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Past editors reflect on news, memories that mattered most

*Bound and determined, LaRock gets by with a little
help from her friends*

Taresa LaRock
Editor in Chief '01

It's impossible to write about all I learned inside the walls of the Pendulum office. Memories overwhelm me - late nights, laughter, fear and, every Thursday morning, a rush of happiness and pride.

I have to first tell you I was, by no means, a perfect Pendulum editor. I was overextended, stubborn and as my former staff will tell you, forgetful.

The smartest thing I did was surround myself with people who were willing to work for me, with me and around me; each of these things its own obstacle. The people on my staff were smart, funny and dedicated. They were my best friends. And though many of them have drifted out of my life, I will never forget the heart they put into their work and working with me.

I was editor because one professor took the time to show me I could do anything. When I sat in Brad Hamm's office and listened to him tell me about the difference I could make, I was scared but excited. And the day I interviewed for the job, I met opposition and skepticism. I met my competition.

I also met Janna Anderson. I don't know if everyone on the media board thought the decision to hire me was the best one, but I got the job. And with the job, I inherited an incredible support network, starting with Janna. She taught me what hard work and effort really meant.



**Additional
reflections
are featured
on pages
14-15.**

I was editor during a total staff overhaul. Call it a revolt or a protest, but I call it a blessing. I started from scratch. And my staff rebuilt The Pendulum into what it was sup-

posed to be. It taught me pride.

I was editor when Megan Tripp died while studying in Australia with a group of Elon students. It was my first paper as editor in chief, and that week taught us about loss, grief and grace under pressure. It taught us how to turn a tragic moment into a beautiful memorial of a young woman, a study abroad trip, and a group of students who bonded because of it all. It taught me The Pendulum didn't always have to be about what I thought was funny or smart or newsworthy, but what the student body wanted and needed.

I was editor on Sept. 11, 2001. I remember the small TV we brought into the office, the sense of

responsibility we felt, and the urge to help. We were stunned, speechless and afraid. Even in a small North Carolina town, we felt fear. I remember College Coffee and the way we prayed and came together in confusion and terror because we wanted news and comfort.

What could we do? We made a great paper that night. I can't begin to express what that day taught us.

I was editor when Elon finished construction on Rhodes Stadium - that massive, impressive structure that would bring together our student body the way nothing had before. The spirit and pride we felt merited a special stadium edition that was handed out the day of the opening. It was a challenge the staff completed along with the regular weekly paper. That week taught us about pushing ourselves and breaking limits. It taught me how dedicated a staff I really had.

I was editor when one of my best friends lost an SGA election. I sat in on the vote tally, I knew in advance he had lost. I knew that in a few hours, we would gather in Moseley Center to hear the results, and I would have to be there as an editor instead of a friend. That day I learned I had the most caring managing editor The Pendulum had ever seen.

Jennifer Guarino knew I felt conflicted and sad. She realized I needed to be a friend that night. She and the rest of the staff took over and let me do that. I knew from the first time we met I would like Jen and work well with her - but that night she taught me what being a friend meant. And she showed me she would become a wonderful editor in chief.

The lessons I learned at The Pendulum have shaped my life. Those people, who I spent countless hours working with and loving, have shaped my life. The Pendulum is a paper, but the people who work there are a family. I miss my family.

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336-228-1340
www.morrowbarnwell.com
426 West Front Street
Burlington, NC 27215