

▼ CIVIL ACTION

College won't confirm or deny Patterson is under investigation

LAWSUIT FROM A1

- made allegations of rape, attempted rape and sexual assault against Patterson.

The statement of claim goes on to allege that the student further defamed him by giving a written statement to an OC official which, in addition to stating the previous accusations, also said that Patterson was verbally and physically aggressive towards her,

would harass her and attempt to get her alone in his office, would call her at inappropriate hours of the night, made unsolicited visits to her home, impregnated her and forced her to have an abortion, bribed her by helping to pay for her tuition and books, and was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with the same woman who benefitted from Patterson alleged misuse of college funds.

In his statement of claim, Patterson alleges that the student knew what she was saying was false and malicious and that her statements were calculated "to disparage the plaintiff in the minds of right-thinking people."

Patterson's allegations have not been proven in court and in a defamation suit such as this one, the allegations against the plaintiff (Patterson) are presumed to be false in the absence of proof to the contrary.

A statement of defence from the student had not been filed as of the *Capital News* press deadline.

In his statement, Patterson also alleges that the defamation harmed his character, credit and reputation in the community and that he has suffered financial losses as a result.

It also says that because of her accusations, the college

has started an investigation into his alleged misconduct.

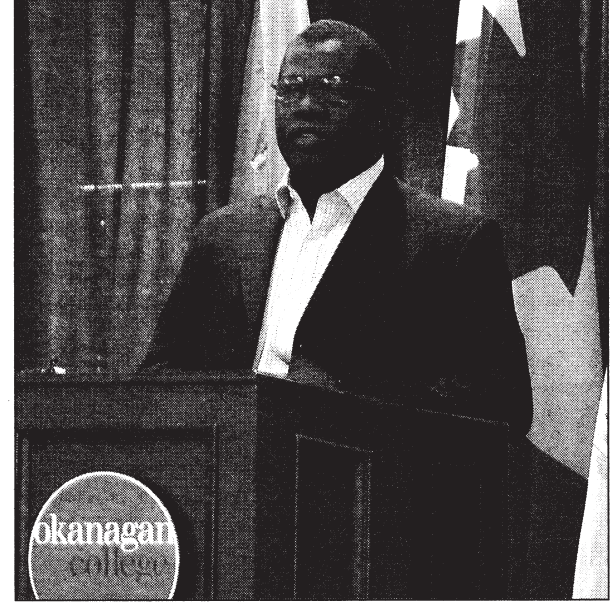
Okanagan College president Jim Hamilton would not confirm or deny that an investigation involving Patterson is underway.

"We do not talk about or discuss personnel issues of that nature with anybody, out of respect for the privacy of individual or individuals involved," he said.

RCMP spokesperson, Steve Holmes, also said there is no police investigation involving Patterson.

Patterson has worked at the college since January 2007 and has helped OC forge strong ties with the Jamaican government. An influx of students from Jamaica is the main reason the college has seen its international student population grow 56 per cent between September 2006 and September 2008

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MICHAEL PATTERSON, Okanagan College's director of international marketing and promotions, is suing a student from Jamaica who also worked as his assistant, alleging she falsely accused him of sexual harassment, sexual assault and forcing her to have an abortion.

▼ CIVIL ACTION

College director launches lawsuit

BY ADRIAN NIEOCYZM
STAFF REPORTER

Okanagan College's director of international marketing and promotions, Michael Patterson, is suing a student from Jamaica who also worked as his assistant, alleging she falsely accused him of sexual harassment, sexual assault and forcing her to have an abortion.

The allegations are contained in a statement of claim filed in the Supreme Court of British Columbia in Kelowna. According to the statement, the student arrived in Canada to study at OC this past January and was hired as Patterson's assistant less than a month later.

It states that at all times, Patterson conducted himself professionally, in accordance with the requirements of his position, honestly and with integrity.

Patterson alleges that in early October:

- the student defamed him by telling his wife and officials at OC that he had been sexually harassing her since her arrival in Canada,
- started an inappropriate sexual relationship with her,
- pressured her to continue the relationship against her wishes,
- threatened that if she reported or ended the relationship he would make sure she was forced to leave Canada,
- inappropriately used OC funds for the benefit of another woman, and

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