Editorial

The Pendulum seeks to inspire, entertain and inform the Elon community by providing a voice for students and faculty as well as a forum for the meaningful exchange of ideas.

In times of tragedy, remember to hope

In the past weeks, tragedy has touched our lives. First, the death of Miss Effie, then Mike Foreman and the mass shooting at Virginia Tech. It is easy to be worn down by these events, to become depressed, to lose sight of the one thing that keeps us moving: Hope.

In the Greek myth of Pandora's box where sickness, sorrow, destruction and sadness, all the things that make life hard, escape into the world. The one entity that is left in the box and held most dear is hope.

Hope is immensely important in times such as now.

We may ask where is the hope now, how can we, in a world where students kill each other, and friends end their own lives, remain hopeful? How do we stay optimistic when everything falls apart?

The truth is, we don't know. It's hard, but it has to be done. We can't tell you how to keep your head above water, or how to smile when every part of you wants to cry. Sometimes it's just too much. But we must hope, we must keep looking up.

We should look at some of the lessons we can learn from these tragedies.

Foreman was an inspiration to many. Though he was not on this campus as long as we wanted, he touched many lives. At his memorial service, many repeatedly said that he was what they wanted to be, he was the person they wish they could have emulated. Perhaps we should strive to touch as many lives as he did.

Miss Effie, who worked at Elon for many years died last Monday. She was a woman who touched everyone's lives, whether we know it or not. We will all miss her.

The most recent tragedy, the shooting at Virginia Tech, is the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. There is great sorrow and our hearts should go out to that community. However, there is hope we can garner from it.

Liviu Librescu, an engineering professor at Virginia Tech, died protecting his students. While the shooter, Cho Seung-Hui attempted to force his way into Librescu's clasroom, the professor held the door closed with his own body, ordering his students to jump out of the windows. Librescu was shot several times through the door and died.

Librescu was not only a professor, he was also a Holocaust survivor. One can

scarcely imagine the courage it took to stand in front of the door to protect his students, but we must remember men like Librescu who gave their lives to protect those around them.

VT Students Matt Green and Matthew Lewis were on the scene as members of the Virginia Tech Rescue Squad, originally called to the scene to help a student who had fallen out of his loft, but upon arriving at the scene, they were alerted to the first two casualties in West Ambler Johnston Hall.

After the shootings at Norris Hall, both men worked to save the lives of their fellow students. When interviewed by Fox News, both men said that "the training just kicked in, we didn't think about what was going on until afterwards. That's when we started to reflect on the situation."

Despite tragedy, such lessons of heroism should endure. While we should never forget the tragedy that is involved in such an event, we must remember those that rose to action when the situation was dire. We must always remember those men and women who are willing to sacrifice for others.

In times such as these, it is easy for

us to see the world as a horrible place, full of danger and foreboding. It is easy to see the world as everything that escaped Pandora's box, with all the sickness, despair and war.

People do horrible things to each other, and the world looks like a lonely and sad place.

We must hope, because when we witness such tragedy, hope is the one thing that can keep us going.

In times such as these, while remembering the lost and the dead, remember hope, remember that the world is still a good place, that people do good things, that men and women, who appear ordinary, have the capacity for great and heroic acts. Each of us has that capacity. Humanity has that capacity.

The world isn't a horrible place, humanity isn't evil. People are good, and we need to remember that, we need to hope for that when we don't have proof.

When tragedy strikes, as it has done in the past week, clutch that hope and keep it with you. Sometimes it's the one thing that gets us by.

It is easy to give in to despair, but it requires more courage to remain strong and hope.

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