests of the professors.

As long as there is no serious attempt to recruit and tenure international scholars in general, and Middle Eastern scholars in particular on this campus, it is incumbent upon all international students to remain vigilant in demanding change and in reporting behaviors deemed offensive or discriminatory to the president of the university.

Choosing a college and investing in an education are among the most important choices students will undertake during a lifetime. Success in school and after has much to do with the university chosen by the student. Universities can be advocates or they can merely use students and their money. So choose well, and may the best choice win.

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