

# The Hill News

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF  
ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDED IN 1911

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*The Hill News* is published every Friday of the school year, except during holidays and examination periods, by the students of St. Lawrence University, Canton, NY 13617. Unsolicited manuscripts, articles, and letters to the editor must be typed and signed. Copy and advertisement deadlines are 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. All materials submitted for publication are the property of *The Hill News* and are subject to revision.

*The Hill News* office is located on the third floor of the Student Center; our telephone number is (315) 229-5139. We have the ability to receive emails at HillNews@stlaw.edu. The comments and opinions of our readers are welcome.

Letters may be no more than 500 words in length. All letters must be typed, signed by the author, and include the author's full name and telephone number. The name of the author may be withheld only for compelling reasons, and after discussion with the editorial board. *The Hill News* reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity, style, and taste. The printing or omission of letters is entirely at the discretion of the editors and *The Hill News*. Any letter received after deadline will not be considered for publication in that week's issue.

All copy, advertisements, letters to the editor, etc., must be submitted as hard copy or e-mail by the above listed deadlines unless other arrangements have previously been made. This policy is strictly enforced.

The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper, the staff, or St. Lawrence University.

## From the Editor

It has come to our attention here at *The Hill News* that there are several conspiracies operating right beneath our noses here on campus. Being the astute reporters that we are, we've uncovered the details for our dedicated audience.

The most prominent of these foul plots is the sudden reappearance and shocking disappearance of the Green Wall during a spate of Admissions visit days. Coincidence? We think not. What do campus administrators have to hide? Tacky green plywood? Badly scribbled messages? Once a forum for student expression (and a way to hide ugly student center construction), the Green Wall had become merely a fond memory for upperclassmen. Throughout the last several years, the wall has made phantom appearances at times when student voice could find no other medium. Most recently, struggles over the Java Barn's future resurrected this beloved apparition. Slogans such as "Save the Barn" and "Save Student Voice" were painted over old graffiti. But once more the wall has been silenced by secret enemies. Will we see the wall again? Where? When? Only time will tell.

In other news, we suspect that there is a plot against *The Hill News* as well. It began in 2004 with the leaky student center roof. Our computers destroyed by the sophisticated weaponry of North Country weather, our office left in shambles, we bravely soldiered on. But our peace was not to last. Financial difficulties appeared on the horizon. The cat and mouse game that ensued with the Thelomathesian Society—our first approval for salaries was cruelly snatched away in the second round—left us bruised and battered. But we're not bitter or anything.

Most recently, the writing staff of *The Hill News* has been steadily depleted by brutal homework loads and the apathy disease. In order to cope, we've taken to ordering large amounts of pizza and soda during late-night layout sessions. Over our slices of pepperoni pizza and cans of Coke, we have been eagerly awaiting reinforcements.

If you feel that you have the fortitude to write articles, consume the delicacies of Domino's Pizza, and uncover juicy stories beneath every rock and unnecessarily heavy textbook, *The Hill News* wants you. Top-secret organization meetings are held every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. in our headquarters (room 304 of the student center). After mastering the secret handshake, you will be admitted into the sacred realm of *The Hill News*. We look forward to welcoming you.

(And remember. The truth is out there.)

Caroline Duda  
Editor-in-Chief

Jillian Kay Sherwin  
Managing Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORIAL BOARD

### Thoughts from Kenya

The six members of St. Lawrence's Kenya Semester Program – Topical Field Study Spring '06, after a long day in the field looking at the problems surrounding the insularization of Nairobi National Park, and studying the land use issues which are deeply connected with community development, sat around the dinner table, munching on some githeri and chapatti (which, as we are told, is great brain food), desperately trying to come up with a solution. Upon receiving an e-mail from a Java correspondent, one John Winkowski, our resident Java Bean (Hollynn Francis), returned frazzled, bringing to our attention the recent developments regarding the fate of the Java Barn. When our Bean mentioned this, we all at once realized the parallels between Nairobi National Park and the Java Barn. As Jonathan Angus, our *mzee* (Swahili for respected elder) remarked, "As newly appointed CA of the Outing Club, I realize the community value of the Java Barn. All too often, alcohol free outlets do not attract large numbers. However, this is not the case with Java, and I have personally witnessed this time and time again throughout my four year stint at St. Lawrence University (my home away from home)." As should be evident, the Java Barn must remain open.

The SLU-KSP-TFS Spring '06 group is lucky to have two proud Mainers (Callie Jo Douglass and Eli Putnam Mathews), who insisted on being quoted on the issue: "The nostalgia of our first encounter at Java can be marked by the creation of a friendship that would not otherwise exist. The Java scene is as diverse as our proud Maine heritage. (Us non-Mainers would like to point out that Maine is one of the least diverse states in the country.) Collectively, we participate in KDS Sorority and the Outing Club; one is a field hockey player and the other a skier, tour guiding, volunteering, and the list goes on." Before that infamous first meeting, their social circles never collided and never would have if it weren't for Java. This venue needs to be available for people like Jo Douglass and Putnam Mathews, a place to forge life-long friendships.

It has come to our attention that the future of Java House and Barn are in jeopardy. The problem, understood by us, seems to be that the Canton community is upset and annoyed by the loud music that emanates from this renowned music venue (which has recently been featured in the popular music magazine *Relix*). "I'm in love with Java," remarked Jesse Littleton, a junior researcher. "I can understand the community's concerns, but at the same time, a solution must be found. This St. Lawrence staple must live on." Suggested solutions include one of the following: sound proof the barn, along with massive renovations to the House itself; or to build a new venue altogether. The first option, although seemingly simply and effective, still presents the problem of students loitering outside the barn before, during and after the spectacular shows. As such, this does not seem a viable solution. The latter – moving the venue – then seems to be the more appropriate option.

One of the main problems with

Nairobi National Park is the damage done by animals from the Park to the surrounding community. As experienced field biologist, Louise Gava, notes, "One of the suggested solutions to the Nairobi National Park dilemma is rerouting the migrating Wildebeest, who leave a wake of destruction in their path, at the expense of the local Maasai community. I can't help but hypothesize that the benefits of dividing the traffic of students on their way to different social hubs would positively impact both the St. Lawrence and Canton communities." Our esteemed biologist is pointing out that routinely, students travel in herds down Park Street, acting as though it were the middle of the mating season, disrupting the nights of the local community. As such, we have kept in mind that a new location would need the following: a respectful distance from the local community, along with an accessible parking lot for band vehicles. To us, it seems that building the new Java between Whitman and Rebert dormitories would be perfect. Including the reasons mentioned above, the proximity to freshman dorms provides another great reason, as it serves as an awesome introduction to the arts within campus, as well as providing an alcohol free event. As Ms. Francis notes, "When I was a freshman, Java was a safe place for me to express myself. Now, as a resident of Java, I take pride in providing this to all others within our St. Lawrence community."

We have been drawing parallels between two highly complex and debatable issues. And all joking aside this is an extremely important matter to not only us here in Kenya, but undoubtedly all members of the St. Lawrence University community. This news from the north has traveled through both space and time and has reached us in Kenya. We are deeply concerned with this situation even as we are immersed in our studies here. We hope that we are not the only students with proposals, and we hope the administration seriously considers any other solutions proposed by students.

Sincerely Yours, the Members of St. Lawrence University  
Kenya Semester Program – Topical Field Study Spring 2006,

Jonathan D. Angus – Outhouse  
Callie J. Douglass – Outhouse  
Hollynn E. Francis – Coffee House  
Louis E. Gava – Sykes Scholars Floor  
Jesse R. Littleton – Habitat for Humanity  
Eliza P. Mathews – Kappa Delta Sigma

### The Green Wall

I was walking outside, enjoying my mocha when I saw some awful looking catastrophe attached to the fence lining the new Science Center. "Oh, sweet!" I said to myself, as I realized that the green wall had made its return to campus.

But something about it seemed different. Some of us still remember Green Wall I, which was on the fence around the new Student Center. Lots of controversy (there's that nasty word again) surrounded it, as students expressed how they felt about St. Lawrence. Some things were good, while others were probably taken as "offensive." And slowly

but surely, the space turned into a zone where free speech was celebrated, and no one could censor you. Actual dialogue was created, and people began to talk about previously taboo subjects such as diversity, racism, and the fact that money can get you a lot of friends at St. Lawrence. And I don't mean student friends.

Then, after Emily Mounce died, Green Wall II came up as a tribute, and a week later it was another venue for dissatisfied students to vent about St. Lawrence problems. Shortly thereafter, the "wind" knocked down the wall.

Well, here we are now at Green Wall III. Gone are the signs about how the administration covers up so and so. Gone are the signs about Thelmo corruptness. In its place are signs to save the Java Barn. On every single panel of the green wall, it says "Save Java", or "Save Music." Thinking about the different incarnations of the Green Wall makes me think of that song from Sesame Street that goes: "one of these things is not like the other..."

And that thing is the current green wall.

Green Wall III is a little different from the rest of the green walls in that while other green walls were an avenue to showcase administrative and student abuses, this one has been overtaken by hippies with the sole objective of saving some barn. And don't get me wrong. I don't hate Java, and definitely support it. I've been there only a handful of times, but have had a blast every single time. It serves a vital campus function and should be preserved as is.

My beef is this: Is this what political activism has turned into at St. Lawrence? The Java Barn? What about other more important things like making the alcohol policy more accurate so that students who don't drink aren't punished? Nah. I want to listen to a Grateful Dead cover band. Surely the creators of the original green wall would be turning in their graves if they saw this version of it. And I know, the creators of the original green wall probably aren't dead, but I'm sure that some folks hope that.

Rolando Pintos '07

### Questioning Apathy

The term apathy is tossed around far too carelessly, as it easily classifies the "uninvolved" student. However, if one were to truly examine the concept of "apathy" they might find that the word actually resists definition.

Listen, our world, it seems to me at least, is built on a foundation of chaos, and any attempt to impose a system of order or unity is asinine. I'm not in the business of finding solutions because there can be no real solutions, only perceived ones which point to other problems.

Now this line of thinking may seem highly cynical and borderline nihilistic, but it is exactly this chaos which gives the world its beauty. I think if everyone stood up and really looked around at their condition for just a moment, they would have to laugh. Frankly, life is very funny.

Am I apathetic for thinking so? What is apathy even? It may be a "lack of interest or concern, espe-

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