

SAMATAR, from page 8

stand correctly what Secretary Bennet is trying to say then I would agree with him on some terms.

When he speaks of the importance of the basic attributes of a good education such as dedication to learning how to reason well, how to write well, how to articulate thoughts well; if these are some of the basic themes, then I will be the first person to support them.

If an individual leaves a place of higher learning and is not able to articulate thoughts as is expected of an educated person, the process becomes suspect.

Beyond that, there are some other changes that need to be made within the university system, particularly St. Lawrence; diversification of the intellectual climate and the pursuit of new intellectual challenges. Plurality that involves seriously looking to attract minority faculty members to this campus, minority faculty that will become part of the tissue of the college; not someone who will be here for one or two years because they are temporary help.

This school has been here for over 130 years and there is no evidence that it has ever put together an authentic policy for attracting minority faculty to this campus, particularly people of color.

Diversifying the student population while at the same time keeping an eye on quality is another way of achieving this goal.

Diversifying the intellectual climate and what is studied while keeping an eye on the basics and excellence must be dealt with if St. Lawrence is to become real.

The recent faculty vote on the curriculum speaks to that point.

Q: You speak about diversification through the integration of minority students and faculty at St. Lawrence. How can this be done? Who can make this happen?

A: First of all, there are four Afro-professors here at St. Lawrence; all of them, including myself, on a temporary basis. In order for this institution to attract a greater number and better quality minority students it must attract more minority faculty members.

More specifically the college must begin to strengthen its Afro-American and Hispanic courses. It is almost as if the 1960's never came to St. Lawrence; consequently, we must catch up with the times.

There are positive steps being taken in the right direction but more must be done. Other liberal arts institutions have already moved on this issue and in order to make St. Lawrence an academic institution worth the imagined reputation, this has to be done.

If this diversification is not taken in a very serious manner and if this kind of "opening up" does not take place under this president, I don't think it will happen for a long, long time.

Breslin and Samatar Reflect on Kenya at Herring-Cole

By Jane Mahoney

Last Monday night at 7:30 p.m. in Herring Cole Reading Room, senior Edward Breslin and Assistant Professor of Government Ahmed Samatar led a program entitled "The Kenya Semester: Reflections on a Recent Sojourn".

Both Breslin and Samatar have recently returned from Kenya; Breslin spent the Fall semester on St. Lawrence's Kenya program, while Dr. Samatar went to Kenya during January to evaluate the program in conjunction with his new position as faculty coordinator.

Breslin, a government major and African Studies minor, spoke of why "...Kenya is geared towards a liberal arts education." And how the "country's cultural, racial, anthropological and climatic diversities" expose the student to the reality of the 1st World. He gave a brief account of his three homestay experiences while on the program, emphasizing the "conflict between tradition and modernity" that was evident within all three.

Dr. Samatar said he felt that the Kenya program is St. Lawrence's best off-campus program. He praised the reputation

that the program has earned, and based it on the aesthetic experience, academic content, and superior management it provides for students.

Samatar mentioned that while he was in Kenya during January, he met program organizers from other institutions who "...are looking up to St. Lawrence for how to put together their own program." He explained that the Kenya program demands intense intellectual preparation on the parts of students and that "...it is not for the tourist...it will demand from you intellectual, mental, and physical stamina."

Like Breslin, Samatar was impressed by the conflict he found between tradition and modernity in Kenya. "Kenya is a country of paradoxes and is therefore going through some very severe tests," said Samatar, speaking of the volatile political climate and the rapidly increasing population.

Breslin and Samatar agreed that St. Lawrence's Kenya program is both extremely demanding yet rewarding. Breslin said, "Six months is hardly adequate to say you could possibly understand Kenya -- but it is an introduction."

Alterations

By Nancy



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 teach (tēch) *vb.*: to instruct by precept, example, or experience.

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