

editorials

Letter sent by Deans Long, White questioned

A letter expressing the concerns of Deans William Long and Christopher White over Greek Weekend and signed by both was sent this week from Long's office to all faculty and administration members.

Previously, Elon's Greek organizations were allowed an entire week for their activities, and apparently it was common during Greek Week for Friday classes to be skipped.

This year Greek Week has been shortened to Greek Weekend which will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, and continue through April 10.

Long's and White's letter emphasizes that classes will be held on Friday, April 8. However, the letter asks that special consideration be given to fraternity and sorority members participating in Greek Weekend. According to the letter, "it would be stressful if tests or examinations are scheduled for this time."

Long's and White's letter assures faculty members that they are not being asked to forfeit their right to conduct their courses as they wish. However, it says that Long and White wish faculty and administration members to "be aware of the stress which may obtain for those students wishing to participate fully in Greek Weekend activities."

Assuming that the primary purpose in attending college is to get an education, we do not think Long and White should ask professors to schedule their class plans around Greek Weekend or any other extracurricular activity.

White and Long reason in their letter that in past years, cooperation between fraternities and sororities has developed. They cite this cooperation, the increased number of Greek service projects and the fact that efforts have been made to prevent conflicts between Greek activities and mid-term exams as grounds to ask faculty and administration members to take no action that would be "construed as

being insensitive to these improvements."

The service projects that Greeks perform or scheduling conflicts that they resolve are not a relevant basis for what Long and White ask in their letter.

Presumably, people do attend college to get an education and earn a degree. Any extracurricular activities are just that — extra. Students participate in these activities by choice and should not expect the school to make any compensations for time spent away from studies.

Naturally, students cannot be expected to devote all of their time to school work. Some leisure time activities must be considered, and Greek Weekend is supposed to be a weekend of fun activities. One usually thinks of such activities as a means of relieving

stress rather than a means of impounding it, as the letter suggests.

However, if stress buildup in fact occurs and special considerations are extended to those participating in Greek Weekend, in all fairness, the same considerations should be extended to those participating in or preparing other activities such as homecoming weekend, "hell week," Almost-Anything-Goes Weekend, Spring Fling weekend and Parents' and lottery weekend. Each of these events takes much time in preparation and probably equals Greek Weekend in the buildup of stress.

This editorial is not an attack on Greek Weekend; however, it does question the priorities that Long and White express in their letter, assuming that people do attend college primarily to get an education.



We hope that no action of the College will be construed as being insensitive to the improvements.'

College should observe Easter holiday

The subject of the other editorial on this page is that the college administration has urged the Elon faculty not to schedule tests or anything pertinent to the objectives of academic courses on Friday, April 8 because that would interfere with Greek Weekend activities. The college, however, has made no such provisions for Easter Weekend. Something is amiss.

We can only wonder why a college that was founded by the Christian church and has remained closely tied to the church ever since would not schedule a holiday on the celebration of the most important event in the history of Christianity.

State schools will at least have Easter Monday off because that is a North Carolina state holiday. But at Elon it is business as

usual.

If students who need three days to travel home and back don't mind skipping classes next Friday, they can go home and celebrate Elon's Greek Weekend with their families. But those same students might not be able to get home for Easter if they have a test or paper due this Friday. That just doesn't seem quite right.

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.

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