

Rush

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black greek organizations have interest meetings instead of rush parties, Harless said. Most of

them also interview each prospective member individually, and usually require a higher grade point average than Elon's 2.25.

Harless said the historically black greek organizations don't participate consistently in National Inter-fraternity Council (NIC) or National Panhellenic Council (NPC).

Panhellenic Rush Chairman JoJo Lantz said, "Historically black sororities chose not to be a part of Panhellenic, and not to participate in most Panhellenic activities, but they are trying to form their own governing council."

This council, the National Pan-Hellenic Conference (NPHC), will be the governing council for all of the historically black greek organizations. There

is no formal date for the founding of the council on Elon College. Bynes said the council's founding date will be as soon as possible. But there are still a number of obstacles to overcome before the group can be started, he said.

There will be eight traditionally black greek organizations on the NPHC: Zeta Phi Beta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Delta Sigma Theta, Sigma Gamma Rho, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, Alpha Phi Alpha and Phi Beta Sigma.

No one in the black greek organizations would comment on their selection process. Harless and other administrators said the personal interviews at black organizations contrast with the casual conversation at white rush parties. Also, most of the historically black greek organizations send the forms of their prospective members to their national headquarters. Nationals make the final decision for these groups, whereas the local chapters of the white sororities decide on their new members.

Kerri Meyer, president of the NPC and a member of Alpha

Sigma Alpha, a white sorority, said she isn't bothered that the different rushes exist. She said it is a decades-old tradition.

About the historically black greek rush, Meyer said, "I think they get a little more personal by interviewing each person when they go through. Sometimes I wish we could do it that way."

Jana Lynn Patterson, associate dean of Student Affairs, is the faculty adviser for the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She said that different types of rush within the greek system is "a part of the aspect of diversity. There are people who respond to that different kind of joining and pledging process."

According to Patterson, Elon College does not set a date for interest meetings for the historically black greek organizations as it does for the white groups. Each black chapter decides when its member selection process will begin.

Professor

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"We certainly hope to create an environment where all students feel comfortable," Jana Lynn Patterson, associate dean of Student Affairs, said.

According to the Carolina Poll, a twice-yearly survey, 64 percent of North Carolinians believe it is "always wrong" for two adults of the same sex to have sexual relations.

Sixty percent of the respondents also said they have had no friends that they knew to be homosexual nor have they had a homosexual co-worker.

Larson, spokeswoman for the Women's Studies Advisory Committee, told the faculty and staff that they have at least one homosexual co-worker - her.

Larson said that over the past five years she has come to terms with her homosexuality, but it has been a difficult process.

"For a decade, I tried very hard to be a good heterosexual,"



Sorority members talk at a white sorority open house function.

Stewart Williams/ The Pendulum

Harless said every greek organization is represented at meetings only twice a month: the greek presidents' meeting and the faculty advisers' meeting.

Larson said.

She also addressed the fact that the student catalog does not specify homosexuals as one of the groups protected against discrimination.

Larson said that homosexuals will not be comfortable on campus until that issue is discussed openly.

Larson also referred to an United Way fundraising pitch made earlier in the meeting. She noted that one of the groups receiving United Way funding, the Boy Scouts of America, does not allow homosexuals to serve as scoutmasters.

"I'm not saying, 'Don't support the Boy Scouts.' I'm saying 'What a sad thing'."

Most of the 100 to 150 faculty, staff and administrators gave Larson a standing ovation after her remarks.

"It was a clearly courageous act on her part and one on the academic community responding with understanding, compassion and support," Provost Warren Board said.

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