

## Lawsuit Against SLU Paper Is Filed In Kenya Court

NAIROBI, Kenya — A U.S. Federal Marshal has delivered to The Journal a summons to appear as one defendant in the High Court of Kenya in a civil suit sparked by an article in the Hill News.

The summons was made out to "The Printer, The Hill News." The Hill News is the St. Lawrence University campus newspaper and is printed at The Journal.

According to the summons, "should you fail to enter an appearance within the time mentioned...the Plaintiff may proceed with the suit and judgment may be given in your absence."

The document was served on "The Printer" (The Journal) on behalf of Peter French by his "advocate" or attorney in Nairobi, Salim Danjhi.

The suit is for damages, court costs, and "any further or other relief deemed fit by this Honourable Court."

Primary defendants in the case are Steve Tiede, author of a 1979 Hill News article, "SLU Fights Nairobi Policies." Timothy Johnson, then-editor of the Hill News; and finally "The Publisher" of the campus newspaper.

French was director of SLU's Program Director of the St. Lawrence

University Semester at Nairobi at the time the article came out.

According to French's "plaint," as it is called in Kenya, the Hill News is "circulated in the Republic of Kenya and the United States of America and elsewhere."

It is because the article appeared in Nairobi, French argues, that "the cause of action arose within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court."

French had earlier initiated an action for damages in St. Lawrence County Supreme Court in connection with the same Hill News article.

Defendants in that case were St. Lawrence University, Robert N. Wells Jr., George H. Gibson, Dr. J. Ansil Ramsay, Dr. Laura O'Shaughnessy and Dr. Laurence Frank.

That case before Justice William Ford was "dismissed with prejudice" on July 15, 1980.

Yes, it appears as if someone from The Journal may have to appear in the High Court of Kenya.

But Charles Kelly, general manager of Park Newspapers of St. Lawrence County, said he doubted anyone from The Journal staff would be traveling in person to Nairobi to appear in court.

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