

"But, Your Honor, sixteen years is just not enough."

Come on, Max Maxfield. Push yourself away from the public trough.

Trust me, Wyoming will get along just fine without you holding one or the other of the five State offices. The State actually prospered after Dick Cheney left the U.S. House and after Alan Simpson finally left the U.S. Senate for Harvard, didn't it?

Yes, yes, we all know that if term limits are allowed to stand on you five State "executives," you're gone. Matt Mead is in his first term, as are Cynthia McCloud and Cindy Hill. There is no office-switching possible this time, as there was in 2004.

You and Joe Meyer need to depart. Say your "good-byes," have a huge cake brought in at State expense and retire - drop off the State payroll for the first time in a generation.

Why didn't Maxfield bring this up in 2007 or 2008? Because he could run for another term for whatever the hell State office he holds and remain on the State payroll without torquing off State voters.

Let me remind the intelligent Cheyenne Herald readers just what did

happen on the subject of term limits in Wyoming:

In 1992, Wyoming voters approved an expansive term limits "law." In spite of many attorneys holding office in the Wyoming State Legislature at all times, no one suggested that it would be better (it turns out, more legal in the eyes of appointed Supreme Court justices), to vote on a Constitutional amendment.

Voters were so supportive of term limits that they approved imposing them on federal offices, too. That, of course, is beyond the authority of state voters. And that's why you have doddering old men like Strom Thurmond serving in the U.S. Senate when they can no longer feed themselves or think or speak clearly. But, such is federal law and it would have to be changed with a Constitutional amendment.

Quickly a provision favored by 77% of the voters in the 1992 election (term limits on federal offices) was dismissed. The legislators also changed the "terms" voters had approved - to make them uniform. Still, no attorney in the Legislature considered that the measure had

been presented wrongly to voters and should be presented again as a Constitutional amendment question, not as a change to state law.

Remember the Contract With America in 1994? Term limits were to be enacted by Constitutional amendment. That is, until all of those who promised such action took office and decided that serving was preferable to going home after 12 years and we never heard of it again.

Many states have enacted term limits. Popular politicians like Bill Owens are forced to make an "honest" living and must leave office. States like Colorado march forward, without career officeholders in the way. As did Wyoming when Dick Cheney got a better job offer and departed the office voters thought inviolable.

For years, candidates did not challenge the Wyoming term limits law. Basically because it did not apply to them for three or six terms, depending on whether they were in the Wyoming Senate or House. Finally, the time came when term limits would apply. Two stalking horses and a resident filed a lawsuit challenging Wyoming's term limits law. Provided

"pro bono" legal counsel from a family member of another legislator who would be taken out of office by term limits, they at least knew that they could not file the action until they were "aggrieved." That occurred when their candidacy application was rejected by the Wyoming Secretary of State's office.

Joe Meyer was Secretary of State and was the named DEFENDANT. He made no real attempt to defend voters and the Supremes took the easy way out - remember, they are appointed by elected officials - and struck down term limits as it applied to the Wyoming Legislature.

Since voters overwhelmingly approved term limits, those elected to the five State executive offices have honored that vote. Until now. Jim Geringer served two terms and moved on. As did Judy Catchpole, Dave Freudenthal, Cynthia Lummis. Even Maxfield and Meyer did. Sort of. They ran for a different State office after two terms in the first.

Now, to make the challenge even more ludicrous, the AG demands that Maxfield sue himself. You can't make this stuff up. You just can't.

Another "university" in Wyoming? When pigs fly.



So, Gillette and Sheridan would like a four-year university.

They probably should speak with the states of Montana or South Dakota cause they ain't gonna get one from Wyoming.

Not just because the Wyoming Constitution is specific: "**The state university shall be centered at the City of Laramie, in the County of Albany,**" but because many of the lawmakers got their education (such as it may be) at the University of Wyoming in Laramie and aren't about to dilute the importance of the ONLY four-year university in the state by approving a second one up north.

The Wyoming Constitution is also pretty clear, in my opinion, that the state "penitentiary" should be in Rawlins. The difference there, in allowing a second state pen to be built in Torrington is that no one but the City of Rawlins and their local newspaper tried to enforce that provision

The Wyoming Constitution

Article 7, Section 23. Permanent location.

The legislature shall have no power to change or to locate the seat of government, the state university, or state hospital, but may provide by law for submitting the question of the permanent locations thereof respectively, to the qualified electors of the state, at some general election, and a majority of all votes upon said question cast at said election, shall be necessary to determine the location thereof; but until the same are respectively and permanently located, as herein provided, the location of the seat of government and said institutions shall be as follows: The seat of government shall be located at the City of Cheyenne, in the County of Laramie. The state university shall be centered at the City of Laramie, in the County of Albany. The state hospital shall be located at or near the City of Evanston, in the County of Uinta. A penitentiary shall be located at or near the City of Rawlins, in the County of Carbon. The legislature may provide by law the location of other public institutions, including correctional facilities.

in the Constitution and were ignored.

This is different. Very different.

Many residents probably wonder why the "state university" was sited in

Laramie instead of a more central city like Casper in the first place. Not having lived in Wyoming in 1890, my belief is that the Legislature "awarded" all things "state" to towns along the railroad tracks. For, you

see, in spite of the local daily not being able to grasp this fact, the railroad built Wyoming, not the other way around.

So, even my Nebraska readers will pick up on the fact that the towns mentioned in the Wyoming Constitution (Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins and Evanston) have but one thing in common. THEY ARE ALL ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS in the southern part of the state.

Having a second state university up north would decimate Laramie's standing. Not that either Sheridan or Gillette would make athletes sigh or swoon but there simply aren't enough Wyoming students to fill two universities - the Hathaway Scholarship which requires Wyoming high school graduates to attend the University of Wyoming to be eligible for any of those funds, notwithstanding. What all does Campbell County want going for itself? Having all that money isn't enough?

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