

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The true meaning of Sisterhood

To the Editor:

Fraternities and sororities were founded on four basic principles: scholarship, community service, campus involvement and sisterhood/brotherhood. The Office of Greek Life assists fraternities and sororities as they strive to fulfill these basic principles.

Fraternities and sororities at Elon College provide that home away from home that makes our campus so warm, embracing and safe. Thirty-two percent of undergraduates at Elon College are members of fraternities and sororities and this shows the quality sister/brotherhood experiences our Greek organizations bring to individual students and the campus community.

The men and women of the Elon Greek community are always looking to build their chapters for the future. This is done through the different recruitment processes that have been developed over time by the three governing councils here on campus (IFC, PHC and NPHC), the Elon College Office of Greek Life, the inter/national headquarters of each chapter, and by the international governing councils (National Panhellenic Conference, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the North-American Interfraternity Conference).

I was therefore saddened to read Opinions by Chris Rash (Pendulum, February 10, 2000) that im-

plied that the Office of Greek Life has mandated one recruitment policy for the Panhellenic sororities and one for the IFC fraternities. (Mr Rash, you omitted to refer to the National Pan-Hellenic Council's "Intake" process which is totally different from the other two.)

The Elon College Panhellenic uses a system that is endorsed by their governing conference and that has decades of proven success. The sorority process is considered a mutual selection system. Not only are the sorority chapters making decisions as to whom they will invite back to their next event, but the potential new members are making selections as to which chapters they wish to return.

While it is always sad when a prospective member does not receive an invite from her first choice sorority, unfortunately a situation such as this does occur, albeit rarely. This entire process can be compared to that of job selection. Typically, the potential new member will receive – and be happy with – an invite from her second choice. If a potential new member had no intention of accepting an invite to join a particular chapter, she should not have returned to the next recruitment event of that organization. That way, she would have

been able to visit the event of another chapter at which she could have felt more comfortable.

One of the goals of the National Panhellenic Conference (the governing body of Panhellenic sororities) is to create a "level playing field," giving every sorority – including Alpha Sigma Alpha – the opportunity to meet new women, and to share sisterhood, achievements and the positive attributes of the group. Only during the first round of events is a potential new member required to attend all chapter functions. After that, it becomes the mutual selection process to which I referred.

It is important for your readers to know that this formal recruitment process is not the only way a woman may enter the Elon Greek community. Alpha Sigma Alpha is currently going through a process known as Continuous Open Bidding whereby they recruit informally throughout the semester. Any woman with an open mind still interested in Greek life is encouraged to contact either Alpha Sigma Alpha or the Office of Greek Life for more information on this process.

I could begin to talk about the "intake" process of the National Pan-Hellenic chapters . . . but that is yet another totally different process altogether!

Sincerely,
Grahaeme Hesp
Director of Greek Life

Bitterness speaks through 'sorority' column

To the Editor:

First of all, I would like to say that everyone has an opinion about sororities and I respect that. Also, everyone has a freedom of speech and if you would like to use that freedom to bash something you have never been a part of, than that is fine also.

I would just like you to know that since you have never experienced the rush process or anything dealing with sorority life, in my opinion you stick to writing about something you know.

The girls that decide rush is something that they would like to participate in voluntarily agree. No one is making them rush. They have made the decision to want to be a part of something great. No one is asked to "sell themselves."

If these girls are going to be fake, than most likely sororities won't want them to be a part of their organization anyway. Sororities are looking for people that will be a good asset to their

group.

If that means that some girls do not get into their first choice . . . well, sorry, but rejection is a part of life. Things happen for a reason. I know many girls that did not get into their first choice sorority and they are very happy with what they got.

To me, your article is more bitter than anything. Isn't it true that you rushed last year and did not get a bid from any fraternities? Is that why you are bashing Greek Life?

My personal opinion is that you shouldn't knock something until you have tried it. And since you haven't, I don't understand where your ideas are coming from.

When you have actually sat through sorority voting and met 300 perfect strangers and have to decide whether or not they should be a member of your sorority, then you can talk.

Until then, stick to things you know and sorority rush is not one of them. I am simply disgusted by some

of the things you said in your article.

It's wonderful that you are advocating Alpha Sigma Alpha, however, every sorority on this campus has quality members. Why didn't you write that?

Personally, I am tired of students labeling sorority girls as shallow bimbos that are just looking to get drunk and wake up in fraternity houses. People that aren't in that sorority should simply keep their mouths shut.

Sororities are about lasting friendships and bonds of sisterhood. Just because you see girls out having a good time or we have to follow regulations dealing with the rush process doesn't mean we are bad people.

My advice to you is to simply sit back and look at what you wrote. Was bashing something you know nothing about really worth all the grief you are going to receive after you printed that ridiculous article?

Sincerely,
A Distraught Member
of Greek Life

Columnist speaks the truth: Recruitment is a bad experience

To the Editor:

I'm writing in response to Chris Rash's article "Sorority material' destroying the true spirit of 'sisterhood'." Rash commented on how he would receive complaint letters from women who got into their first choice sorority, well I got into my first choice, but I'm siding with Rash. Rash "formal recruitment" was the most horrendous experience. Though I was fortunate enough to never get dropped by my top choices, it was still an emotional and devastating process.

I went into rush with eight of my closest friends and now only four of us are pledging. In one week I watched my best friends get told by people who they met for a total of 35-45 minutes/day that they were unacceptable (either because they were a bit over that houses' accepted weight, they didn't have the proper hair/eye color, or they lacked the acceptable GPA to help their house look smarter).

These are the same friends who I feel are exactly like myself. We have different personalities, etc., but my friends all share incredible traits that make them unique and very special. Rash destroyed that and did nothing but lower young women's self-esteem (a delicate thing already). It was degrading as well. I felt like I was being eyed by everyone and I was always watching how I was standing, smiling,

and holding my hands. Between the house parties I would primp myself with a mirror that I carried around to make sure my make-up was on properly and that my smile was still bright.

If anyone knew me, they would realize that I NEVER primp myself let alone carry around a mirror. I was almost ashamed of myself for being so ridiculous and not being true to myself, but I felt like the competition was cut throat!

I am very excited to be in my top choice sorority now and I even chose this house due to the fact that they were down-to-earth and could have cared less if I was primed or not. Like I said, I am one of the fortunate women who are happy after going through that week of hell, but what about those women who are currently in a house that they now hate or the women who did not even make it to this point? I think sorority rush definitely needs to be changed and made more like men's recruitment where it is more like an open house/open invitation.

So please support Chris Rash's and my request to contact the Director of Greek Life, Grahaeme Hesp, at C.B. 2970 or go to his office in Moseley 209 and let us try to change this self-esteem destroying routine and find a new way to build "sisterhood."

Sincerely,
Anonymous

It is not the policy of The Pendulum to publish letters under the guise of anonymity. However, given the representation of both sides of the argument and the sensitivity of the subject, the Editor's have decided to run both Anonymous letters.

– Chris Rash
Opinion Editor



Got something on
your mind?

Write a Letter to
the Editor

Mail letters to 7012 Campus Box
or drop them off at
The Pendulum office
(Moseley Center 233) by noon
Monday. You must include
your name and phone number.