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The SOUTH

# ROTUNDA

Listening to the community since 1920

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# BATTLING UNTIL THE END

FEBRUARY 11, 2019

VOL 97 ISSUE 15

TAYLOR O'BERRY | THE ROTUNDA



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# Cumberland drug raid leads to Virginia state trooper death

## Suspect fatally shot, identified as Corey Johnson

by Christine Rindfleisch | Editor-in-Chief | @its\_rINDfleisch



At the scene, in the 1500 block of Cumberland Road has been blocked off as of 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5.

During a drug raid late Monday, Feb. 4 evening, Virginia State Police Officer Lucas B. Dowell, 28, was shot and transported to Southside Community Hospital in Farmville, Va. for treatment of life threatening injuries, according to a Virginia State Police press release.

"A Virginia State Police Tactical Team was assisting the Piedmont Regional Drug and Gang Task Force with executing a search warrant at a residence in the 1500 block of Cumberland Road/Route 45," said the release.

The search warrant was being conducted as part of an ongoing narcotics investigation.

Shortly before 10 p.m., when the Tactical Team entered the residence, an adult male suspect, later identified as Corey Johnson, began shooting with the Tactical Team returning fire. Johnson was fatally shot and died at the scene.

"In accordance with Virginia State Police policy, the two troopers who fired their weapons have been placed on administrative leave," said the release.

Dowell was the only trooper injured in the shooting.

"This is an extremely difficult day for the State Police," said Colonel Gary T. Settle, Virginia State Police Superintendent in a statement. "We are humbled by Lucas' selfless sacrifice and grateful for his dedicated service to the Commonwealth. He will forever be remembered by his State Police Family for his great strength of character, tenacity, valor, loyalty and sense of humor."

Johnson was the only individual inside the residence at the time of

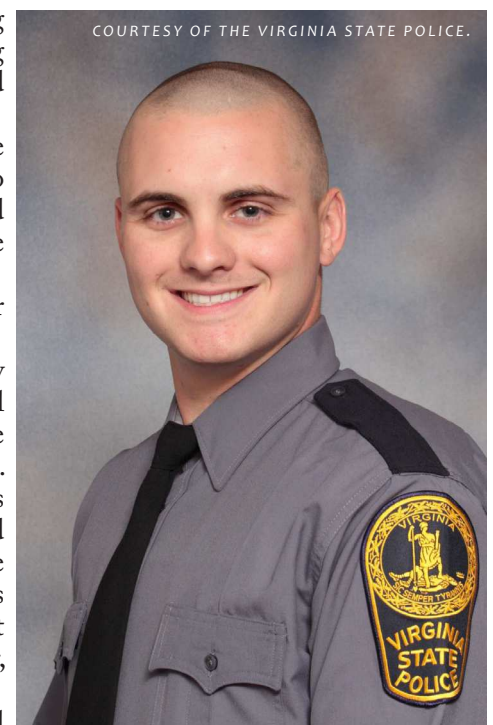
the shooting.

According to the release, Trooper Dowell becomes the Department's 66th line of duty death. The Chilhowie, Va. native graduated the Virginia State Police's 122nd Basic Session in November 2014. Since graduation he has been assigned to the Virginia State Police Appomattox Division.

A native of Chilhowie, Va., Dowell is survived by his parents and a sister.

In a Virginia State Police tradition, Trooper Dowell's patrol car was placed in front of her Area 20 office in Amherst, Va. where flowers were placed on top of the car.

The memorial service for Dowell was held at Chilhowie Christian Church on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 11 a.m.



Trooper Lucas B. Dowell

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# LUPD dispatch relocated to Farmville Emergency Communications Center

Led to efficiency with Longwood Village person of interest

by Rachael Poole | Opinions Editor | @rapoole17

In an effort to expand public safety communications in the Farmville area, the Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) dispatch has relocated to Farmville Emergency Communications Center as of Jan. 25 2019, according to LUPD Chief of Police Col. Robert Beach.

Beach said the discussion to join dispatches started five years ago but in Nov. 2018, "all the parts came together".

"If you were to look around the rest of the Commonwealth, really the rest of the country, you'd find that over the last few years, the number of, most many communities are moving to a regional 911 service," said Beach.

Per Beach, the departments joined forces due to the continuing rising cost of public safety communications in addition to Farmville already had a 911 center for the Prince Edward County/Farmville area.

According to Gerald Spates, Farmville town manager, LUPD worked on their own phone system before working with the Farmville Emergency Communications Center.

In addition to the police, the center also dispatches the Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Farmville Public Works.

The communication center has a staff that works 24 hours a day with LUPD and Hampden-Sydney College Police, according to Beach.

"After I came here in 2007, I realized there were three communication centers within a block of each other," said Beach. "Those three centers multiplied the resource need for each organization to pay in and to build and to keep the state of the art of that up so that it's successful."

Beach also emphasized the importance of coordination, especially in situations such as the drug raid that occurred late Feb. 4 on the

1500 block of Cumberland Road, resulting in the death of Virginia State Police Officer Lucas B. Dowell.

"Having everybody in one place is more efficient, (and it's a) much more appropriate way of handling it," said Beach.

On Jan. 27 at 3:12 p.m., an off-duty Desk Aide (DA) called Farmville Emergency Communications Center to report a man running behind the Longwood Village Clubhouse with what was described as a "long gun," according to Beach.

"Whether it was an AR-15, an AK-47 or a machine gun, we have no idea because we didn't put our hands on it," said Beach.

Per Beach, the call went to Farmville Emergency Communications Center where two LUPD officers were dispatched to the scene and arrived within "two and a half to three minutes."

"(They) found out from the caller that they were at Longwood Village, and they then immediately dispatched two of our officers to Longwood Village," said Beach.

Per Beach, once LUPD arrived, Leveige had already fled the scene. Beach added that communication with the town made the investigation run a lot smoother.

According to Beach, investigators found the fled car by watching footage from the surveillance camera at the intersection of the village entrance.

Within the hour, local authorities in Prince William County (PWC) where the owner, Leveige, lives were on the lookout for him, according to Beach.

Beach added that residents were not made aware of the situation by LUPD.

Per Monique "Moe" Bates, director of residential programs, Residential and Commuter Life (RCL) was made aware of the situation by the DA.



According to Longwood University Police Department (LUPD) Chief of Police Col. Bob Beach, two officers arrived at the scene within two and a half to three minutes.

Bates added the police are not always required to alert RCL of when criminal situations occur.

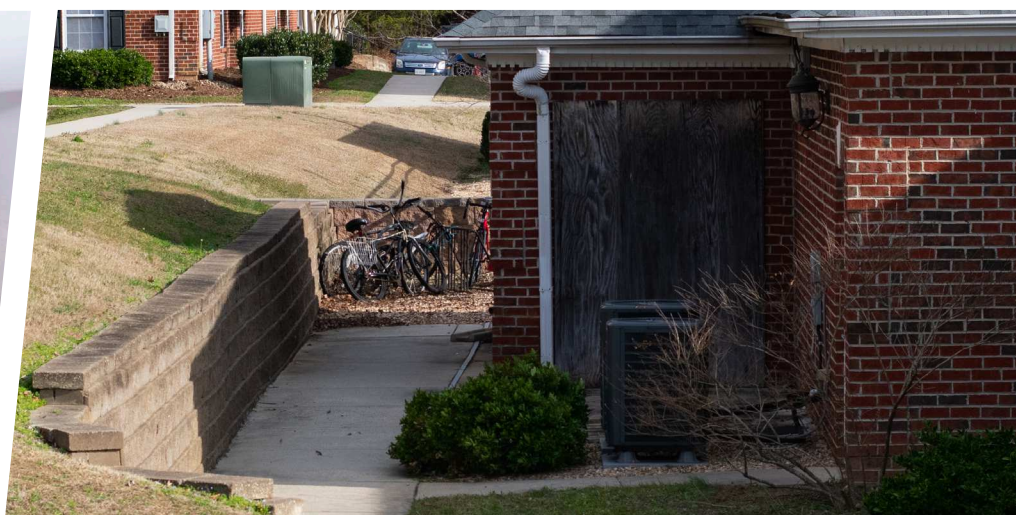
"They maintain the safety of the entire campus; we just work with the residential side of things," said Bates.

Over 24 hours after the incident, on Monday, Jan. 28 at 5:58 p.m., Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Tim Pierson sent out an email from Matthew McWilliams, assistant vice president of communications, informing students of a "person of interest" who was being sought out by LUPD.

"Please be aware that LUPD is actively seeking Malcolm Deon Leveige, who has been seen near campus in recent weeks and has made threatening remarks to students. Leveige drives a 2013 white Cadillac XTS with the tag VZL-5025," said the email.

According to Beach, the incident did not constitute a lockdown because it was not a "verifiable, life threatening event."

"My number one charge as being here, my number one effort is going to be, to keep you and every member of this place safe," said Beach.



The suspect fled to his getaway vehicle by running through the walkway between the pool house and 101 building of the Longwood Village.



# In SGA:

by Kurt Martin | Assistant Sports Editor | @IamKurt14

## Outdoor Education minor discussion, updates on Canvas

In this week's Student Government Association (SGA) meeting, a discussion concerning the continuation of the Outdoor Education minor was heavily discussed during the open forum.

In open forum, Senator Cameron Roblewsky said that she would like to see more recycling opportunities in Longwood managed housing, especially in Lancer Park.

President Josh Darst said he would speak to Residential and Commuter Life (RCL) on the issue.

Virginia 21 and State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) Representative Mary Zell Galen asked Natalie Browning, research services librarian, if there is any way the library can make sure all the passwords in the interlibrary loan system match. Browning responded by saying the systems are different, and recommended making the passwords the same.

Senior Class President David Gills said he would like to see more lights on 2nd Street, due to the darkness during the nighttime. Director of Local and Community Relations Jen Cox said that the issue with lighting is that there may not be the same level of brightness. Longwood University Police Department Chief of Police Col. Robert Beach said that students should take the time to come to a Town Council meeting and make their concerns known.



Senator Joseph Hyman discussing information found after a meeting with Dr. Julie Mersiowsky.

According to President of the Outdoor Club Gabby Ewell, her and a few other members of the club came to the meeting to advocate for keeping the Outdoor Education minor at Longwood.

Per Ewell, Longwood is planning to disband the minor after the next cohort graduates,



Anthony Jackson was sworn in as Student Diversity and Inclusion (SDIC) Representative by SGA President Josh Darst

which would be in three years. This is due to a funding issue.

Ewell said that the Outdoor Club will be unable to continue unless there is also support from the academic program. The program currently borrows equipment from Campus Recreation for their trips and events. According to Ewell, equipment has to be replaced every five to seven years with the group's rate of use.

Newly sworn in Student Diversity and Inclusion (SDIC) Representative Anthony Jackson said the club should raise awareness on the minor before advocating for it, suggesting posters around campus to spread the word.

Senator Camryn Ridpath said there have been complaints about water in showers in Wheeler Hall. She stated that students have complained about getting rashes after taking showers, and also the color of the water being white.

Freshman Class Representative Eleanor Carr said the same occurrences have also happened in Curry Hall.

College of Business and Economics Representative Samuel Torpy said that a possible explanation could be "Winter Rash". Torpy said that applying lotion or hydrocortisone cream should help relieve the outbreak.

President Darst said he would be in contact with RCL on the issue.

In the Adviser's Report, Dean for Student Engagement Cheryl Steele acknowledged the loss of Virginia State Trooper Lucas B. Dowell who passed away in Cumberland

County on the night of Monday, Feb. 4.

During the Executive Vice President's Report, Executive Vice President Catherine Swinsky said that she noticed recycling bins were only located near bathrooms in the Upchurch University Center. Contact was then made with Director of the University Center and Student Activities Susan Sullivan who said she would look into the issue.

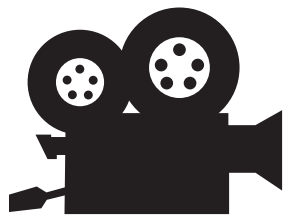
Senator Joseph Hyman provided an update on the previous discussion of Canvas remaining a fully academic space. Hyman said he met with Director of Distance Education and Digital Education Collaborative Dr. Julie Mersiowsky and found out that extracurricular items were added a few years ago. In response, Hyman said a two year "pilot period" was instituted to allow Fraternity and Sorority Life, Career Services and Alumni Services to use Canvas for alternative items.

According to Hyman, the two year "pilot period" has elapsed and data is being reviewed on Canvas use. There will be an assessment during the summer to decide on keeping the items.

During the Historians Report, Historian Megan Bland said she spoke with Lancer Card Center Director Crissy Sampier and said that things are being worked on regarding the Coca-Cola machines that should be up and running soon. There was a previous issue of the Lancer Card readers not working on the machines.

The next SGA meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 3:45 p.m. in the Wilson Chamber located in the Upchurch University Center.





# THE REEL LIFE

Movie reviews by Jacob DiLandro | A&E Editor | @spongejay1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARNER ANIMATION GROUP, LEGO SYSTEM A/S, RIDEBACK, LORD MILLER PRODUCTIONS, VERTIGO ENTERTAINMENT, AND WARNER BROS. PICTURES.



The American filmmaking duo Phil Lord and Chris Miller are on a bit of a roll right now. For the past five years, Lord and Miller have helped dominate the animation world with the LEGO series of films. They've earned rave reviews with their comedy series "The Last Man on Earth," and they're the favorite to take home an Oscar for their 2018 critical darling "Into the Spider-Verse." Now would be as good a time as any to release a follow-up to the film that arguably catapulted them to this newfound success, and thus, here we have "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part."

Thankfully, everything this sequel introduces clicks right into place with the pre-existing world, and even manages to throw in some references to the spin-off films for continuity. It also maintains the same level of jokes about animated films just like the first film. About half of the film is exactly what you'd expect after the previous LEGO films.

However, about 30 minutes in, things shift to full throttle after the true themes are revealed, diverging from what the trailers seemed to give off almost completely. It's a welcomed surprise, and these new themes manage to give "Second Part" an emotional core just as rock solid and unexpected as the first film.

By the time this new theme is introduced though, it's clear that subtlety is the last thing on the mind of "Second Part." Whereas the first movie ended with a bombshell realization that set the wheels in motion for the entire universe of LEGO films, this one wears its heart on its sleeve, embracing its twists a bit too earnestly.

The twists that do hit are the most important though, and they hit hard. Just like past

LEGO films, there are quite a few moments of tears in "Second Part" and they come from the most unexpected of places.

All of that is thanks to the fact that Lord and Miller know a comedy still needs to provide an engaging story underneath the jokes. "Second Part" keeps audiences guessing with just where its story is going to go, never getting lazy or letting the pace die down for the sake of jokes. It's still just as effective as the previous LEGO films at talking about the mind of a child, and not at the child.

It's still a visual marvel as well. There aren't as many wow moments as the first movie, mainly since the uber-realistic animation style is now the norm for the series, but there are still plenty of eye-catching sequences and details.

Some of the space sequences seem to be set against a sheer, veil-like cloth and any scene with the new Queen Watevra Wa-Nabi, a shape-shifting alien, is a wonder to behold. She moves with a fluidity that would have initially seemed impossible within the LEGO medium, but the animators at Animal Logic have doubled down her effects. They have also brought the rest of the film to equally impressive quality as the previous ones.

The cast from the first film have all returned and do just as excellent of a job as before. The only major additions are Tiffany Haddish as Watevra and Stephanie Beatriz as General Mayhem. They both hold their own against the previous film's characters and add to the general sense of fun present throughout.

What's most impressive about this sophomore outing with Emmet Brickowski, the main character, and his friends is how it manages to (mostly) avoid the typical trappings of big budget sequels. The nature

of the story doesn't feel like it has lower stakes or is unworthy of the audience's time. It also never sacrifices the sense of humor previously established or the direct parodying of itself it does.

It does, however, lack the initial surprise that came from the first film's unexpectedly high quality. Everything also feels a bit looser and wilder, partly because of the lesser emphasis on subtlety. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but it does rob the film of some of the tension the first film managed to establish effortlessly.

These points are only valid when comparing it to the first film though, because even with them, "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part" is better than 99 percent of the rest of the Hollywood animation game. It's still funny, it's still gorgeous and still manages to surprise with its themes and willingness to poke fun at itself, all while providing an engaging adventure. It may not be as flawless as the first, but everything is still awesome.

★★★★★ 4.5/5





# POLITICIANS CONTINUE TO PERPETUATE HISTORY

## Longwood 2018 Commencement speaker in turmoil

by Taiya Jarrett | A&E Staff | @ohsootay

*Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the author.*

**E**merging into Black History Month, a racist yearbook photo of Democratic Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam has gone viral and has put his political career and reputation in disarray.

Controversy struck Northam as his 1984 Eastern Virginia Medical School yearbook surfaced, displaying Northam accompanying people in a very disturbing and a quite telling light: a Ku Klux Klan Robe and blackface.

Over time, blackface has manifested itself into American society as a form of entertainment at the expense of African-Americans. In reality, blackface is the caricature of African-Americans in the portrayal by their white counterparts. This indoctrinated depiction of African-Americans became the birth of an American stereotype that arrived in the 1830s during the rise of minstrel shows, various performances and acts of how African-Americans look and act, and eventually resurfaced in the 20th century.

Essentially, this inaccurate imitation perpetuated by white people was trail blazed by false attributes of African-American individuals from their dialect to their dances. Rooted in racist sentiment to dismantle the black race through its demeaning gestures,

blackface is still unfortunately prevalent today and stands as one of the pinnacle topics of America's overtly racist history that has yet to be properly rectified. More so, the prominence of blackface continues to not only thrive in history but as well as in the lives of our local politicians.

Hitting close to home, newly elected as the 73rd Governor of Virginia, Northam gave Longwood University's 2018 graduating class its Commencement speech on May 19, 2018, with a lasting impression as he "issued a charge to graduates to use the strong moral compass," according to a Longwood news release. Fast-forwarding into a new year and a fresh slate, it's fair to say Northam could have adhered to his own message.

As an advocate for heightening minimum wage to \$15, free community college or apprenticeships to Virginians, eliminating Voter ID laws and supporting various gun control measures, as the Washington Post reported, Northam's ideals inherently appeal and apply to his main supporters: the black community.

This allowed Northam to beat his fellow Republican candidate, Ed Gillespie, in the 2017 governor's race by nearly nine points.

In doing so, according to the Washington Post, "Northam won three-quarters of the

votes overall and more than 80 percent in African-American neighborhoods."

With that being said, the main people in support of Northam also happen to be the main ones being ridiculed by his past. The concern of whether Northam will ever regain that trust of his main supporters and if he's even fit to continue his term as Governor of Virginia comes to question.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE  
Governor Ralph Northam was the keynote speaker at the 2018 Commencement ceremony.

In a response to CNN, Northam said, "I recognize that it will take time and serious effort to heal the damage this conduct has caused. I am ready to do that important work. The first step is to offer my sincerest apology and to state my absolute commitment to living up to the expectations Virginians set for me when they elected me to be their Governor."

Therefore, this indicates that Northam has no intention of resigning, but instead rebuilding and regaining the trust of Virginians. As a fellow African-American individual, though Northam's actions disgust and frustrate me, his refusal to resign doesn't shock me.

Historically rooted in racism, American society has justified the use of the first amendment: it protects freedom of speech to express certain rhetoric that can be deemed offensive. In doing so, this has allowed countless politicians to use their platform to spew racist words, which has led itself into the White House and quite frankly has lessened my expectations of politicians.

Nonetheless, former Florida Secretary of State Michael Ertel recently resigned after photos of him in blackface mocking victims of Hurricane Katrina rapidly emerged on the Internet.

As trust may lie in the hands of these elected officials, these acts of racism shouldn't go unnoticed but instead immediately condemned regardless of how old it is.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LONGWOOD UNIVERSITY ARCHIVE

Northam told Longwood University's 2018 graduating class to "use the strong moral compass" during its Commencement speech.





# Longwood's historic start put to test in Big South slate

by Patrick Sanderson | Sports Editor | @psanderson20

Damarion Geter attempting to score for Longwood against Gardner-Webb.

In their previous two seasons, Longwood men's basketball has combined for a total of 13 wins, including one postseason win. The script has been completely flipped this year under first-year Head Coach Griff Aldrich, as his Lancers have made an incredible turnaround with their 13-13 record with a month to play.

**"It's like a tug-of-war. They're pulling hard, and you can't just use the same amount of effort, you have to increase your level of effort and strength to combat the tie."**

*– Head Coach Griff Aldrich*

However, their winning ways from December to early January have slowed, dropping six of their last seven games, falling to 3-8 in conference play.

And to cap off a week they'd wish to forget,

the team's leading scorer redshirt senior guard, Isaiah Walton, was dismissed from the program just a day after Aldrich implemented an indefinite suspension due to "failure to meet team expectations". Walton averaged 17.8 points-per-game and had just become the 17th player in Longwood men's basketball history to reach 1,000 points.

With the first week of February in the rear-view mirror, the Lancers face the challenge of rebounding in hopes of putting themselves in the position of hosting a Big South tournament game in early March.

Despite difficult losses, Aldrich told the team following their defeat to Hampton he was "proud of them" for continuing to fight even when down by as many as 23 points.

"They could've quit," Aldrich said. "But they continued to battle really until the end. But we made too many mental mistakes, and we didn't compete at the level we needed to compete at."

He noted basketball is a game of runs. The Lancers went on a run and pulled within as little as four points against Hampton, but the Big South newcomers halted their momentum with a run of their own, putting the

game out of reach. And on Thursday night, Longwood conducted an improbable comeback to send a game against Gardner-Webb - who beat two ACC opponents earlier this season - to overtime. Although they came out on the opposite end, it left fans leaving Willett Hall in awe.

In games against Charleston Southern and Hampton, where they allowed 101 and 96 points, respectively, the Lancers didn't disappoint with their scoring output despite the losses. Scoring 91 and 83 points in each



Jashaun Smith attempts to pass the ball through two Gardner-Webb players.



Damarion Geter passes out of a double team.

game out of reach. Although Aldrich knows they don't lose fight, they need to figure out a way to stop hot-shooting teams.

"We need to stop their run, and the way you stop their run is you focus on your fundamentals, but then you increase your focus and effort," Aldrich said. "You have to make them more uncomfortable shooting the basketball."

game, the team knows with an off night on one side of the ball, they put themselves in jeopardy no matter the scoring output.

"It all comes down to defense," junior guard JaShaun Smith said. "We can score as much as we want but if we can't get a stop in key times, we're going to lose."

Aldrich said, "At some point you have to inflict your will on the opponent. It's like a tug-of-war. They're pulling hard, and you can't just use the same amount of effort, you have to increase your level of effort and strength to combat the tie."

The men's basketball team seeks to continue their historic season with five games remaining, drawing larger crowds than they have seen in previous years. They travel to High Point on Wednesday, then have a home clash against USC Upstate next Saturday.





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