



# The Hill News

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY - FOUNDED IN 1911

Vol. CXI.No. 11

Friday, February 3, 2006 www.thehillnews.com

Canton, New York



Photo by Jenny Howard

KDS AND SIGEP GATHER AFTER THE PUCK RUN ON JANUARY 27.

## Student Life Works To Address Alcohol Issues

Marc Amigone  
Staff Writer

Starting this semester, the Student Life department will be introducing an initiative to create social gatherings and entertainment events at which alcohol will be served. The parties will be held on Friday and Saturday nights in either the Student Center or Eben Holden. Food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, as well as various forms of entertainment will all be present.

The idea to introduce an initiative such as this one arose when Dean Petty left the Student Life Department, and Dean Margaret Kent Bass came in on an interim basis. After the Glass Onion closed and The Beta House's charter was suspended, the administration wanted to take action to put back some of the sources of fun and activity for the student body on campus.

President Sullivan commented on the progression of the idea to institute a program like this, "We're trying to be open-minded and not to rule ideas out right off the bat."

President Sullivan also commented on the difficult place the school is in due to the NY State drinking age excluding sixty-five percent of the student body from taking part in an activity such as this one.

"I desperately wish the drinking age was eighteen but it isn't." President Sullivan said that he has received feedback from parents accusing the school of conducting a Nazi-like environment in which drinking is hunted down voraciously but also had parents threaten to sue the school when their kids go to the emergency room for alcohol poisoning.

ACE and other student organizations will be looked to by the Department of Student Life to sponsor these parties. The sororities, remaining fraternities, and other student clubs and organizations will have the opportunity to hold events and parties on campus through this program, and President Sullivan is hoping they will do exactly that.

"The program's ultimate success will depend on whether students take ownership of it. The last person I'd go to to devise something interesting to do for people your age is an old person like me."

The Administration is hoping this program will be the beginning of an effort to find a happy medium on its stance on drinking. He said the school's attitude towards alcohol on campus is "evolving," and he credits Dean Bass with taking the initiative to reach out to the student body with efforts such as this one as well as making the senior townhouses into a self-governing area.

The Administration's efforts are being recognized as well. Students have been encouraged by the school's efforts to compromise and meet them half-way on the issue of alcohol.

Majken Tranby '06 is a member of the sorority Delta Delta Delta. She said she would definitely be interested in going to the parties but the chances of Delta sponsoring one of the parties are not great.

"The weekends are tough because most people are interested in getting off campus even if it's just the Tick-Tock, but the fact that the administration is offering something like this to reach out to the students is definitely encouraging. It shows they're willing to compromise and reach out to us to meet our needs."

Gene Ziegler '07 is an Economics major and plays on the squash team. He also commented, "I think most of the people that go to the bars in town and party off campus will keep doing the same thing; I can't really see them coming back on campus to drink. The people who stay in their rooms and drink might come out for the events, but it's hard to say. Myself, I probably wouldn't attend, but if word gets out that people are livin' the dream and having fun, I might consider it."

The Administration is focusing on not making drinking the emphasis of the parties but realizes that we are college students, and that most of us like to drink on Friday and Saturday nights. If this program is a success, it could be a step in the direction of a campus where alcohol can exist. If any students would like to see a bar on campus or a looser stance on the punishment of drinking offenses, controlled low-risk drinking atmospheres like these will have to be the norm.

## SLU Amnesty International Sponsors HIV/AIDS Benefit

Rachael K. Allen  
News Editor

On Friday, February 3, the St. Lawrence Chapter of Amnesty International will host a free concert for their first annual AIDS/AID Benefit in the Winston Room.

With doors opening at 5:00 pm attendees to the AIDS/AID Benefit Concert will be treated to a number of non-profit performances, including Hollywood Farm (led by Zack DuPont), The Laurentian Singers, the Saints and the Sinners, the St. Lawrence Gospel Choir, and the SLU Dance Team, amongst others. Food and beverages will be provided and alcoholic drinks will be available to those aged 21 and over, courtesy of Student Life. Through this event, the St. Lawrence Chapter of Amnesty International is determined to create a forum which will be both enjoyable and educational, devoted to bring AIDS awareness to center stage.

Beginning on Wednesday February 1, St. Lawrence's

Amnesty International Chapter headed by University Chaplain Shaun Whitehead and backed by several campus organizations, commenced a series of hard-hitting events and presentations meant to further AIDS awareness among students, faculty, and staff. Beginning February 1, several St. Lawrence professors gathered together in the Winston Room for a Panel Discussion which touched on key issues regarding the devastating AIDS epidemic. On Thursday, February 2, the Reverend Ladonna Sanders also presented information regarding AIDS and HIV, turning her focus toward the efforts of South Africa to fight this burgeoning issue.

In their latest 2005 report UNAIDS estimated that nearly 38.0 million adults and 2.3 million children were living with AIDS throughout the world, the majority of this astounding number coming from developing countries. In areas such as South Africa where nearly 29% of the population is reportedly infected with the HIV virus, ne-

cessity for education on prevention and treatment for those already effected by AIDS is crucial.

As the AIDS crisis reaches epidemic status, several humanitarian groups from throughout the world have taken a stand against this growing emergency. In the United States and throughout Europe the number of people living rewarding lives with HIV and AIDS is growing due to the research of pharmaceutical companies and the new varieties of drug treatment available on the market. Drug therapies are costly, however, with widespread medical treatment being largely unavailable in the developing world. As the death toll rises, organizations from across the globe have begun to take action.

The AIDS/AID Benefit will be donating 75% of its profits from the fundraiser to The Aids Community Resources of Northern New York of Canton, and the remaining 25% to the Ubuntu Project of South Africa. While all events and performances are free, donations are truly welcome for this worthy cause.

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Edition



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FUNDRAISER

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