

editorials • letters

Reading day needed as exams approach

Final exams are fast approaching and all the usual tensions are becoming evident as students diligently tap out last-minute term papers and take last-minute tests. Student tensions are likely to become greater when the exam period finally arrives, and the college at this time does nothing to make this time any easier.

Exam Week Problems

First, the college provides no reading day or dead day before exams or to break up the exam period. This forces students to take all their exams back-to-back within a four-day span of time. No relief is provided in studying time.

To make matters worse, dorm students with exams on the last day must leave the dorms no later than 5 p.m. on the last day of exams, whether they are too tired to drive home or not.

Students wishing to prepare early for exams or to finish term papers in the library before exams begin are provided no extra time in the library to do so. Instead, students having term papers and tests during the last week of classes must go to noisy dorm rooms or apartments.

More than this, exam weekend is supposed to be one of total quiet with nothing offered socially that would distract students from their studying. However, the Student Union Board has scheduled a Christmas Dance for Friday, Dec. 11, the weekend before exams begin.

It seems that recently everyone is having to cope with short tempers and quick tongues in one way or another, and this does not make for a very pleasant atmosphere in general, much less one for studying and hard work.

Possible Solutions

Several things can be done to correct these problems.

A reading day could be added to the exam schedule or the exam period could be extended by a day or two to give students more time to prepare for exams.

Arrangements could be made to allow students with exams on the last day and who have long rides home to spend the night in their dorm rooms, even if the cafeteria has closed for the holidays.

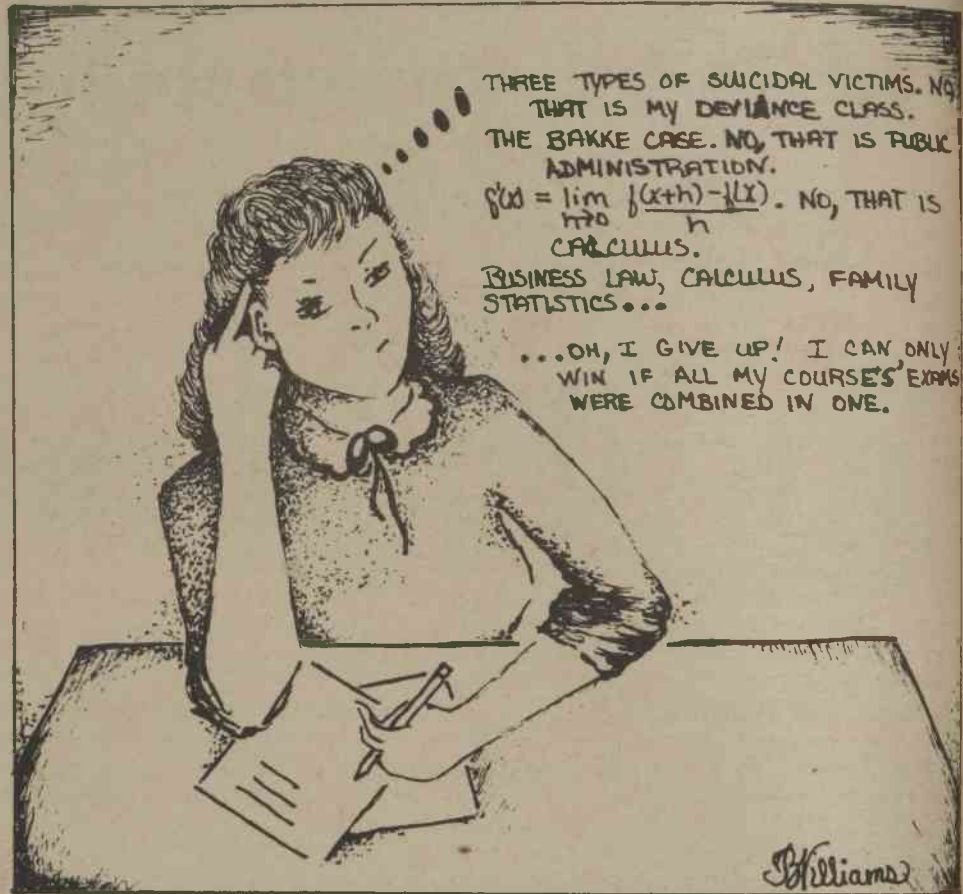
Also, the library should provide extended hours of service not only the week of exams but the week before as well.

Student activity planners could also play a role and try to avoid scheduling activities on exam weekend which could distract students from their studies.

Everyone on campus needs to make a special effort to remain calm and cool. Words should be weighed carefully before someone says something he or she may later regret.

If we all make this special effort and cooperate with each other, we just might be able to make it through these next two weeks because if academics are to improve at Elon, then students must be given the right atmosphere in which to pursue their studies.

The Pendulum welcomes letters, limited to 250 words, from our readers. Longer material may be submitted as opinion articles for page 3. Editors reserve the right to edit for length, libel, good taste and accuracy.



What our readers say...

Walt Denny writes from Japan

Dear Elon student body,

Thank you for a good two years as an area coordinator at Elon. I often think about my good times and good friends there. I especially want to commend Dean Long and his fine staff in student affairs. I know how hard they strive to make Elon College the pleasant place that it is.

I am now a teacher/missionary in Tokyo, Japan. I teach at the oldest Christian school in Japan,

and help minister to a tiny United Church of Christ of Japan. The Japanese are more hospitable and industrious than their fine reputation reveals. It is very hard to believe that this very modern and huge city was almost totally destroyed 36 years ago by U.S. bombs.

Japan is a fascinating land, and I highly recommend it for visiting and working. Jobs for native English speakers here are

plentiful and lucrative.

I would love to hear from my old friends and make some new ones. If you have a moment in your busy schedules of studying and eating at Brown and Co., please consider dropping me a line or two. My address is:

Walt Denny

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Editorial accusations unfair

Dear Pendulum:

In response to the poorly misguided editorial, "Rudeness Prevails," we feel there are indeed some true statements in the editorial; however, the statement regarding huddled pot smokers in the stadium is no doubt a false accusation. The only huddle we noticed inside the stadium was that of the Elon football team. We seriously doubt that Coach Tolley would allow pot smokers within the team huddle.

We do feel that the Elon alumni left the game with a good impression of the students and their school spirit. We feel it is not an injustice to say that we ourselves saw a few alumni "nipping at the sauce."

As far as the statement about harrasing the Winston-Salem players is concerned this may be somewhat true; however, I do

recall the Elon fans giving the Winston-Salem band a standing ovation during halftime. Also, we would like to point out that checking women's handbags and men's coats before entering the stadium is clearly an invasion of privacy. After all, at any sporting event

with thousands of fans there will always be a few extremely rowdy fans; however, blatantly pointing the finger at all Elon students is an unfair generalization.

Signed,
Steve Nagle
Roger Lancellotti

The Pendulum

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