

Inside Alternatives: Review of Woody Allen, reviews of some campus and local events and more.



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Albany Students Win Voting Rights

By Howard Saltz

A United States District Court Judge ruled last week that students at SUNY at Albany can vote in the communities in which they attend school, overturning a policy that required students to vote where their parents reside.

Judge Neal McCurn's decision that eleven Albany students were being "unduly discriminated against" applies only to Albany County, but can set precedent throughout the state. The eleven students were the plaintiffs in the case, along with the school's student government and the Students Association of the State University of New York (SASU), a student-advocacy group, and were aided by the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG).

"It's an incredible victory," said SASU spokesman Pam Snook. "Not only were those eleven given the right to vote, but all students in Albany County."

Snook said that, although McCurn's decision is not binding on courts outside Albany County, it can influence future decisions in other areas. SASU is currently negotiating with Attorney General Robert Abrams, Snook said, who can recommend that the decision be binding state-wide. "He said he would follow the letter of the law," Snook said of earlier negotiations with Abrams, "but now the law has been set."

A suit is now being contemplated by students in Syracuse University, a member of the Syracuse chapter of NYPIRG said, and a challenge from the Stony Brook NYPIRG may also occur. Syracuse students have sued over the past few years, but none of those decisions were in the United States District Court, and were not precedent setting. This was SASU's first attempt at gaining voting rights through the courts, Snook said, after 10 unsuccessful years battling the state legislature. McCurn's decision says that all students in Albany

County that registered to vote since January must have their registration reviewed by the local Board of Elections. In this review, however, the Board of Elections cannot deny voting rights based on one's residence being at a college, nor can it include a questionnaire that was previously given to all college students registering to vote. This questionnaire, not given to non-college students, included inquiries as to people's personal affairs, including questions pertaining to finances and marital status.

"They take it and try to find if they can find any mitigating circumstances on the questionnaire," said Snook. "No other registered voters were given the questionnaire." The decision also states that students cannot be asked to produce any information that other people do not have to.

Snook said that the fight is not over, as SASU is still seeking a special one-week registration period for students to register for the November 4 election.

SUNY Students Protest Dorm Rent Hike

By Lisa Ann Goldsmith

Students of 12 SUNY schools protested Friday outside the SUNY Central Administration Building in Albany to voice their opposition to a decision to eliminate all state subsidies for campus dormitory housing, making dormitory fees self-sufficient.

According to Bruce Cronin, campus organizer of the Student Association of the State University (SASU), a statewide student advocacy which

promotes interests of SUNY students, this decision, made by SUNY Chancellor Clifton Wharton and the SUNY Board of Trustees, will result in an increase of \$600 for dorm fees over the next few years.

"Tent City," as the protest was called, included students from Potsdam, Albany, Old Westbury, Purchase, Plattsburgh, Binghamton, Cortland, Buffalo, Fredonia, Brockport, Oneonta, and Oswego, who set up tents in

front of SUNY Central.

Also included during the protest was a symbolic burning of the campus housing contract. According to students present, the contract was not valid.

The increase of \$150 for this semester was activated after the housing contracts had been signed by students, thus students were not aware of the increase when it was put into action.

According to sources at the Albany Student Press, the Albany student newspaper, the protest was "a dismal failure."

Wharton attended the protest, answering questions and giving a speech, according to Cronin. When he went inside, students stood on platforms and shouted at the building because no one would answer their questions.

A statement of six demands was submitted to the Board from SASU. The demands are:

- A halt to any further plans to move SUNY dormitories toward self-sufficiency by recommending that the Board of Trustees proposal passed on May 28 be rescinded.

- Public commitment by SUNY Central and the Board of

Trustees to give at least one month public notice before acting on any student fee increase proposal.

- "A comprehensive plan to end tripling in rooms designed to house two people. This plan should be ready by December 1.

- "The replacement of the present housing contract with a lease binding on both administration and students to be bargained at the beginning of each rental period by student negotiators and SUNY Central.

- "A Faculty Student Association-type governing board composed of students and resident officials be established on each campus to administer dorm governance procedures including policy-making and hiring a presidential staff.

- "All university and housing agreements between students and SUNY concerning fees be honored by SUNY for their duration."

According to Cronin, the second demand was made because all meetings held before May 28 were held in private. On May 28, Wharton's proposal that the dorms be made

self-sufficient was approved within several minutes.

The proposal was not on the agenda of topics to be discussed that day. Sharon Wald, the president of SASU at that time, requested that the vote be tabled for one month but her proposal was denied.

SASU is now in the process of seeking legal action against SUNY Central because they are said to have violated the open meeting laws. However, the fact that they raised housing fees after the students had signed the contracts is legal, because it is written in the contract that additional fees may be added and may be increased if the Board designates so.

The Board's reasoning for making the dorms self-sufficient is that if SUNY Central turns down money for housing, the governor will grant more money for academics.

According to Cronin, that has been said in the past and it has not been carried through as in the tuition increase in 1978, when Governor Hugh Carey cut the budget \$27 million after increasing dorm fees.

Tanenhaus, 56, Dies Suddenly While on Leave

Joseph Tanenhaus, former chairman of the Political Science Department and a national authority on the judiciary and the history of American political science, died suddenly of an apparent heart attack (last Thursday) at the University of Iowa in Iowa City where he was serving as Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor this semester. He was 56.

Tanenhaus came to Stony Brook in 1969 and headed the Political Science Department until 1972.

He wrote two widely-used books on the history of American political science, *American Political Science: A Profile of a Discipline* (1964) and *The Development of American Political Science* (1967).

Tanenhaus also co-authored three other textbooks, *Frontiers of Judicial Research* (1969), *The Study of Public Law* (1972), and *Comparative Constitutional Law: Cases and Commentaries* (1977), has contributed to four other books, and has published more than 25 articles on the social sciences and legal affairs.

Frank Myers, provost for Social and Behavioral Sciences and a long-time faculty colleague of Tanenhaus' "set standards of excellence for his students and colleagues in every dimension of academic life.

"His vigorous mind, forceful expression and unyielding sense of fairness and decency made an indelible impression on all who worked with him," Myers added. "His constitutional law course was one of the best anywhere. One cannot imagine how he will be replaced."

"The department suffered a tremendous personal loss in every way," said Sandy Gatten, assistant to the chairman of the Political Sciences Department.

Tanenhaus was elected vice-president of the American Political Science Association in 1971. In 1976, he received the SUNY

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PUBLIC SAFETY and the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps respond to a call of a car accident at South Entrance and Nicolls Road.

Statesman/Nancy J. Hyman respond to a call of a car