

# stony brook review

a monthly publication  
of the  
state university of new york  
at stony brook

## W. H. Auden, Dr. Spock, Musicians, Dancers Fill February Calendar

Jazz guitarist Arlo Guthrie, harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick, duopianists Martin Canin and Blanca Uribe, soprano Adele Addison and the modern dance company of Merce Cunningham are all scheduled to perform at Stony Brook during the month of February as the University enters its second semester. All performances are open to the public.

In addition, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet W. H. Auden will read and discuss his poetry before a public audience during a visit at Stony Brook February 17-21, and Dr. Benjamin Spock will speak to a student audience on February 10 about his experiences, the Vietnam conflict and the draft.

W. H. Auden will give a public reading of his poetry on Thursday, February 20, at 8:30 p.m. in the biology lecture hall.

The Arlo Guthrie concert is set for two performances at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, February 8. The Merce Cunningham ballet performances will be held February 23-25. Persons desiring ticket reservations for these events, as well as for Dr. Spock's talk, may call 246-6800, the Student Activities Board ticket office, 9-11 a.m. and 2-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Donald Hall, former poetry editor of the *Paris Review*, will read from his own works on Wednesday, February

12, at 8:30 p.m. in the humanities auditorium. The public is invited to attend the reading.

The Association for Community-University Cooperation (A.C.U.C.) will present "Cabaret Night" on Thursday, February 20, at the Robert Cushman Murphy, Jr. High School on Nicoll Road in Stony Brook. The program will feature "The Show Stoppers," a group that specializes in renditions of popular tunes from musicals both on and off-Broadway. Beginning at 8 p.m., the program is open to the general public for a donation of \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

Harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick will appear in concert in the women's gymnasium on Wednesday, February 12. The Martin Canin-Blanca Uribe piano concert is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 in the University Theater. Soprano Adele Addison will perform Thursday, February 27 in the University Theater. These concerts begin at 8:30 p.m. and cost \$2.50 per person. Ticket reservations may be made by calling 246-5671 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. □

## 'God is Dead' Theologian Listens to Secular World At Stony Brook

Dr. Thomas J. J. Altizer, often considered the nation's most vigorous exponent of the death of God theology, recently joined the Stony Brook faculty—in the English department.

Why English? Well, for one thing, Stony Brook has no department of theology or religion. But this is a superficial explanation and does not get at the heart of the matter at all. "I am seeking a new kind of work,

world and experience," Altizer said when he left his post of associate professor of Bible and religion at Atlanta's Methodist-related Emory University.

"It is hard to imagine a more radical change," Altizer said in his new office a few weeks ago. "It was a change from religion to English, from South to North and from a private church-related institution to a state university."

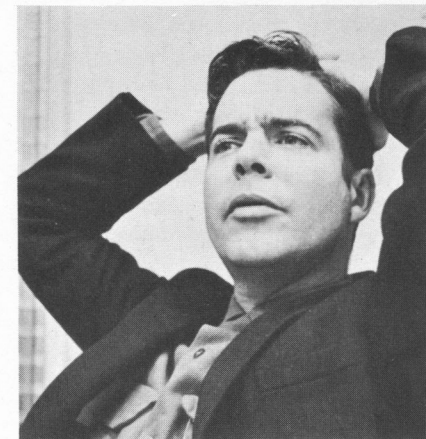
He told an Atlanta journalist he was leaving "to listen to and understand the secular world. The deepest expression of faith, however hidden, is found in secular society." And he admitted to a Long Island journalist that he had sought a secular setting to write a new book (he is the author of four books and 20 articles) on "a secular interpretation of Christianity."

How does he find the secular environment of Stony Brook's English department? "Most stimulating. I am delighted to be a part of it. This is an unusual English department, you know. It is not at all narrow or departmental in its scope. The faculty members and their publications represent a great breadth of interest and work.

"I was drawn here in part because my work has been in literature. I sought sustenance from people who know far more about English than I." He said the published work of Stony Brook's English faculty and the caliber of men such as Drs. Herbert Weisinger and David V. Erdman influenced his decision to move to Long Island.

What is he doing? Teaching a course in "The Uses of Myth" and delivering a weekly Tuesday night lecture on "The Aspiration Toward the Divine in Literature." The latter is free and open to the public.

At a recent Tuesday night lecture, he appeared in a black sport shirt,



sport jacket and love beads. During the lecture he confessed to being "not only over 30, but over 40." But the jest was not needed. His youthful face and manner had already established for him a close rapport with his young audience.

Donald M. Bybee, associate dean of new student affairs, described him in the graduate school newsletter: "The combination of uncompromising scholarship and charisma which has been exhibited by Altizer as he has begun his series of University Lectures is all too rare in the academy."

Dr. Altizer is particularly anxious to begin in February his second semester of lectures because he is planning to include an explanation of his death of God philosophy. It was this concept that created a furor in the press a few years ago.

Although he had been expounding his thoughts for years in religious publications, it was an article in a fall 1965 issue of *Time* which sparked the nationwide controversy. The piece quoted Altizer as saying, "We must recognize that the death of God is an historical event: God has died in our time, in our history, in our existence."

This was a bit difficult for many Americans to accept. The president of Emory described Altizer as "a professor who feels he has an idea worth discussing. He has the right to do so." But others thought there should be no place for him at a Methodist institution. An Emory fund-raiser said, "I wish he'd leave and leave promptly."

To say it was attitudes like that which caused him to leave would be another superficial misstatement of fact. "Quite the contrary," says Altizer, "they did everything to get me to stay."

Nevertheless, his ideas had provoked many people. Although he expressed religious faith and hope in his attempt to reappraise Christianity for the modern world, his belief that the traditional image of God as a



FOUR LONG ISLAND ARTISTS exhibited their works at the Henry James College Art Show early in January. Shown above at right, contemplating a montage, "Akhnaton," by Bronx painter Sidney Rifkin, is Jeanne Stubbe, art major from Old Field. Looking on from left is Robert Goldzweig, physics major from Hollis Hills.

transcendent creator was obsolete met opposition. As did his conviction that organized Christianity had obscured the true spirit of faith by its ecclesiastical forms.

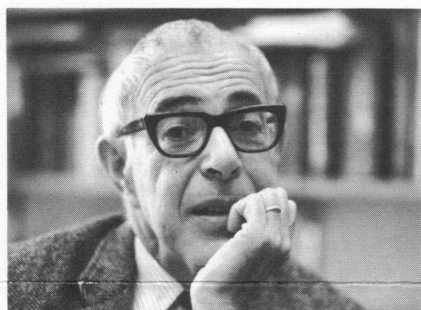
"God is dead" became a catch phrase, hotly discussed and refuted by many, but studied and understood by few.

By the end of the semester, more will be aware of the true meaning of the words—and the ideas and the inspiration behind them. □

— Ralph Chamberlin

## Universities Must Consider Ideas, Create New Worlds

by Dr. Herbert Weisinger  
Chairman of the Graduate School



The following excerpts are from a talk prepared by Dr. Weisinger to be delivered during the Three Days symposium. When time drew short, Dr. Weisinger withdrew his talk from the program to allow more time for student discussion. Dr. Weisinger taught at Michigan State University for 25 years before coming to Stony Brook.

Many of the errors and failures with which American higher education has been charged have in the main been substantiated. The American university has in fact become too closely identified with certain aspects and practices of society today from which we must disassociate ourselves if we are to be free to carry out our educational and social missions. Much of what has been done in American universities has been stultifying, unimaginative and spiritually unrewarding, both to those who do it and to those who are the victims of it.

Many of us came to Stony Brook because we thought that a new university would give us the opportunity, denied us elsewhere, to break out of the academic lockstep.

I do not see the university as a mere physical place but as an idea, a locus where men and women join together to profess, to discuss, to examine, to criticize ideas and ideals in an atmos-

phere free of any restraint and before the bar of reason and evidence alone. From this single principle arises my vision of the university not as a hotel keeper, nor as a child minder, nor as a job placement agency, but as a covenant by which the best which has been thought and said in the past is meticulously scrutinized and carefully utilized by the present as a guide to the future.

A university so constituted and so committed is the most profoundly revolutionary force ever devised and from quiet men sitting before their books in the British Museum or in the loneliness of their labs at night or alone before their easels and drawing boards or in the solitude of their studies have come ideas which have overturned the world. I have in mind Darwin, Freud and Einstein; Marx and Engels and Lenin in exile; Frazer; Cezanne and Picasso and Wright; Schoenberg and Stravinsky; Yeats and Joyce and Eliot. These quiet men in whose shadows we still live put an end to one world and have left us the task of creating another; and, given the conditions of society today, there is no other institution which can carry out this task but the university.

I must also say that institutions tend to corrupt the ideals which they were founded to perpetuate. It is the institutionalization of the ideal which remorselessly reveals the gap between promise and performance, or, to put it in another way, lesser men occupy themselves with lesser things.

It is the role of graduate education constantly to remind us of the ideal, though all too often in the process of attempting the ideal, it becomes smoothed out, simplified, organized, homogenized and regularized. The graduate school ought, then, to serve as the conscience of the university, the irritant which reminds us again and again that our primary concern is with men and ideas and with the consequences of their implementation and the atmosphere in which they can best interact.

We are in for a period of reaction and repression in this country so that we who are committed to the idea of the university had better learn to live together, despite our differences, so we can fight together for our mutual survival. If the university goes down, the lights will go out everywhere and there will be no one left to rekindle them.

New York simply does not yet know what it is to have and to maintain a high level system of higher education. It is trying to make up for the neglect of a hundred years in a few short years, and what other states have

taken a long time to do in more leisured and accommodating times, we must learn to do quickly and in hard times, and the strains are showing.

We have to educate the people of the state of New York who are paying for students' educations and my salary that they are getting value for their money. And by value I do not mean jobs for students and for me but their conviction that we stand for something which transcends the immediate, that we are committed to their highest good, that we are capable of creating for them a vision of what ought to be and how they can have it.

I have been here for only a little more than a year and a half and I have been astonished and puzzled by the constant debate raging as to who really owns this university and who is to benefit from it. One day I hear it is the administration, the next day the faculty, the third day the undergraduates, the fourth day the graduate students, the fifth day the professional staff, the sixth day the Civil Service Employees Association and luckily on the seventh day the *Sunday Times* arrives and everyone gets bogged down.

May I say that none of these, nor the establishment, nor the Democrats, nor the Republicans, nor Chancellor Gould, not even Governor Rockefeller, owns and alone benefits from this university. It is owned by and is intended to benefit the people of the state of New York, many of whom, owing to the inequitous tax burden placed on them, will never be able to send their children here. It is time we acted in their interest by pitching our own interest to the very highest level of their social good. □

## Cardozo College Encourages 'Total Learning Experience'

"It has already become something of an institution."

That's the popular description of Cardozo College, a tiny two-year-old educational community within the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Cardozo is one of the 17 small residential colleges established since 1966 in lieu of traditional dormitories at Stony Brook. Resident students on the University campus speak of the college where they live these days rather than their dorms. At the already successful residential colleges like Cardozo, many of the benefits of a small college atmosphere within the context

of a large university community are being enjoyed by students and faculty members.

Stony Brook's residential college program began taking shape shortly after President John S. Toll called for the development of such a plan in his April 1966 inaugural address.

"It is our hope that out of this will come the kind of total learning experience that students have a right to expect in a university," President Toll said then, "an experience which will involve them in education not only in the classroom but in the residence hall as well, an experience in which they will be treated not as numerical entries on a spool of magnetic tape, but as thinking, feeling young people whose needs are the very reason for the existence of this University."

Dr. Ashley L. Schiff, associate professor of political science at Stony Brook, is faculty master of Cardozo. Along with the college's program coordinator, Mrs. Paula Knudson, and the college legislature, he has succeeded in establishing a varied, continuing series of activities, including nationally known guests who often make Cardozo the center of campus attention.

"Everything we do is geared to the thought that one's undergraduate years should be a kind of total learning experience, going far beyond the physical limitations of the classroom," Prof. Schiff says. "We look at the residential college as an ideal way to meet this objective."

Cardozo's program series has brought authors of widely acclaimed books to the college. Authors who spoke last year included Jonathan Kozol who wrote *Death at an Early Age*, James D. Watson of *The Double Helix* fame, Herman Kahn whose works include *On Thermonuclear War* and Dan Greenburg who wrote the best-selling *How to Be a Jewish Mother*.

---

### stony brook review

Volume 2, Number 5 January, 1969

The Stony Brook Review is produced by the following members of the University Relations staff: Wayne Kurlinski, director; David Woods, assistant director; Erik Arctander, news director; Ralph Chamberlin, publications editor; Robert Blakeslee, community relations assistant; Dianne Bozler, editorial assistant.

Published monthly except July and August at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790. Second-class postage paid at Stony Brook, N.Y.

---

Talks were given by Edward Carpenter, headmaster of Harlem Prep, radio personality Jean Sheppard, undersea explorer Jacques Piccard, former Republican National Party Chairman Leonard Hall, sports commentator and actor Heywood Hale Broun and Michael Reuss, head of the NYU student body and organizer of the New York State Peace and Freedom Party.

Other invited guests have been Stuart Loory, White House correspondent of the *Los Angeles Times* and co-author of *The Secret Search for Peace in Vietnam*, prize-winning *Newsday* reporter Bob Caro, avant-garde typographical designer Herb Luballin and a neon sculptor, a Long Island landscaper and a professional African hunter.

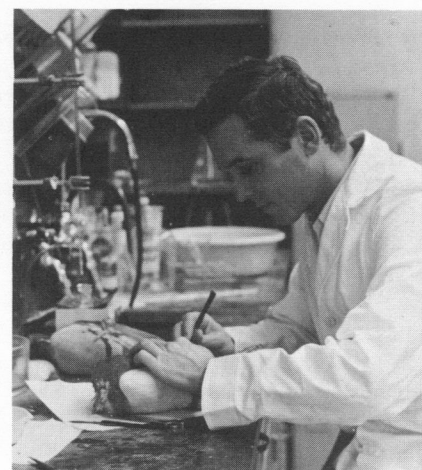
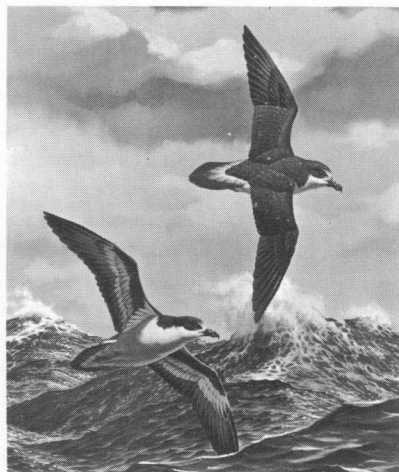
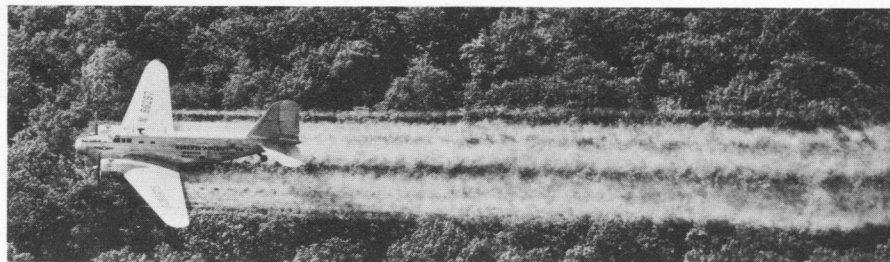
Speakers have been supplemented by events at Cardozo. An "India Night" featured cultural exhibits and a performance of native dances. "Bramble rambles" to natural attractions in the metropolitan New York area, walking tours of New York City neighborhoods, a trip to the Museum of Modern Art's renowned Picasso exhibition, chamber music recitals and a visit to the Sunken Forest at the Fire Island National Seashore have also been popular.

Cardozo's events schedule and all matters relating to governance of the college are handled by its student legislature.

The legislature is similar to governing groups established at the other residential colleges. Cardozo's Dr. Schiff and the other residential college masters are joined by faculty associates and associate masters who participate regularly in college activities, often dropping in to talk with any students who happen to be around at the time.

Cardozo and a number of other residential colleges presently are investigating the possibility of establishing student-initiated courses. The courses probably would concern topics that otherwise would not be taught. Courses, informally and flexibly arranged, would be held right in the residential colleges.

Cardozo's work is being paralleled by other efforts — by Douglass College's work in establishing stronger links with community residents in the nearby Long Hill area, by Gershwin College's student-initiated Music Box Theater and by coffee houses, community activity programs and many other efforts to make residential life more significant throughout the college system. □



*BIRD, PLANE, SUPERMAN? The Bermuda petrel (painted by Guy Coheleach) is threatened with extinction by the presence of DDT in the environment, according to environmental crusader Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr., assistant professor of biology at Stony Brook. He feels the decline of the reproductive success of the osprey, herring gull and golden and bald eagles may also be due to DDT contamination. Wurster, examining dead pigeons, discovered DDT content in their bodies sufficient to affect their life processes. "When DDT is sprayed from planes, it is particularly destructive," Wurster says, "but DDT used in any manner is detrimental to the environment."*

### Professor Proves DDT Dangerous To Environment

The crusading scientist is not yet an American folk hero.

Colleagues find him "too emotional," businessmen consider their investments threatened by his meddling zeal, politicians feel upstaged by his superior knowledge and the public blindly relies on the same kind of miracle that got us into trouble to get us out again.

What, then, moves a scientist to venture from the security of his lab and make himself a target for abuse? Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr., 38-year-old assistant professor of biology at Stony Brook, sees the stakes as nothing less than the quality of life on earth.

Five years ago the problem didn't seem quite that cosmic. There were just the remarks of some observers in Hanover, N.H., that every year after the town sprayed its elms with DDT there were a lot of dead birds lying around. Wurster, then a research associate at Dartmouth College studying phospholipids and membrane transport mechanisms, joined a group of biologists to ask the town to stop spraying with DDT.

Town officials denied that DDT was killing birds and continued spraying. The frustrated biologists conducted an extensive study that proved beyond question that bird mortality in Hanover was abnormally high. Apparently

impressed, the town fathers switched to less-dangerous methoxychlor the next year.

Wurster joined the Stony Brook faculty in September 1965 and the following spring again found himself involved with officialdom. Responding to complaints about the use of DDT in Suffolk County, the head of the county's Mosquito Control Commission insisted that DDT was "harmless to animals." Annoyed at what he regarded as a gross misstatement, Wurster fired off a stiff letter to the local newspapers.

The letter accomplished one thing, at least: it brought Wurster together with Victor J. Yannacone, Jr., a young Patchogue, L. I., attorney who had sued the Commission to stop its use of DDT. As a trained biologist studying the effects of the pesticide on innocent organisms, Wurster was just what Yannacone needed. They've worked together ever since, the association becoming more formal when they helped found the Environmental Defense Fund, Inc. (EDF) in the fall of 1967.

During the past two years Wurster and other scientists have pieced together the mechanism whereby some pesticides interfere with bird reproduction. "DDT, Dieldrin and most of the other chlorinated hydrocarbons are hepatic enzyme inducers," Wurster explains. "They induce the formation of enzymes in the liver that are not specific; these enzymes break down not only DDT but other things as well,

including steroid sex hormones such as estrogen and testosterone."

"Estrogen in female birds," Wurster continues, "controls their calcium metabolism. It causes the deposition of calcium in the hollow cavities of their bones. Just before a bird lays an egg this calcium is transferred from the bone marrow to the oviduct, where it becomes part of the eggshell.

"Now if the bird is deficient in estrogen," Wurster says, "it will lay an egg with a thin shell. Not enough calcium is in the bone marrow, since they excrete too much of it. Because of the presence of DDT there is a steady breakdown in their estrogen supply, causing them to have a negative calcium balance all the time.

"Thin shells permit dehydration of the eggs, resulting in the deaths of the embryos and, in some cases, breakage of the eggs. Further, the adult bird, being deficient in calcium, has a calcium hunger and may eat the shells. All of this put together means very low reproductive success for some birds, especially the birds of prey like hawks and eagles that are at the ends of long food chains," Wurster explains.

Why the big fuss, unless you're a bird watcher? "The birds are a monitor of the health of our environment," Wurster quickly responds. "And when our environment gets to a point where a very basic thing like the calcium metabolism, the steroid hormone balance, of birds all over the world is upset, then there's something very seri-

ously wrong. Furthermore, those same levels of DDT will break down steroid hormones in rats and other experimental animals. So it's not safe to say that we're unaffected under current circumstances. There may be some alteration in our own steroid balance at this point."

The scientific case against DDT is now thoroughly established, Wurster believes, and this has become the central issue in a quasi-judicial hearing that began in Madison, Wisc., on December 2, 1968. An examiner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is considering a petition from two local conservation organizations that DDT be declared an environmental pollutant. Such a declaration could forbid the use of DDT wherever it enters the state's waters. Since it's impossible to keep DDT out of the water because of its mobility, Wurster points out, the practical effect would be to end the use of DDT in Wisconsin.

EDF has mobilized scientists from all over the country to mastermind the petitioners' case in the hopes of obtaining a precedent-setting decision against DDT. This could then be cited in other states; eventually an appeal would reach the U.S. Supreme Court for a nationwide decision.

"Basically, EDF is a marriage between science and the law," Wurster indicates, "each being essential to the organization's goal. Now is the time for scientists to come out of their ivory towers and effect changes in public policies that are within their own areas of professional competence."

"Our legal approach to environmental degradation," Wurster explains, "is purely constitutional; we demand no monetary damages. We claim a right under the fifth, ninth and fourteenth amendments to the federal constitution to a clean, healthy and viable environment. We ask that the court intervene on constitutional grounds to make the offender stop—we don't say 'close him down' or 'fine him' but simply 'make him cut it out.' That's the heart of the issue."

The court route is the most practical and effective one, Wurster believes. Legislative and administrative approaches often fail on the pesticide issue—and pollution in general—because powerful vested interests apply economic and political pressures to block effective governmental action.

"A court of equity is the best place for effective action against polluters," Yannacone says. "In a courtroom a scientist can present his evidence free from harassment by politicians; in a

courtroom bureaucratic hogwash can be tested in the crucible of cross-examination."

All of this is heady stuff for crusaders, but Wurster hasn't let nationwide publicity blind him to the unpleasant work ahead. "Whether we'll live to see some top-level decisions," he says, "or just die of envelope-stuffing, political infighting, shooting from the rear, overwork, exhaustion or lack of support, I don't know. It's a monumental undertaking, but the stakes are plenty big." —*Erik H. Arctander* □



### Young Educator to Head Student Affairs Office

A man with a passion for educational relevance — leavened by a fine, ironic sense for life's vicissitudes — has become the new head of the office of student affairs at Stony Brook.

Dr. Scott T. Rickard's appointment as acting vice president for student affairs was announced by President Toll in late December, following action by the State University trustees in Albany.

In his announcement, President Toll noted a number of other key appointments made in the student affairs area within the last six months. "Dr. Rickard and most of his top aides are new or in new positions this year," President Toll said, "and their work already has quietly but impressively strengthened the whole vital area of student affairs at the University."

Dr. Rickard, a native of Corvallis, Ore., is 30 years old. He views both his birthplace and age as ironic in the light of his new position. "As the new cliché goes, I've just reached the age of untrustworthiness for students!" Dr. Rickard pointed out. "And, as far as Oregon's concerned, I have visions of the Oregon Trail in reverse as I begin this job, for the challenge I find here is that Stony Brook is perhaps today's outstanding pioneering University."

Dr. Rickard has a way with words indicative of a background that includes journalistic experience as a student and U.S. Army public information work. He has a way of remembering words too. In the 24 hours surrounding the announcement of his appointment, one observer noted that Dr. Rickard quoted Oliver Wendell Holmes, Alfred North Whitehead, Robert Hutchins and James Earl Jones.

Dr. Rickard's educational passion centers on a determination to make a student's entire university experience educationally relevant, eliminating artificial barriers between what is and isn't educational and, for example, encouraging meaningful student-faculty relationships outside the classroom.

Dr. Rickard was dean of men at Willamette University in Salem, Ore., from 1966 until coming to Stony Brook as head of the residential college counseling program last summer.

He received a B.S. degree in science education from Oregon State University in 1960. He was a resident advisor there, an active student leader and recipient of several top awards for student achievement.

From 1960-62, he was assistant head counselor at Indiana University while studying toward an M.S. in student personnel work there. He served in the U.S. Army from 1962-64, becoming command information officer at Fort Ord, Calif. In 1964 he returned to Indiana University to complete work on a doctoral degree in higher education. While doing so, he served as principal investigator in a study of student personnel administration under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

He also was a research and teaching associate, participating in the planning

and instructional phases of the Ford Foundation's pioneering \$747,000 Project INSITE (Instructional Systems in Teacher Education). □

### Patriots Capture First Team Trophy

Stony Brook's varsity basketball team made history over the Christmas holidays. They brought home the University's first team trophy for athletic competition by placing a "very close" second in the Sacred Heart Holiday Tournament held December 27-29 at Bridgeport, Conn.

Coach Herb Brown's team opened the tournament by defeating Norwich University 66-61 and advancing to the semi-finals, where they squeezed past Marist College 63-61 to qualify for the finals. "Although we lost (51-53) to Sacred Heart in the last six seconds," Brown commented, "the Patriots did themselves proud."

Indeed, Patriots co-captain Mark Kirschner, 6'1" senior from the Bronx, proved Brown's words. As high scorer in the tournament with 82 points, Kirschner was named to the All-Tournament Team and was selected runner-up for Most Valuable Player in the competition. □

### '69 Reunion Planned

Stony Brook alumni have been invited back to the campus to participate in Reunion Weekend May 2, 3 and 4.

The reunion is being held in conjunction with the undergraduate Carnival Weekend which is sponsored by the Student Activities Board. Nancy Pav '65 and Laurie Lipscher '69 are serving as co-chairmen of the event. Detailed information will be mailed to all alumni in the near future. □

#### stony brook review

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

MR NORMAN JUNG  
1 CEDAR HILL RD  
STONY BROOK NY 11790