

## Kenya Semester Abroad Canceled

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The news is disastrous; in recent weeks there has been much fluctuation between bad and catastrophic happenings. Bad meaning tolerable; with proper safety measures that would allow students to travel. It is the catastrophic events that have forced excited travelers to prepare to go back to school. The first (yes, first) time the Kenya semester was cancelled, much frustration and sadness was caused as the unsafe atmosphere that was keeping the semester on halt was out of the students' control. St. Lawrence has been traveling to Kenya for decades as it is one of the most popular programs the school offers.

Glued to their television sets over winter break, students wondered if they were going to return to St. Lawrence in the spring or continue on their journey. First, the school officials issued a warning, explaining the turmoil and how it might affect their plans. They, along with the rest of the student body waited for a definite answer, hoping the crisis would settle. For a few weeks, the SLU officials decided it was safe to go. The students were notified that even though they were to follow through on the semester abroad, there would be strict limitations while in Kenya. Some participants chose to withdraw from the program because they felt uncomfortable with the circumstances, while others con-

tinued packing and imagining the experiences to come. Even though life in Kenya was still unstable, the minds of the students were at ease because of the perceived permanence of the plan. Dejectedly, a mere few days before spring semester was to start for those at St. Lawrence, the program was canceled due to spike in dangerous activity. Phone calls, emails, and an internet posting told the students to unpack and repack; for they would not need the clothes for 80 degree weather as they were to return to Canton.

Upon receiving the news, students were caught up in housing and scheduling conflicts, but they made it through. Sticky situations such as this one are hard because even though the final judgment call was the correct one; it disappointed a lot of people eager to see the world and spend some time away from the North Country. These students should be allowed to go abroad at any time to any location (that is offered through the school or does not have a travel warning), as they were unable to travel to Kenya because of circumstances that were out of their control. It might be considerably less interesting here than it would have been in Kenya but at least the students are safe. No semester would be worth risking lives. Hopefully, the trouble in Kenya subsides soon so St. Lawrence students can continue to travel there in years to come.

## Java Considers Bar in Building

Charlie Reetz  
Photography Editor

Rumors have been spread around campus that Java has thought of the idea of building a bar within their space to provide students with beverages during a show. To get to the bottom of this, I interviewed some of the members of the Java house to see if these rumors were true. Kayla commented thoroughly about the bar saying, "Having a bar in Java would take away the privilege of a student-run organization, and we don't want that. If we were to have a bar it would be kept underneath the same roof and not in a different building. Brown building would be the best place for us to have it, but still it is a space issue." Another student, Dana, agreed with her fellow member Kayla saying, "The bar would be a good idea, but we would need separate space for the bar and the stage area. We wouldn't want it

to be clustered into one spot. People come for the music and not for the booze and it would be annoying to deal with security checking ID's. Brett Michaels is hilarious and Poison is not a rock band." Loie finally topped off the interview by shouting, "It's free and it's sick!" Java is most definitely sick, and it would be hard to see it fall just because some might want to add a little more fun to their night by knocking back few while watching an awesome rock band. I've spoken to a lot of students around me, and most of them agreed that it would be a hassle for Java to build a bar in there, and that it just seems easier if people drink elsewhere. Java recently had Giant Panda Guerrilla Dub Squad play an awesome gig on Friday the 25th and there are more awesome concerts to come. "We have a good lineup for this semester so hopefully we can go out with a bang this year, and a bar may interrupt that," says Kayla.

## Career Services

Andy Rampersaud  
Columnist

Hi! I am Andy and I am working for you as a Peer Advisor from the Career Services Office. This is a very unique position that I would hope everyone would utilize especially if you need to work on resume and cover letter writing, interviewing skills, finding internships, applying to graduate school, or improving your networking ability. These are all major aspects of career development and meeting with a peer advisor is one of the best ways to prepare before meeting a professional staff member. Professional staff members include Dr. Carol Bate, Sarah Coburn, Emily E.H. McDonnell, Kate Caldwell, and Ann Pedersen. Your fellow peer advisors include Peterson Maina '10, Kacey Anderson '08, Sara Tully '08, Christy Tobia '08, Ben von Reyn '10, Amy Jay '10, Kyle McDonnell '09, Kadine Hamilton '08, Danielle Sagor '09 and myself, Andy Rampersaud '10. We have very flexible hours to meet your busy schedule. I work Thursdays from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm in the Career Services office (Student Center) and Fridays 1:30 pm to 4 pm in the CSTEP/HEOP/McNair office (Whitman 171 I). You can also log on to our website at [www.slauw.edu/career](http://www.slauw.edu/career) to learn more about our office. So just walk in and put your career in the fast track!

## Super-Duper Tuesday?

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Truthfully, this year's primary season is likely to be recorded as one of the most interesting, memorable, and most-followed primary seasons to date. For instance, this will be the first presidential election since 1928 in which neither a sitting President or Vice President will be a candidate. Along with the controversies of multiple states pushing up their primaries in hopes of increasing the value of their votes (leading to many candidates not even putting themselves on the ballot in Michigan), pollsters gone very wrong, and unique candidates, the primaries have yet proven to be boring.

Just in case you were having too much fun over break or you have been studying too hard since you returned to SLU and have forgotten to follow the news here's what's been happening: Starting with Iowa, Obama won leaving Edwards in second, and Clinton in a very close third place. On the Republican side, Huckabee easily had the victory. New Hampshire got interesting when almost every poll predicted an Obama win and instead Clinton won over Obama by a clear 39% to 36%

(leaving Edwards in third with 17% of votes). McCain also had a good night in New Hampshire coming out with a clear win. Most recently (January 29) was the Florida Primary in which Clinton won an astonishing 50% of the votes to Obama's 33%. McCain proved triumphant again, winning significantly over Romney. Results in Florida led to Edwards's and Giuliani's withdrawals from the race and their votes up in the air. There is much debate especially as to where Edwards's votes will go. Besides Maine (for the GOP only) on February 1, next up is Super Tuesday, which may finally give each party a sense of clarity as to who they will give their nomination to- or else things could get even hairier. As we cannot seem to rely on polls or predictions this year, it looks like we will have to wait and see how it all plays out.

One of the most significant reasons for the unusual interest in the primaries is the historical nature of the candidates. With both an African American and a woman running for presidency, a win on either part will mark a turning point in the nation.

With the youth vote (although increasing in recent years) still lacking, it is time for us all to get involved, and this is the election year to do so. President George W. Bush's presidency is winding down with less than a year left of his second term. With his disapproval ratings being as high as 66% of the nation, the severe unpopularity with the War on Iraq, and now the impending economic "we're not calling it a recession yet recession" Bush is certainly more than on his way out. Even Bush's last State of the Union address (given on Monday, January 28) was largely overshadowed by the news of the new candidates running for office. With all of that being said, there's no time like the present to get involved in politics. With all of the issues that our generation must face, we are at a crossroads, and this is our chance to make a difference in our own futures and the future of our nation. As a college campus, as a student body comprised of many people casting their first presidential ballot, and as the youth of the United States of America, it is crucial that we make ourselves a part of history.

## Thelomathesian Society's Scoop

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The central focus of the discussion then turned towards proposed locations of the possible venue. For the current ideal locations, see Dennis's power point on the THELMO website. The importance of the bar being in a central location on campus was one of the main considerations in recommending each of the suggestions.

The bar would have an 18 or older age limit, so the majority of the campus would have access. Alcohol, however, would only be served to those legal. Because SLU would hold a contract through its food services for the alcohol, only the food service would provide and serve it to students. SLU would therefore not need a liquor license, and also not be held liable.

Some of the ideas proposed by senators and members of the executive board alike included the specific structure of the venue. Should JAVA and the pub share a space or should there be two separate rooms with individual entrances? Should the bar itself have a large dancing space, should it be a place to relax in a calm manner after a stressful day while having a beer, or should it be both?

Another question proposed was the time which the bar would be open, and the time that it would begin serving alcohol.

While allowing the full flex meal plan to pay for alcohol has been vetoed immediately and strongly, using one's Campus Wide Accounts was taken into consideration. This topic also brought about the fact that opening a bar would provide an alternate food location for students on campus, in addition to alternate job opportunities.

According to what the committee was last aware of, approximately 1.5 million dollars has been allotted to this project.

Among other sources, many of the ideas being taken into consideration regarding the possible structure of the Pub/Java building have been borrowed from colleges similar to SLU who already have such a structure on campus, such as Hamilton and Hobart and William Smith.

Other orders of business discussed briefly at the beginning of the meeting were the Middle States Review, which is conducted by a committee outside of SLU affiliation. This meeting will take place on Monday, February 27, at 7:00. It is important that SLU has a good representation as this meeting as it will discuss is-

recolonization of the Beta Theta Phi fraternity by the 2009-2010.

Clarkson University has recently contacted THELMO to ask for guidance in construction of its own student center, and in the organization and operation of our student government in general. Members of its government will be taking a tour in the near future, along with attending some THELMO meetings to, as the new THELMO president John Pontius says, "learn from the best."

Finally, the New York Times and the USA Today are provided for the student body by THELMO, who feels that not enough students are taking advantage of this opportunity. So do your brains a favor and avoid allowing the "bubble" mentality of sheltered college students to prevent you from picking up a paper every now and then to see what's going on in the world.

And, as always, for those who wish to see the goings on of the meeting more in detail, or who wish for further information regarding any idea discussed, can visit the THELMO website simply by typing in "thelmo" to any address bar of any computer connected to the SLU network. The meeting's minutes will be available on site, along with Dennis's power point.

Photo by Carter Kegel  
sues extremely important to current students.

Also discussed was the issue and almost definite possibility of the

AIDS Community Resources presents a Treatment Adherence forum "Living Well with HIV/AIDS", on February 27, 2008. The forum is open to HIV/AIDS consumers, providers, agencies and interested parties in the North Country.

The event is 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Partridge Berry Inn on Route 3 in Watertown. Primary Care Physician Marylene Duah and Licensed Clinical Social Worker Deb Doss are among a panel of professionals discussing the topic of integrated practices for living well with HIV/AIDS.

Dinner is provided. Reservations required.