

# Vilas and Faculty

## New Recommendations For Future Of Greeks

By Cary Kennedy

Three general principles and seven new substantive recommendations contained in the Committee on Alternatives to the Greek System (CAGS) Report will be presented to the faculty this Tuesday, March 1.

The new resolutions, formulated by Mr. DeGraaff and Mr. FitzRandolph include the following:

1. *In assessing the Greek system at St. Lawrence University, the Faculty concludes that its liabilities outweigh its benefits, and that the University would be a better place without it.*

2. *If the Greek system remains at St. Lawrence University, the Faculty insists that its members should not be privileged over independent students.*

3. *The Faculty believes that St. Lawrence University should reclaim from the Greek system the responsibility for supporting student social life.*

The recommendations sparked controversial reactions from some faculty when they were discussed during the last faculty meeting. Dean Rembert said he felt that "If the purpose of faculty was to affect the Greek system then the faculty must work in alliance with students."

Mr. DeGraff confronted Rembert's opinion. He said he agreed "that faculty must work in an alliance with students, but he cautioned that students may not be the best judges of what is best for St. Lawrence now."

DeGraff noted that, before the Greek system was abolished at Colby College, 97 percent of the students wanted to retain it. Two years later, 71 percent said its abolition was for the better.

The faculty will consider the three general principles, and depending on the level of support, may choose to withdraw some or all of the seven substantive recommendations.

These recommendations are consistent with the other aspects of the CAGS report, and if approved by the Faculty, would change student life at St. Lawrence significantly.

These resolutions include a suggestion to build a student center to "provide encouragement for student organizations to be fully active and sufficient social space to eliminate students reliance on fraternities for such space."

Other recommendations submitted to the report suggest that at least fifty percent of those students living in a fraternity or sorority house be members of the junior or senior class. Also that any house put on critical probation twice within a three year period be permanently disbanded.

The Faculty is also asked to recommend that no new fraternity or sorority be recognized or provided housing by the university, and that if a house is disbanded, it not be replaced by a new Greek organization.

## SLU's Kenya Program Thrives

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 Third 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."

## Battle Begins Over Freshman College Housing

By John VanWagner

If the proposals from the committee on Implementations of the Freshman College program and the Buildings and Grounds Tripartite are accepted by the Board of Trustees next Thursday in New York City, sophomores at St. Lawrence will be without one popular housing option, the Dean Eaton Extension suites.

The plight of the Sophomore Class is readily apparent during the annual St. Lawrence housing lottery where sophomores are usually left with a slim selection. In some rare cases last semester, students were unaware of their housing assignments one week prior to their return to campus.

The order of room selection generally leaves the sophomores with the least desirable rooms. Granted, there must be a "low man on the totem pole," but housing options for the sophomores will become increasingly limited by the new proposal.

"The freshman program is happening!" said Ann Lowery, acting Residence Life Director. 12 colleges will be open next year and all entering freshman will be required to live in one of them.

The proposal to use the Dean Eaton Extension as one of the 12 locations has brought uproar from many students. Lowery was dumbfounded at the amount of responses coming late in the decision making process. "I wish people would have gotten more involved if it was such a concern," she said. "It is not as if taking away Dean Eaton Extension is leaving people in the cold," said Lowery. She added that Lee Hall, the probable location for most sophomores next year, functions well as an upperclass dorm.

The sudden uproar comes primarily from students who have lived or are presently living in the Dean Eaton suites. According to the Residence Life Office, there were approximately 175 applicants for 96 positions in the suites last year, which is about one-third of the Sophomore class. Almost half of the people who applied to be a part of the Extension were not accepted. These figures show a strong attraction to the Dean Eaton Extension as a sophomore housing option, contrary to what some of the members of the ad-hoc committee have previously stated.

Although the proposal has not been accepted yet, students on campus are questioning why they were not informed of the not-so-recent development in the freshman program. The last meeting of the Implementation committee was held December 7, 1987, shortly before Winter vacation. Members of the ad-hoc committee claim to have done extensive research for the proposals but many Extension residents complain that they were not asked for their feelings on the issue.

In addition to the lack of sufficient input from the current residents, the proposal brought forth by the ad-hoc committee contradicts Item #8 of the Faculty Report on Alternatives to the Greek System. The report states: "we recommend that the committee on Residential Life reexamine the issue of sophomore housing, with a view to offering sophomores more options than are afforded at present."

The ad-hoc committee presents some valid arguments for housing freshman there next year. It is centrally located and could act as a link to all the other colleges on campus and also, Dean Eaton is in need of repair.