

# Activities Vote To Be Held Again This Year

By Nancy J. Hyman  
Although students at SUNY schools are only required to vote on a mandatory activities fee referendum every four years, and although Stony Brook students voted on such a referendum last year, they will again vote on the referendum this May.

According to the SUNY chancellor's guidelines, the mandatory activities fee referendum must be voted on every four years—the last time it was voted on prior to May was in the Spring 1976. For this reason, according to 1979-80 Polity Treasurer Lori Reckson, it was the understanding that the referendum needed to be voted on last year.

## Every Four Years

However, according to Elizabeth Wadsworth, vice-president for Student Affairs, the chancellor's guidelines state that the referendum must be voted on every four years, but can be voted on every year if the individual student government decides that it wants to do so. Although the referendum was voted on in 1976, it was an "off" year, that is, it was scheduled to be voted on the next year. Since the chancellor's guidelines state that the vote must be taken every four years unless the chancellor makes an

exception, which was the case, the referendum was not voted on in 1977. The Chancellor made the exception, according to Wadsworth, because the referendum had been voted on the previous year.

## Unaware

Therefore, last year's referendum was not necessary, but it is mandatory this spring.

Apparently, both Polity staff and the Student Affairs office were not aware of the fact that there was no need to vote on the referendum last year. While Wadsworth asserted that "Stony Brook had no need to vote [on the referendum] last year and shouldn't have," Polity President Richard Zuckerman added, "It was incompetence by Student Affairs."

Last year, when the mandatory activities fee was voted on, it was done so in a time of controversy within Polity. The Progressive Alliance of Stony Brook Organizations (PASBO), then a newly-formed minority coalition, lobbied against the mandatory activities fee. Its efforts failed, but the referendum passed by only a three-to-one margin, as compared to six-to-one in 1975.

The activities fee, which is currently \$80 per student per year, goes toward funding campus clubs and events. It is mandatory at all SUNY schools.

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## Voting Rights Pursued, But Too Late for SB

By Howard Saltz

A lawyer that won students in Albany County the right to vote there as opposed to the places where their parents reside, said yesterday that suits would be filed to obtain this right for students in three other New York State counties this morning, but that it is too late for Stony Brook students to win this right in time for this year's elections.

Bob Oliver, a lawyer for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), said suits would be filed today in Ulster, Broome and Onondaga Counties, which would affect students in Syracuse University, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Binghamton, and others. NYPIRG, the Student Association of the State University (SASU) and 11 SUNY Albany students won the United States District Court case, *Auerbach et al vs. Kenley et al*, on October 9. Although applicable in Albany County only, it will probably have a large influence on decisions in other parts of the state, SASU Communications Director Pam Snook said.

"If our case is appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the second circuit [by the Albany Elections Board], it will be a state-wide precedent," Oliver said, but this would "not be before this election."

Oliver said he thought the Election Board would appeal Judge Neal McCurn's decision when it was announced, but an appeal now is too late to effect the November 4 elections.

## Special Registration Period

The suits filed in Ulster, Onondaga and Broome Counties include a request for a special period for students to register, Oliver said, since the ordinary registration period passed earlier in the month.

The Albany decision came just two days before registration ended there, not necessitating a special registration period. "If we had special days," Oliver said, "we would have had more people register."

The close proximity to Election Day was also cited as a major problem by Jim Leotta, NYPIRG State Board of Directors representative for Stony Brook. "If the ruling had come down sooner, maybe something could have been done," he said. "There's no possible way to mobilize at all."

Leotta said that a case would be fought in time for election day next year, but was disappointed because of the importance of this year's election. He cited the shortage of NYPIRG lawyers and "a different climate" upstate because of the Albany County decision as reasons why Stony Brook could not successfully challenge the voting requirement this year. "Out here," he said, "there's nothing that can be done. They'd fight it very strongly here."

The 11 Albany students were fighting the traditional voting rules because, SASU President Jim Stern said, students must abide by the laws that apply to all other citizens, they are subject to paying local taxes while they attend school, they are affected by elected officials and city agencies, and they are counted in the United States Census, which results in increased federal aid to the community. Stern also said that students spend millions of dollars in the community annually.

"The thing that really bugs me," Leotta said, "is that we were counted in the Census. One view is that we are citizens of Suffolk and the other view is that we're not. It's hypocritical."

## Marburger Meets the Students

By Jim Scott

University President John Marburger III had his first open meeting with a group of students last Thursday at Stage XII A.

Marburger's visit was in response to a request of the Stage XII A Legislature, which voted to invite Marburger to take a tour of the building and see the conditions that residents felt were intolerable. These gripes ranged from improper maintenance and inadequate facilities and furniture, to safety and health hazards.

On the tour, Marburger saw such things as a shortage of chairs for the study area; water-damaged carpets caused in part by a leaky roof and in part caused by what the State Dormitory Authority called a "sub-standard window frames"; unclean lounges that have been virtually unused by students; unventilated, and broken stoves; lack of paper goods; and showers which have not been sanitized and which leak onto an undrained floor.

Due to the up-coming "Safety Month," Marburger was shown windows on the ground floor that have had no glass for months, and fire extinguishers reading "low."

After this tour, Marburger was asked to speak to residents at the Legislature meeting. He was introduced and made a short statement, then opened the floor to questions which he "patiently endured for more than an hour and a half," said a resident.

The majority of questions were about residence life, and what improvements people might now expect. Marburger made notes periodically, as he had during the tour. Most residents seemed to opine that he really did not answer their questions, but simply "talked like a typical politician," as one resident put it. "He could have been running for mayor," said a student, Haluk Kopikalli, who added that he "really didn't expect to see results."

## Tripling

One issue raised was tripling. He replied that he hated tripling. Quad Director Ellen Weiss Phelps added that though tripling was bad, it was better than having angry parents and students complain about students commuting long distances. The president replied that he was not satisfied with that "bureaucratic answer," but did not put forth a third alternative.

When asked if extermination schedules could be changed so that Stage XII would have an increase in visits to counter the quad's roach problem, Marburger said that increasing visits probably was impossible due to contract problems.

## End Cooking Plan

Marburger stated that the roach problem there comes about from the cooking plan, which he said he would like to see end someday. He said that would be impossible, however, due to the fact that "the only good food the students get is their own." Referring to the Lackmann



UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT JOHN MARBURGER speaks with two students Stage XII A Last Thursday.

Food Services cafeterias, he said he would favor "a better meal plan."

In a private interview, Marburger stressed that he thinks a lot of Stony Brook's problems come about from "an attitudinal source, not a monetary one." He gave an example of one of the Legislature's complaints about unclean

bathrooms. He said that if the students would say hello to the custodial staff, making them feel at home and part of the family, perhaps the residents would see an increase in work. He said that he was very dedicated to changing the inadequate systems of Stony Brook as well as trying to produce a school spirit.