

stony brook review

"Community involvement, once an extracurricular activity of college students, will be the curriculum itself when the State University's new School of Social Welfare opens (at Stony Brook) next year.

"The dean recently appointed to run the school, Sanford L. Kravitz, plans to send his students into Suffolk County's welfare agencies, schools, hospitals, community centers and planning agencies. And, in return, he plans to invite the county's leaders to use the school . . .

"Students at the State University here have been asking for the past several years for courses that allow them to work in the community for credit. Currently, under a special Independent Studies Program, some students are working in a migrant worker center in Riverhead."

Newsday

"An IBM Corporation grant of \$60,000 to the State University at Stony Brook for urban environmental studies cannot compete with drug raids and anti-war protests for headlines and broadcast bulletins. Nevertheless, it is an example of the kind of positive activity on campus that should receive more recognition.

"The IBM grant is to be used by a science and engineering committee to design new research and educational programs in such problem areas as housing, fire protection, solid waste disposal and noise elimination.

"Exciting? Not exactly. Important? Yes, indeed. As Dr. John S. Toll, the university president, puts it, urban problems need the increased attention of engineers as well as social scientists."

Long Island Press

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT STONY BROOK

Concert, Lecture Slated For December

A concert with flutist Paul Dunkle and a lecture explaining the pharmacology of drugs will be held on the campus in December.

On Tuesday, December 16, flutist Paul Dunkle will be the artist featured in the university's Young Artist Series. Dunkle is a member of the faculty of the University of Connecticut and has performed with the New York City Ballet and the New York City Opera. He will perform works by Bach, Handel, Charles Whittenberg and Pierre Boulez beginning at 8:30 p.m. in the Lecture Center.

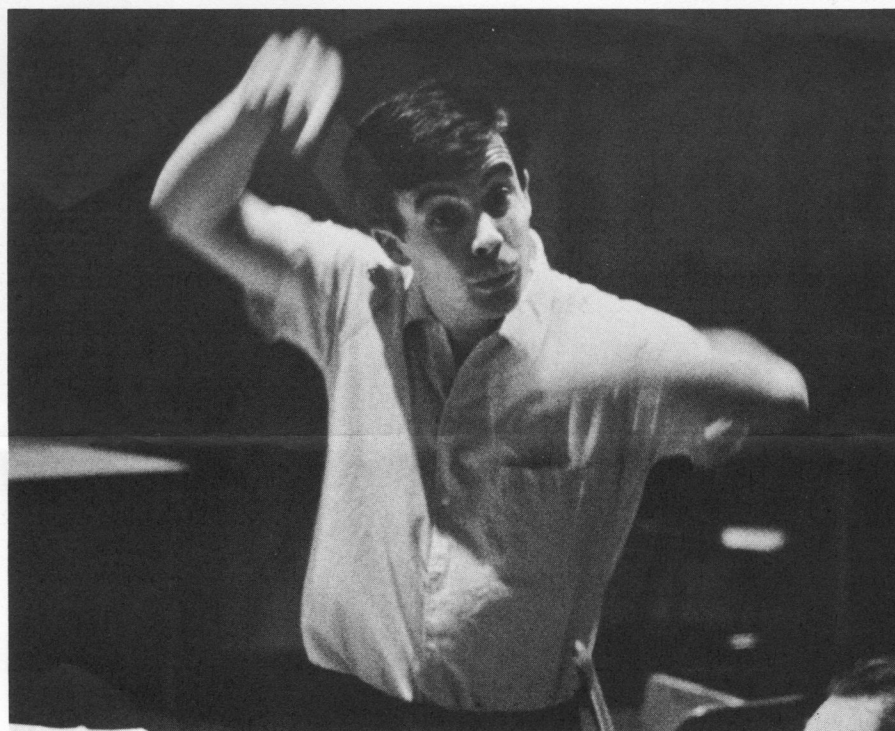
On Thursday, December 18, Dr. Andrew Ho from the department of psychiatry of New York University will talk on the pharmacology of drugs as they affect the central nervous system. Dr. Ho's lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Chemistry Lecture Hall. □

New Student Music Group Forsakes Rock For Rachmaninoff

The newly-formed student orchestra at Stony Brook performed its first public concert on Sunday, November 9, less than two months after it was inaugurated.

Before the first auditions in September, Orchestra Director David Lawton was uncertain how rapidly the group would be able to develop. "I expected to find enough musicians at Stony Brook to form a small chamber group," Lawton said. "At best, I hoped to form a training orchestra with no intention of performing publicly."

Instead, Lawton was able to select 36 musicians, enough to form a chamber orchestra, and schedule four concerts during the school year. The Uni-



David Lawton, shown rehearsing, has energetic plans for new University Orchestra.

versity Orchestra's first concert program included: "Concerto Grosso Op. 6 No. 4 in A Minor" by Handel, Stravinsky's "Suite No. 1 for Small Orchestra" and Mozart's "Symphony No. 38 in D Major."

Thirty of the orchestra's players are students at Stony Brook; one is the wife of a student. An assistant professor of biological sciences, a scientist from Brookhaven National Laboratories, a music teacher and two students from area high schools complete the group.

Every semester, any undergraduate may earn one credit for participating in the orchestra. The group practices two evenings a week.

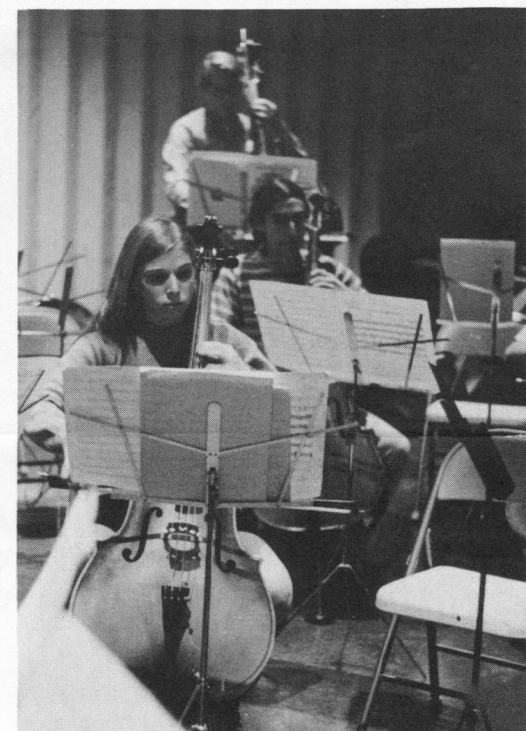
"The advantage of a university orchestra is that in spite of the technical limitations of the players, we have sufficient rehearsal time to concentrate on the inner life or essential

musical ideas of a particular musical composition," Lawton said. "The student orchestra offers a unique opportunity to consider performance both as a creative act and as a learning experience."

Last year, Lawton was the conductor of the student orchestra at the University of California at Berkeley. "In my personal experience, the high morale of student orchestras has been particularly conducive to music-making as I most enjoy it," he said.

Lawton, 28, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Berkeley in 1963. Under an Alfred Hertz Memorial Traveling Fellowship in Music, he studied for two years in Italy with Nino Sanzogno, at that time permanent conductor at LaScala, and the contemporary Italian composer Luigi Dallapiccola.

He is currently completing work for his Ph. D. in Music from Berkeley.



Music group is expected to grow from 36 to 90.

His thesis is titled "Tonal Structure in the Early Verdi Operas." He has published two articles for Italian music periodicals on the Verdi operas. In late December he has been invited to St. Louis to give a short position paper on Verdi before the 19th century opera session of the national meeting of the American Musicological Society.

In a few years, Lawton hopes the Stony Brook Orchestra will expand to 80 or 90 players permitting performance of the late 19th and 20th century symphonies for large orchestra, for example, those of Mahler and Bruckner. In addition, he would like to perform the orchestral works of such 20th century masters as Stravinsky, Shoenberg and Bartok.

The chamber orchestra will perform the "Siegfried Idyll" by Wagner; Ives' "The Unanswered Question"; Hay-

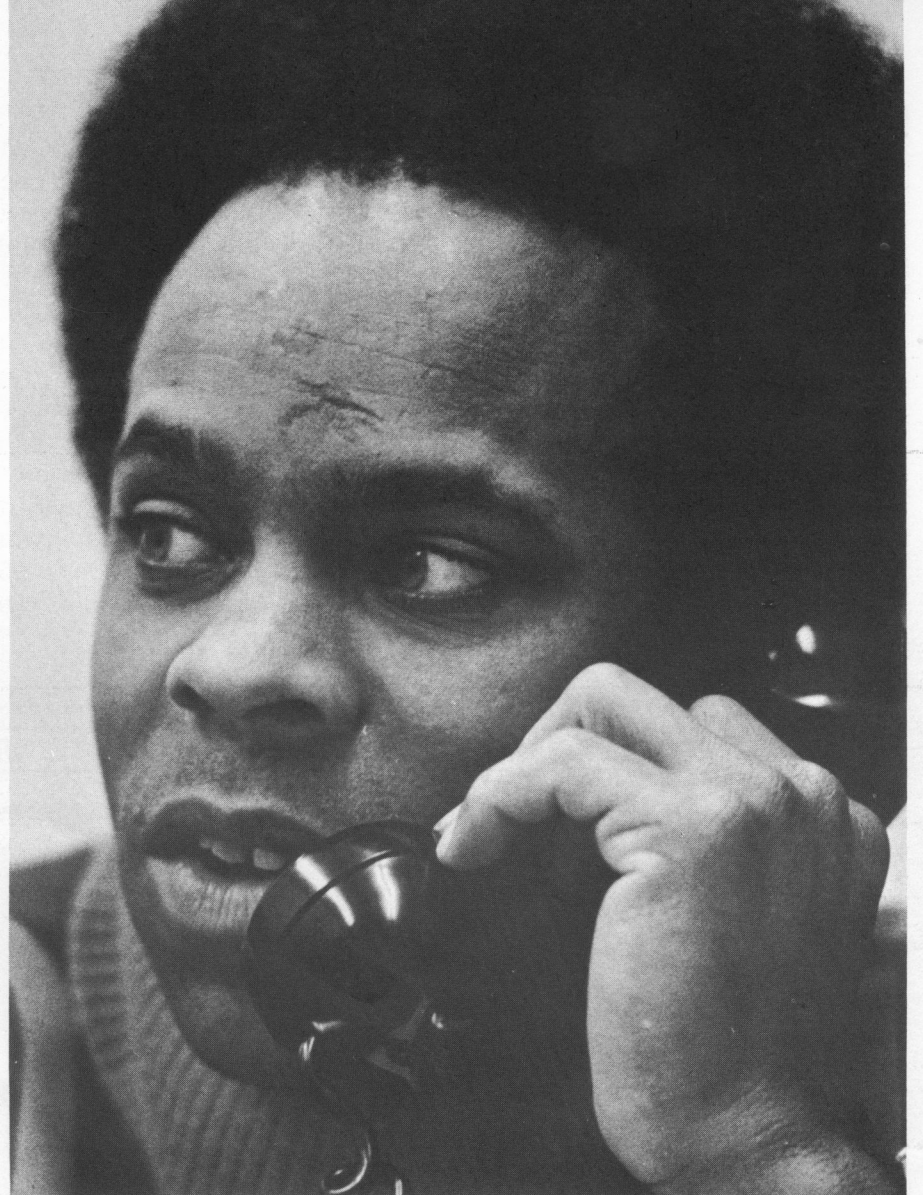
den's "Symphony No. 104"; and Beethoven's "Second Symphony" during the spring semester. The second concert of the fall semester featured the orchestra and the Long Island Symphonic Chorus performing the "Bell Symphony" by Rachmaninoff.

Lawton hopes that young musicians might choose Stony Brook to continue their education and at the same

time pursue their musical interests. "At Stony Brook in particular, our distinguished faculty of performing artists offers young instrumentalists an excellent opportunity to study their particular instrument privately for credit throughout their college career with some of the best professional musicians in the New York City area," Lawton said. □



AIM has helped increase black enrollment.



AIM Director George Bunch assists students in the Equal Opportunity Program.

AIM

AIMS TO ARM BLACKS WITH FUNDS, COUNSELORS, TUTORS

The increasing presence of black students on the Stony Brook campus is helping the University to take a hard look at its various curricula to insure that they will be relevant to community needs and experience, according to George Bunch, director of Stony Brook's AIM Program.

AIM is an acronym for Achievement through Individual Merit. It is also a major source of counseling, tutorial and financial assistance for the 215 Stony Brook undergraduates in the Equal Opportunity Program, now in its second year of existence on campus.

A majority of the students in AIM are non-whites and the program is expected to play an important role in helping the University to achieve a larger non-white enrollment, particularly as the number of transfer students to Stony Brook increases. This year the University has an enrollment of more than 10% non-whites in its freshman class. There has also been a notable growth in the AIM pro-

gram itself which increased from 71 students last year to 215 this fall. The University, Bunch said, is hopeful that next year will see an equally large increase in the number of AIM students on campus but added that no definite figure could be given because the number would depend on budgetary approval by the state legislature next March.

Bunch, with two full-time counselors, is responsible for coordinating the university's resources in providing assistance to the AIM students.

Tutorial services are offered by each academic department through its graduate students and these services are the direct responsibility of the department involved. Bunch and his assistants counsel the AIM students on these services.

Financial aid for AIM students does not come from a single source but from a variety of public and private programs — from various federal and state agencies, scholarship programs and student loans. The AIM

students and their families provide some of their own financial resources when this is possible.

Because the funding of the AIM program is drawn from such various sources, it is difficult to predict how much cash will be available for a specific year. Much of the funding is contingent on budget approvals in the winter or spring or comes from sources where the University or the individual student must compete with other colleges or students to obtain the cash. Helping to alleviate some of the uncertainty inherent in the program is Lynn Hawkins, Stony Brook's student financial aid officer, who works out an individual budget for each of the AIM students. The total program for this year amounted to some \$450,000, an increase over last year's \$132,000. Of the funds for this year's program approximately \$94,000 came from the 215 students or their families and included money earned in work-study activities.

Bunch came to Stony Brook last spring. He has had extensive experience in poverty programs in upstate New York and in Suffolk County where he worked with the Economic Opportunity Council. He has also been active in black liberation movements.

A graduate of Columbia College,

Bunch received his M.A. from Syracuse University and is working for his doctorate in political science with SUNY.

This past summer he accompanied Stony Brook black faculty and students on a University-sponsored trip to East Africa seeking curriculum ideas and materials for the Black Studies Program. The knowledge gained on that trip, Bunch said, was particularly useful for someone administering the AIM program and he hopes that the University will continue to support and encourage such travels.

During his month-long stay in Kenya and Tanzania, Bunch had a chance to look at the African educational system which is geared for rapid national development.

"If we are going to continue to bring students on campus from the underdeveloped areas of our cities and towns through AIM or similar programs," he said, "we must consider the needs of community development as a part of the educational offerings that must be provided at the University." It is here, Bunch feels, that the black students and others in the AIM program can make a valuable contribution to the university's search for relevance. □

DO-IT-YOURSELF

LEARNING FOR CREDIT



Senior Isaac Nassi conducts an educational psychology project in a Bronx school.

On a farm near Riverhead, Stony Brook students Ernestine Turner and Arthur Mitchell, right, learn about the plight of migrant laborers.



Arthur Mitchell is making a study of crew leaders on migrant farms in the vicinity of Riverhead while working at the Long Island Farm Workers Service Center.

Isaac Nassi is probing how children learn by testing youngsters at several elementary schools in New York City and Long Island.

Stephen Thomas is excavating relics at a prehistoric Indian site near Rochester, N.Y. — as part of his investigation of Paleo-Indian cultures of Northeast America.

Naomi Hankin is learning about new educational techniques while teaching at an experimental elementary school in the Bronx.

Joan Branche is getting a first-hand look at the effects of poverty at the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk County.

One student conducted a study of the Danish economy while in Denmark; another, the movement for self-determination in the Crow Indian tribe while on a Montana Indian reservation.

While one student is converting a novel to a play to be performed on campus next semester, another is learning stage design while constructing sets for future student drama productions.

What makes all these endeavors unique is that they are all earning academic credit for the students involved. They're all part of a program of Independent Study Projects begun this semester as Stony Brook's new curriculum program went into effect.

About 50 students, in cooperation with more than a dozen departments from chemistry and health sciences to languages and anthropology, are currently engaged in independent learning projects for credit. Study subjects range from biomedical communications, Euripedes and Zola to mythology, Hebrew and Sanskrit.

Under the program, a student wishing to participate designs his own project in consultation with appropriate faculty members. He must prepare a brief outline of his proposed project, indicating its scope, purpose and methods. He must then obtain from two faculty members, written approval of the project and agreement to supervise and later evaluate it and to recommend the amount of academic credit to be earned.

An appropriate curriculum committee must then review and approve the project. Not more than 30 of the 120 credits required for an undergraduate degree may generally be earned in this fashion.

"Independent Study offers our students the opportunity for imaginative and innovative work," according to James McKenna, secretary of the curriculum committee for the arts and sciences. "As the word gets around that this program is available no doubt more applications for this type of study will be received."

Of course, not all proposals are approved. The file of "killed" projects includes the rejection of one ambitious student's request to receive college credit for taking a flying course at a nearby airport. The committee ruled that it just wasn't academic enough. □

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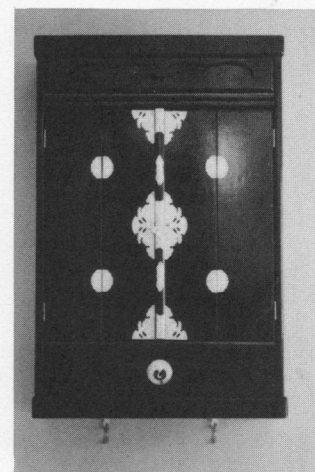
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Buddhists Philip Orenstein and Gretchen Berger chant before a portable altar in a dorm room.



Leader Masayasu Sadanaga danced at rally.



Altar holds sacred objects.

NAM MYOHO RENGE KYO

It's a Buddhist chant. And it may be Japan's biggest contribution to the American campus since the Yamaha.

The beats had Zen; the hippies, Hare Krishna; and the Beatles, the Maharishi. The post-Woodstock generation seems to have discovered, or been discovered by, Nichiren Shoshu, a Buddhist sect which ingeniously combines the skillful organization of a Billy Graham crusade and the missionary zeal of a Jehovah's Witnesses doorbell campaign with the tempting exuberance of an old time tent revival.

At a recent Stony Brook rally which drew more than 500 students, the following took place:

— A film called "From Hippy to Happy" described the conversion of All-American Boy to First Buddhist on My Block.

— A banner proclaimed "Happiness is Chanting."

— A Buddhist rock band, called the Manhattan Rock, played peace songs.

— A few singing groups, including a Stony Brook one called 20th Century Austerity, sang songs which raised thoughts like "Is the World Worth Saving?"

— A Berkeley student claimed that the sect had its roots in India centuries ago and now has 200,000 followers in America.

— Another California student said,

"We're not trying to gain political power, just happy power."

— A Princeton student said, "If you want a high a thousand times better than ever before, just chant!"

— Professor Masayasu Sadanaga, the American leader of the sect, describing himself as a Methodist Buddhist, said, "Buddhism means humanism. If you're human and Jewish, for example, and you chant, you become a Jewish Buddhist." As if to demonstrate, a touch of humanistic philosophy was sung to the tune of "Hava Negila."

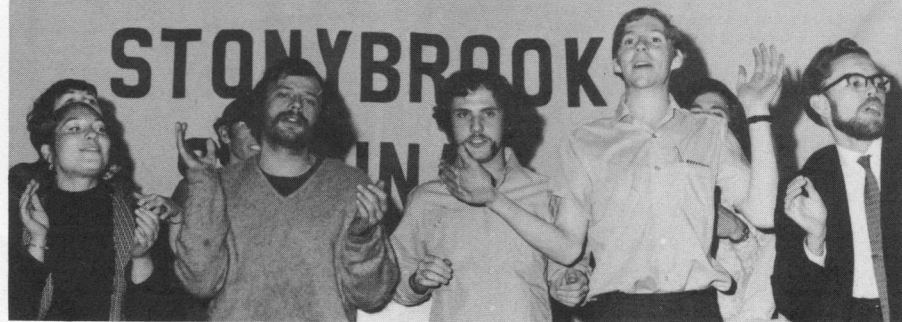
One adult's impression of the evening: "It's all a sunny, happy movement—even to the point of being ferociously happy."

The key to the movement is the chant: "Nam Myoho Renge Kyo," pronounced in a monotone at speeds ranging from a dirge to a gargle.

Philip Orenstein, a senior from Queens and one of the group's leaders, chants two hours a day. "Why? For world peace and friendship," he says simply. "The chant sounds so beautiful. Chanting gets you in tune with the universe. It's not just an inner trip. It puts you in control of both your material and spiritual environment."

"After you have brought happiness to yourself, then you can bring happiness to others," he says. "Then you

Nichiren Shoshu of America



Jill Gordon, John Canovan, George Semos, Orenstein and Robert Dorman lead rally.

get your friends to see, then others. It's like drops of water on a rock. Through kindness, hardness disappears and eventually the rock starts crumbling until the whole society has found happiness. We're like happiness freaks."

Orenstein attended his first Buddhist meeting last March in New York City. He says he "saw so much love and kindness" that he joined and took a pilgrimage during the summer to Japan to learn more about it. "The only way to understand it," he says, "is to try it."

The literal meaning: Nam — inseparable devotion of mind and body.

Myoho — mystic law, and "why" of everything. Renge — the lotus blossom which bears seed and flower at the same time, thus simultaneous cause and effect. Kyo — all sounds and vibrations. Together: the rhythm of the universe.

An interpretation: The apparent popularity of Nichiren Shoshu may lie in the fact that it offers the young a convenient non-Western, non-Establishment alternative to the traditional hangups of older generations — Jewish vs. Christian hangups, Protestant vs. Catholic hangups, Judaeo-Christian vs. atheistic hangups.

— Ralph Chamberlin □

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Office of University Relations
State University of New York at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790

MR NORMAN JUNG
CEDAR HILL RD
STONY BROOK NY 11790