

SLU tightens Nairobi policies



Dr. Peter French, Acting Director of the Nairobi program.

Campus Briefs

Contribute to the student art show

The Seventh Annual St. Lawrence University Student Art Show will open Saturday, April 14, 1979, at 7:00 p.m. in the Griffiths Art Gallery. All student work of any media will be accepted Monday, April 9, through Thursday, April 12, in the Griffiths Art Gallery. A panel of three judges will select specific works for the exhibition on Friday, April 13.

Kathleen Thomas, Associate Curator of the New Museum in New York City, and Phil Ward, photographer from London, England, are two judges; the third has not been confirmed. Kathleen Thomas will give a lecture on the New York Art Scene Saturday, April 14.

Any questions should be referred to M. Michele McCabe, Chairperson, Tom Strianese, Catalogue Design, Joan Williamson, Entertainment, or Martha Smith, Publicity.

Blood drive begins next Tuesday

St. Lawrence University will hold its annual campus blood drive for the American Red Cross on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 12-14, in the fireside lounge of the E.J. Noble University Center. Residents of the Canton area are welcome to donate blood during the campus drive.

Hours for the blood drive are from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday and 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. Appointments for specific times may be made at the Noble Center desk or by calling 379-5757. Donations will also be accepted on a walk-in basis.

This year each segment of the university community — separate residence halls, fraternities and sororities, faculty, staff, food service, and physical plant — have been assigned a quota. If each assigned quota is reached, the total university goal of 550 pints of blood will be achieved.

Overall chairwoman of the drive is Mrs. David Segalla of Canton. St. Lawrence students coordinating the drive on campus are Anne Hungerford of St. Albans, Vt., representing Panhellenic Council; Mary Anne Dawley of Glenfield, representing Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity; and Steven Schoemer of Saugerties, representing the ROTC Cadet Association.

Assisting the professional staff will be a group of senior nursing students and senior medical technician students from SUNY Agricultural and Technical College at Canton, student nurses from the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center in Ogdensburg, and nurses from the Winning Health Center staff on the SLU campus.

By STEVE TIEDE

The SLU semester in Nairobi has provoked a substantial degree of controversy ever since its inception in 1974. On one hand, the program has enjoyed increasing popularity due to the opportunities it provides for cross-cultural experiences, travel, independence, and increased world awareness. On the other hand it has attracted annual criticism for being unsound, particularly with respect to academics.

As many students are aware, the Fall '78 program was marred by the most serious group of allegations of fiscal, academic, and personal irresponsibility to date. These allegations came in a flood of letters, phone calls and visits to Dean Gibson, the Board of Trustees, and the Government Department by concerned students and parents. It was decided that the accusations were serious enough to warrant thorough investigation by the Nairobi Advisory Committee, which is a group composed primarily of representatives of the Government Department, and which is responsible for the operation of the Nairobi Program. This led to the recall of Dr. Peter French, Program Director, for a series of meetings with the Business Office, the Advisory Committee, and the Dean. The Advisory Committee, which had also met with a representative group of students from the fall program, drew up a report detailing their findings and establishing new guidelines of performance. The report has been provided to the Faculty Council, and those who are justified in reading it may do so in the Dean's office.

WITH RESPECT to academics, the report proposed: (1) a more stringent method of screening professors in order to provide more meaningful and valuable academic offerings, (2) that the Program Director shall not teach more than one course, and (3) that the internship portion of the program be altered in such a way that no student is required to enroll in an unproductive internship. This issue is still under examination, but it seems likely that a solution will be devised whereby the program will offer a certain number of internships (12 or 15, for example), which have proven to be worthwhile in the past, where the internship hosts know what to expect from the St. Lawrence student, and where the hosts know what St. Lawrence expects from them.

Concerning the issue of fiscal irresponsibility, the Nairobi Advisory Committee report stated that careful investigation had turned up no clear abuse of funds. However, in an attempt to prevent possibilities of doubt and mismanagement in the future, the Committee set up guidelines requiring that: (1) money in the program budget and the Director's personal funds be kept in separate accounts. (2) To prevent conflicts of interest, the Program Director will not be allowed to rent personal property to the program, as happened last semester in the form of two Land Rovers. (3) More precise records of expenditures shall be required in the future. In addition, the decision was made, concerning the purchasing of plane tickets,

that future program participants will be able to purchase their tickets through SLU, as has been done in the past, but that students will also have the option of arranging their own flights. Furthermore, any desired changes in flight arrangements in the future will be the responsibility of the individual student, regardless of whether the original ticket was purchased by the student or by SLU.

Concerning the third area of great discontent, i.e. — personal relations between the Director and students; there were few substantive measures that the Nairobi Advisory Committee could adopt, other than instructing the Program Director to abandon the independent program he was organizing on the Kenyan coast. It is hoped that, without this distraction, Dr. French will devote more time to becoming acquainted with the students and their needs. This, plus the selection of Dan O'Brien as the new Assistant Program Director — replacing Lee Demerse, who resigned in December due to incompatibility with Dr. French — should contribute to a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

This does not mean, however, that the problems of last semester have been remedied and forgotten. Although Dr. French was sent back to Kenya, his position was reduced to Acting Director, and careful attention is being paid to the present program's operation. Dean Gibson is also scheduled to visit Nairobi at the end of this month to examine the effectiveness of the new guidelines. He expressed last week the desire of the Administration, which coincides with

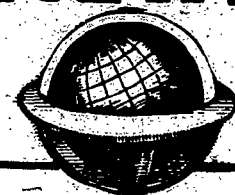
Nairobi program fulfill its tremendous potential for academic achievement, in addition to its very valuable dimensions of personal growth and world-awareness." He also expressed appreciation for the responsible concern which students have shown for the program and its value to future students.

IT IS NOT yet known how the events of last semester will affect this semester's review of the program by Faculty Council. Also uncertain is the future of Dr. French's relationship with St. Lawrence and with the program. Concerning the program directorship, there are other faculty members who are both qualified and willing to manage the program next year. Dr. French's performance last semester will certainly have an impact, taken within the context of his total service to the University, upon the annual evaluation he receives; as all faculty members do, for purposes of salary adjustment and promotion. However, with respect to loss of tenure, concerning which several rumors have been circulating, it should be realized that a professor's tenure cannot be revoked without formal charges being placed before the Professional Standards Committee. At the present time, there is no such action before the Committee.

It is hoped that this article clarifies some of the issues which have arisen concerning the Nairobi Program. To put matters into some sort of perspective, it should be noted that many of the problems encountered last semester arose due to the lack of University policies regulating

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World news briefs



U.S. GASOLINE PRICES

The U.S. Department of Energy announced Friday that it will allow the price of gasoline to rise an average of 10 cents per gallon over the next two years. By 1981, the price of a gallon of gasoline should be about 90 cents. This price will reflect price increases due to inflation, shortages, and the continuously rising price of oil from the OPEC cartel.

EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TREATY

President Carter and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin continue their meetings this week in an effort to avert a failure of the Egyptian-Israeli peace talks. Last week's meetings produced "some progress" but it was apparent that neither Begin, Carter, or Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil were pleased. On Sunday, President Carter offered some new ideas to Begin to keep the talks alive. Details on these proposals were not available, but sources did say that they were concerned with wording in the treaty.

CHINA-VIETNAM

Heavy fighting between Chinese and Vietnamese troops was reported on Monday despite China's recent emphasis that they planned to withdraw from Vietnam. On Sunday, the Chinese warned Hanoi that their troops would begin another offensive if they were attacked during the withdrawal. Chinese forces moved 20 miles into Vietnam last week and captured Lang Son, an important communications center. Hanoi has refused to negotiate with China until a withdrawal is complete.

BIG DADDY CAN'T CONTROL FAMILY

Analysts believe that "big daddy" Idi Amin, the autocratic President of Uganda, is in danger of being overthrown as invading Tanzanian troops were reported to be within 50 miles of the Ugandan capital. Discontent within the Ugandan force is high and Ugandan exiles are reported to be returning on sabotage missions against their former country, and in assistance of the Tanzanian troops.