

UNIVERSITY IN A PINCH: Part II



This issue presents the second half of a close-up of the financial pinch in which Stony Brook finds itself in 1972. Dozens of University people were interviewed and outlooks sought in an effort to produce a well-rounded picture of the campus in time of stress.

Health Sciences Center Growth Slowed

Stony Brook's Health Sciences Center as a new unit is particularly affected by the reality of austerity. The Center had estimated it would need a \$7 million increase to launch its programs but only a \$406,000 addition has been allocated in the anticipated budget presented to the Legislature by the Governor. Minimal additional funding to maintain the momentum of Health Sciences Center development is being requested in the supplemental budget.

The resumption of construction on the first phase of the estimated \$250 million permanent structure for the Center has helped to buoy hopes of faculty and staff that part of the new structure can be occupied by the end of 1973. Nevertheless, the budget cut-back means "we can't continue to expand enrollment, we can't afford to take on the new faculty we need and our School of Dentistry, which was supposed to open in September 1972, will be delayed at least a year," Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, director of the Center, reported.

Only 24 medical students are slated to be admitted this year instead of a projected 56, increasing total enrollment in the School of Medicine to 48. More than 4000 applications have already been received for the 24 openings. About 32 students will be added to the Schools of Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Social Welfare. The budget only permits the hiring of eight new faculty members and six additional staff members in the whole Center. Full enrollment in the Center, originally targeted for 1974, will be delayed at least until 1977.

"Everybody is doing five jobs," said Health Sciences Center pathologist Dr. Kushner. "Instead of being able to think about problems in medical science, everyone is devoting their time to helping the Center survive."

Unless conditions improve, Lars Larson, assistant vice president for the health sciences, fears that the Center "may lose the opportunity to make a number of bold innovative commitments and become a leader in the improvement of health care." □

Library Acquisitions, Services Reduced

Budget slashes have severely cut back library acquisitions and services.

Although the library has quadrupled its size with the opening of its new addition, library staff now numbers 34 less than a year ago. Delays and cuts affecting the furniture and equipment for the new addition mean that one-third of the library space is presently unoccupied and only 800 of 2800 reader-stations planned are now available. The delay in furnishings also affects departments such as psychology which were planning to utilize some of the space.

Although the library has experienced an increase in demand during the past year — use of reserve books is up 30%, use of listening equipment is up 10% and general circulation is up about 5% — service is being curtailed. Only one of the two circulation desks is staffed and it has become necessary to reduce library hours about 20 per week below the 1970-71 schedule. This means the library is now closed Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. On other nights, although a small reading area is open until midnight, most services cease at 10 p.m.

A \$360,000 projected cut for the library in 1972-73 may mean further curtailment of services. A quarter-of-a-million dollar drop in the acquisitions budget will mean the purchase of approximately 60,000 volumes, compared to the 112,645 bought in 1969-70. □

Instituting new economy measures at the University always means saving New York taxpayers money. Trimming the fat from the University's telephone bill was one measure taken to save precious dollars. A state budget directive requested that departments reduce telephone equipment costs by removing lines and excess phones. S. M. Gerstel, director of the budget, reported that the campus responded well and that these changes alone should result in annual savings of between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Mr. Gerstel has also asked departments to help save electricity whenever possible. One way this can be done is by turning off lights, electric typewriters and other appliances when not in use.

Cost-cutting can be beneficial if the cuts are not too deep. As Dr. John Russell, chairman of the department of German and Slavic languages and literature, explained, "We're about at the bottom. We have about 40% of our faculty resigning or going on leave in September and we have authorization to replace 15%. Some of our secondary language programs are now just hanging on because people are donating their time to teach the courses. As a taxpayer, I certainly see the need for trimming fat, but any further trimming in our department and it simply won't be possible next year to offer a proper B.A. degree in Slavic."

In cutting corners, the little amenities were the first to go. Landscaping projects were postponed and receptionists were reassigned to more vital work. The

A spirit of volunteerism has developed. Edmund McTernan, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, expressed what has been witnessed in many parts of the campus: "I must say, people in the School are just fantastic in their response to austerity. The associate dean is teaching five sections himself and we have no administrative assistant to help do a lot of necessary work. All our people are putting in a full five-day week and then some and doing extra work of various kinds."

Cooperation is evident on many levels. Many students, staff and faculty have pitched in to help vacuum carpets, empty trash and reduce littering where janitorial help is in short supply. Offices short of clerical help are sharing each other's workers, depending on the exigencies of the workload.

The shortage of staff is, in some cases, leading to improved coordination of related offices, services and departments. The Ibero-American studies program, for example, found that by combining efforts and resources with the International College and the Colonial Institute, a film series could be launched which couldn't have been accomplished otherwise.

Duplication of effort cannot be afforded, nor can duplication of equipment. Austerity has encouraged a more cooperative attitude in the use of equipment and facilities, generally leading to more efficient use of both.

The Computing Center is a good example of cooperation, consolidation and economizing paying off. "Austerity said one thing to me: go out to the community and try to do a regional operation," observed the Center's director, Rex Franciotti.

That was almost a year ago. Since then, the Center has been able to streamline its operations, begin serving the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn in addition to Stony Brook, and develop a plan to extend its services to other institutions. The Center now has two computers where there was only one a year ago. And all this has been done while still cutting costs in line with austerity's dictates.

Computer hardware rental now costs the Center 10-20% less than a year ago; staffing has been reduced 11%;

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Some Dark Clouds Have Silver Linings

The austerity story is one primarily of cutbacks and setbacks, letdowns and slowdowns, freezes and squeezes. But at least two good things have developed from the stringency measures: wise economizing and increased cooperation.

annual fall University reception for faculty, staff and students, which caterers estimated would cost \$1200, was held for \$200 with volunteer help, bargain food and homemade punch. A lunch for 100 visiting high school students from minority neighborhoods was financed with staff donations and the food was prepared by volunteer administrators and their wives.

Long Island Community Feels Impact of Cuts

Although students, faculty, staff and on-campus projects and services are hardest hit by austerity measures, cutbacks at Stony Brook are also having, and will continue to have, repercussions which affect the Long Island community.

Whereas most SUNY campuses were long established and basically stabilized in their growth pattern when austerity was instituted 15 months ago, Stony Brook was started from scratch only a decade ago with a mandate to serve the enormous and ever-increasing needs of the New York City metropolitan region. Because the area is the fastest-growing section in the State, failure to complete development of the campus approximately on schedule could have drastic consequences for Long Island's young citizens in future years.

Not a minor consideration when postponing expansion is the loss of employment that halted construction means in a region where the unemployment rate is a record 8.2%.

Last fall freshman applications numbered 7400 for 1050 openings; a 91% average plus a high school class ranking in the top 5% was generally required to be assured admission in the freshman class. Any sustained brake on development would quite likely make this competition for admission even more fierce in the future.

Various services once provided by the University for the community have had to be curtailed. For example, the closing of the Technical Assistance Office, which once offered evening courses to local businessmen on subjects such as management principles, minority employment, leadership skills, crime and business, and industrial pollution and waste control, was one of the earliest casualties of austerity budgeting.

Another forced closing has been the Office of Teacher Preparation, which served Stony Brook graduates entering the teaching field, many of them in local schools. According to Dr. Francis H. Palmer, provost for educational research and development, long-planned and badly-needed programs are being delayed in areas such as early childhood education and special education for crippled and retarded children. Also a curriculum development center to benefit local teachers, faculty members and student teachers has been unable to progress from planning to operating status.

In the Center for Continuing Education, which presently enrolls 7000 local residents in evening programs leading to a masters degree in liberal studies, enrollment and faculty will have to be cut back next fall in spite of demand for increased admission and expanded curriculum. The student-

faculty ratio in the Center will be forced up, although, Dr. Palmer said, "It's too high already. There are too many large courses which don't permit adequate discussion between students and teachers."

The Cooperative College Centers, operated by the University in Wyandanch, Glen Cove, Hempstead and Roosevelt for persons seeking belatedly to enter the college stream, have experienced a 25% reduction in support. They are trying to maintain current enrollment levels but the quality of the programs is being endangered.

The Marine Sciences Research Center, which conducts dozens of research projects involving local marine ecology and the pollution of Long Island waters, has felt the same freeze on equipment purchases and personnel hiring as the University in general. Specifically, this has meant coping with inadequate coastal research vessels, a lack of trained staff to operate them and consequent cancellations of vital research probings. According to Frederick G. Roberts, associate director of the Center, "A lack of sophisticated hardware has led to a decrease in efficiency and effectiveness, particularly in the area of analytical studies." For example, the Center has been unable to purchase a Coulter Counter, a basic instrument needed for measuring plankton and determining the oxygen depletion of waters near sewage disposal sites.

On a more mundane level, members of the community who were used to receiving *Attractions*, a biweekly University Relations Office calendar of campus events open to the public, have not been getting their copies for ten months, due to an austerity-induced suspension of publication. Interested townspeople are now urged to consult local newspapers for such listings.

Similarly, the Student Speakers Bureau and the Faculty Speakers Bureau in University Relations, which coordinated requests from local organizations for campus speakers, have had to suspend operations for lack of personnel to man them. Such requests are now fielded on an informal basis.

Cutbacks in the Off-Campus Housing Office have left it with only part-time student assistants to run it. This means that a very efficient system of up-to-date computer printouts listing local rooms, apartments and homes for rent and for sale to students and faculty has had to be abandoned in favor of posting rental notices.

University neighbors in the vicinity of the large South Campus parking lot have been understandably disappointed to learn that austerity has meant the delay of long-anticipated campus landscaping designed to screen the view of the lot from the neighborhood. □

and about 50% more productivity has been extracted from the Center's equipment.

Aggressive bargain hunting for hardware systems and services was responsible for most of the Center's savings on rental costs. The Center's operating systems have been modified in a series of painstaking, intricate modifications that have trimmed unessential operations, making it possible to use most computer time for direct specialized services.

Most undergraduate student projects, for example, really require utilization of very little of a computer's extensive systems capacity. So new programming has been devised that permits isolated use of just the required systems, resulting in the Center's current ability to handle its undergraduate workload in about 10% of the time formerly needed.

The basic unit, an IBM 360-67, is continuing to handle all of Stony Brook's own requirements plus some outside institutional work through its more efficient operating systems. The 360-67 operates on a batch system basis, geared to doing the most work possible in a given period of time. It is handling five jobs concurrently, running round-the-clock five days a week except for a maintenance shutdown period from 7-8:30 a.m. daily, with an additional eight hour shift operation on Saturdays.

Meanwhile, a PDP 10 computer from the Digital Equipment Corp. installed last month handles most regional time sharing work. It's designed to serve a large number of users at any given time, and generally permits 30 or so jobs to run concurrently through the use of telephone-line-linked remote terminals at Polytechnic and elsewhere. □

Campus Reflects Variety Of Austerity Attitudes

When prosperity turned to austerity over a year ago, it was accepted as a temporary inconvenience. Most people could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

But now the tunnel has been lengthened, the light dimmed. To some, what was a nuisance has begun to feel like a noose. To others, the tight times are something of a challenge. To a few, calling the place "Stone Broke U." brings comic relief. Although the dark clouds are decidedly thicker, there are still those who seem to be able to foresee the rainbow at the end of the storm.

Below are expressed a variety of attitudes, from anxious anticipation to angry antagonism, of University people caught in the pinch of austerity.

Pinched

Dr. Eugene Weinstein, chairman of the sociology department, said his area is "pinched but not crippled. Our undergraduate program has less flexibility than we had hoped for and we have had to rely on mass courses."

Disheartened

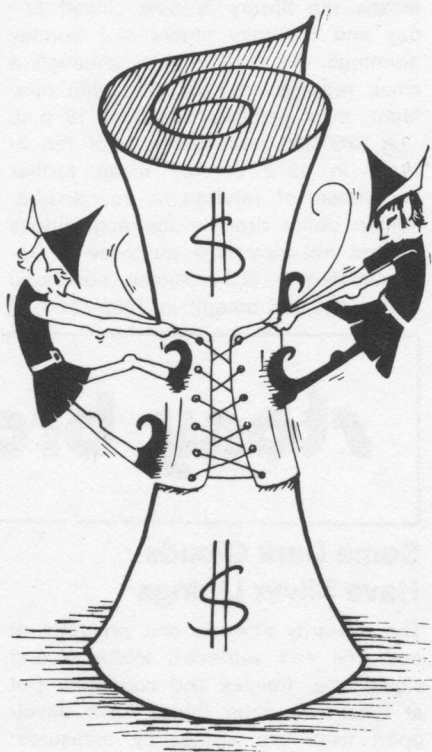
Tim Patterson, a history graduate student and member of the Graduate Workers Union, stated his feelings about Stony Brook's current state of affairs this way: "I get a strong feeling that Stony Brook may have come to the end of its rope. With money drying up, prestige faculty and graduate students begin to think of leaving. That's how first-rate departments turn into second-rate departments."

Hopeful

Bulent Arel, an authority in the fast-growing field of electronic music, left Yale University last spring, expecting to spearhead the development of an electronics music program, complete with a well-equipped electronic music laboratory, at Stony Brook. But electronic music equipment is expensive and the anticipated \$184,000 lab had to be cut from the budget and the proposed course on electronic music cut from the curriculum. This would have been a wasted year of Mr. Arel's career had he not started commuting weekends to Columbia University to make use of the equipment there. In fact, Mr. Arel was about to leave Stony Brook when approval for a \$45,000 lab, to include the basic equipment necessary, was granted. Now he hopes to begin installation of his new lab during the summer.

Uncertain

Dr. William G. Van Der Kloot, chairman of the department of physiology and biophysics, reported that the freeze on hiring had meant that the department of pharmacology could not be launched, leaving the physiology department to fill the void. "We were on the verge of attracting some really extraordinary



Money is tight.

faculty, but we had to stop our recruiting efforts," he said, "The on-again, off-again business with equipment purchasing has caused many problems. All sorts of lab apparatus were ordered almost a year ago, but the order would be stopped, started and stopped again. One of the major difficulties has been not knowing really what's going on — not knowing whether equipment requests would be honored and whether faculty could be hired."

Cooperative

Since austerity measures went into effect, the gymnasium has lost five of its eight-member building staff. Leslie F. Thompson, chairman of physical education and intercollegiate athletics, explained, "This means that the faculty members are changing lights in the gym, repairing the scoreboard and moving bleachers. They're also answering telephones, doing clerical work and answering inquiries from the public. Some of our coaches are doing the team laundry and mowing the grass on the athletic fields." Faculty, spending more time on staff and clerical chores, have less time for students. Also, students have to set up their own equipment, taking time out from their classes. On occasion, Mr. Thompson has found himself sweeping up the gym floor himself.

Stoical

The fine arts building has been postponed again and again. When asked about the effect of austerity on the art department, Dr. Jacques Guilmain, chairman, said, "We have not been affected. There was nothing to take away. If the fine arts building had been started, it could have been stopped, and that would have been a loss, but it has never been started."

Concerned

Dr. Maynard M. Dewey, chairman of the Health Sciences Center's department of anatomical sciences, reported that at present there is no one on the faculty who can teach developmental anatomy, one of the four main areas of anatomy, and there is only one technician, although each of the four areas should have one. Also, there is no full-time embalmer nor adequate facilities to store cadavers at this point. As a result of the restrictions in faculty, supportive personnel and equipment, Dr. Dewey expressed his concern, saying, "The department is not able to maintain the level of performance which the students have a right to expect."

Discouraged

Due to the loss of faculty and secretarial help and several student assistants and the prospect of larger classes, Dr. David Trask, history department chairman, reported, "The budget crisis has created a morale crisis. Many faculty members are discouraged. There's a feeling that the cuts may represent a

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SIGNS OF AUSTERITY

Reduced operating hours, limited janitorial services and construction delays are three indications of the budgetary crisis on campus.

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decline in the State's commitment to higher education."

Committed

In spite of the great setbacks experienced by the Health Sciences Center, Dr. Edmund D. Pellegrino, the director, a year ago turned down consideration for an appointment to the nation's top medical post, U.S. assistant secretary for health and scientific affairs, saying, "I felt I should be around to see things through at Stony Brook." In the intervening year, he has lost several of his staff, including Dr. Peter Rogatz, director of the University Hospital, when it was clear the Center would not progress on schedule and would be cut back in size. However, Dr. Pellegrino reiterated this month, "I'll stay as long as I have a moral commitment to the place."

Frustrated

A \$2000 budget to develop an interdisciplinary program in Ibero-American studies in 1970-71 was cut in 1971-72 to \$1050. Mr. George Schuyler, program chairman, explained, "Building a program requires a tremendous amount of spade work — public information materials, administrative work, programing film and lecture series, developing contacts with other departments and the library. You need a staff to do this spade work. I have myself, a half-time secretary and a student assistant." Due to limited resources for staff, expenses and faculty salaries, he reported, "We were not able to fully develop the Ibero-American curriculum."

Disappointed

Ever since Dr. Edward Lambe, director of the Instructional Resources Center, came to Stony Brook in 1961, he has been working on plans for a modern,

fully-equipped building to house the Center. This winter the \$2.1 million building was completed. However, a freeze on expenses for new equipment meant the structure was but a shell, devoid of the expensive audio-visual materials necessary to use it. According to Dr. Francis H. Palmer, provost for educational research and development, the Center has "neither the personnel, equipment or resources to do its job."

Angry

"I feel students are the most exploited group in the State," said Polity President Roberto Rosado. "With rising tuition and expenses, it will probably cost \$3000 per year to go here two years from now. Expenses like that are self-defeating. Most students come to the State University because they can't afford high tuitions. This place might very well turn into a quiet club of middle class people."

Overworked

The University Health Service at the Infirmary is now handling about 3500 out-patient visits a month and students must wait for long periods of time to get treatment. Dr. David McWhirter, director of the Service, said, "We don't even have enough staff to keep the records filed. We're not able to provide medicines as we had been, nor do we have adequate follow-up for venereal disease and drug problems. We're short of supplies; we even lack examining tables. Our staff is at the frazzled end of the stick because we're carrying such a heavy load. I don't know how long I can ask them to do that as the load gets heavier and heavier. We're trying to see patients at ten-minute intervals, sometimes every five minutes. That's just not good medical care."

Determined

"We haven't allowed austerity to shut down our efforts," said Mr. Reginald C. Wells, assistant professor of social welfare and chairman of the Health Sciences Center's equal opportunity committee which has been vigorously supporting the hiring of minority-group members by the Center. "We haven't decreased the vigor with which we are seeking minority-group and woman job applicants," he said, "but it is hard to tell people there are no jobs open right now." He and others are establishing a "job bank" of prospective job candidates for use when hiring is again possible. "Our efforts have obviously been hampered, but we're still optimistic," he said.

Worried

In the spring of 1970 the National Academy of Sciences and the Social Sciences Research Council listed Stony Brook as one of the nation's six most promising graduate schools of psychology. "There's no doubt that the ranking is in jeopardy," said Dr. John Garcia, chairman of the department. "It was dependent on our momentum and that has ground to a halt. We're now in a phase of consolidating and working with what we've got."

Optimistic

Dr. Steven Weisbroth, director of the division of laboratory animal resources of the Health Sciences Center, has been allocated a total of 14,000 square feet which have been virtually empty for a whole year. "It's ludicrous," he said, "the buildings are here, but standing empty. But I see all of this as program delay rather than program removal. I'm optimistic that in time the situation will improve." □

History Professor 'Digs' Cypriot Village

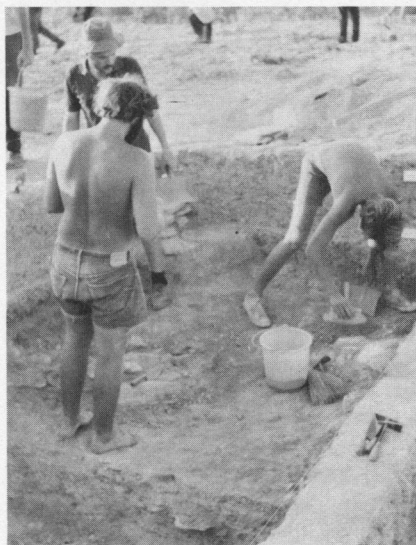
An archeologist whose focus is not ancient kings but the daily life of their subjects will leave Stony Brook this summer for an eight-week excavation in the 3000-year-old Cypriot village of Dhali.

The Stony Brook archeologist is Dr. Per Alin, an associate professor of ancient history. He will represent the entire State University, which, under a long-term contract with the Cypriot government, has begun directing studies of both ancient and modern Cyprus. The team, for the first major dig under that contract, will include scholars from Harvard and Boston Universities and the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary as well as several other institutions.

"We can assume from metal scraps and other preliminary findings that the settlement must have been fairly large and wealthy," Dr. Alin says. "We might find the palaces of the kings of Idalion (the ancient name for Dhali), though I



DIG IT Workers, under the supervision of Dr. Per Alin, associate professor of history, dug up portions of an ancient wall in Cyprus last summer. Dr. Alin will return to the site for further digging this summer.



don't think we can expect the tokens of wealth to be intact."

"In any case," he adds, "archeologists today don't only look for fine sculpture and wealth. We also want to learn how the average man lived. We know too little of this. Ancient literature was by, and for, the upper class; and it was only public buildings that were substantially built. The rest were mud-brick, which does not stand up to time. We hope to bring in all kinds of experts — in geology, pottery, botany, bone remains and other areas — to help us piece together the life of the average man."

About six five-by-five-meter trenches were opened in a preliminary three-week campaign last summer. Dr. Alin says they hope to have at least 15 such squares opened this summer — using local Greek labor that will bring total crew strength to about 50 people. Last year, the archeologists did find part of one mud-brick wall; and with more such walls, along with stone foundations and expected finds of bones, pottery and other artifacts, they hope to be able to learn much of the ancient settlement.

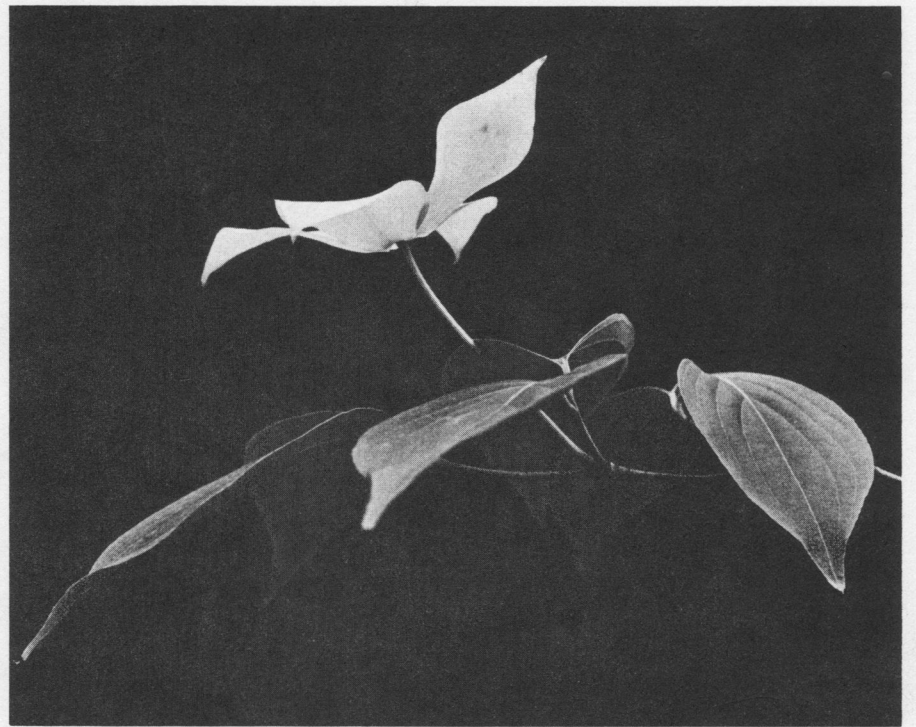
The settlement thrived from about 1200 B.C. to 100 A.D., Dr. Alin says. It was midway between the Mediterranean coast and copper-rich hills that the ancient Cypriots mined. On the modern site, which adjoins ancient Idalion, are the concrete homes of a rather prosperous village of several thousand people. There is electricity, municipal water — though no modern plumbing — and many cars and television sets.

In the cooling air of summer evenings, in fact, modern Dhali villagers can be seen sitting on their front porches watching American television soap operas dubbed in Greek.

The archeologists are interested in everything from the earliest days until now, when many villagers make their living by keeping dairy cows in their backyards and selling their products in the capital city of Nicosia, 20 miles to the northwest.

The Swedish-born professor, who came to Stony Brook in 1965, earned his doctoral degree at the University of Vienna. His dissertation concerned the archeology of Mycenaean Greece, which thrived about 3500 years ago.

In Dhali, he and his colleagues will



SPRING AT LAST This dogwood bloom was shot on campus by student photographer Marcia Prager.

stay in the local school, a modern facility from which they can walk to the digging area. That area includes a small fertile valley set between two hills, the east and west acropolis hills that were once fortified. Despite the village's own prosperity, the surrounding landscape, except for the immediate area, is near-desert with low hills in the distance.

The team rises at 4:30 a.m., works till 8, eats breakfast back at the school, works till 11, takes a four-hour lunch-and-siesta break to escape the hot sun, then works again until 6 p.m. Lunch and supper are eaten at a local restaurant.

The work is painstaking. The difference between the remains of a mud-brick wall and ordinary soil is difficult to discern, even for professionals. Each square is excavated by using small pails to withdraw the dirt, which is then hand-sifted for valuable clues to the past.

While Stony Brook does not have an archeology department, Dr. Alin says there has been growing interest in his

courses — within the history department — on ancient classical civilizations in the Mediterranean region. He has on occasion found summer work for Stony Brook undergraduates on European archeological projects, and he would like eventually to involve students in the Cyprus excavations.

"It has surprised me a little," he says, "that there is such student interest for very out-of-the-way things like the Aegean Bronze Age. It makes me sure that there is a future for ancient studies, though I doubt many students will devote themselves to the traditional classics curriculum, with its heavy reliance on language study.

"I, of course, think ancient study is relevant. It's helpful for understanding classical Greek civilization (which followed the late Bronze Age) and for any advanced study of history. But there's more to it than that:

"To put our time in vast historical perspective gives reason for some optimism . . . In the long run, most changes have led to what I see as something better." □

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