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Statesman / Myung Sook Im

They Better Get Used to It

INCOMING FRESHMAN registering for fall classes during orientation sessions may think that long lines are part of orientation and not part of the way of life at Stony Brook - they will soon realize differently.

SASU, NYPIRG Prepare Fight

(Continued from page 1)

because non-students with dual residences can register where they choose to. In addition, he said, absentee ballots often arrive after the election.

Barnett argued that the Constitution sets only four requirements for voting: that a person be a resident of an area for 30 days, a United States citizen, 18 years old and not a convicted felon. Therefore, he said, the reasons most often cited for not allowing students to vote—that they don't pay that much tax, are transients, are not financially independent and their opinions are different from other people in an area—are invalid. Barnett argues that students pay sales tax and contribute to property taxes when they rent houses and that many non-students pay taxes but are allowed to vote. He also said that the average citizen moves every four years—the same rate as students. Prohibiting students from voting because their beliefs are different violates the basic democratic principles, he said, and financial independence is irrelevant.

problem are elections for the local school boards and votes on property taxes.

"The greatest fear of the homeowners — which may be justified — ...is that students could vote in school board elections," he said. "Some of the fears are justified, but I think they're based on ignorance. Most students don't vote in student elections, why should they vote in school board elections?" Ann Coates, president of the Three Village School Board, agreed, saying after the Albany decision a year ago that students will probably not vote in school board elections because they are held after the spring semester ends.

The potential for affecting change is greater in Stony Brook, where the proportion of students to the total population is higher than in an urban area, such as Albany. Leotta said, however, that no change was noted in rural areas of Massachusetts after laws in that state prohibiting students from voting where they attended school were overturned. Besides Massachusetts, states that had similar laws overturned are Texas, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Ohio, according to Beth Zeigler, a legislative assistant for SASU. Eduardo Wolle, legislative director for the United States Students' Association, a national student advocacy group, said that New York's policy of preventing students from voting where they attend school is rare.

Campaign Trail

If the suit is successful, what kind of impact will it have on elections? "It's enough to put us on the campaign trail," Leotta said, adding that participation in an election is part of the educational process. Areas which he did admit could be a

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