

Blackface scandal spotlights embedded racism

Virginia governor rejecting calls to step down

By **ERRIN HAINES WHACK**
Associated Press

When Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam refused to resign last week, he did so in the shadow of a Capitol built by a founding father and a slave owner, in the former seat of the Confederacy still wrestling with what to do about statues that honor those who fought to preserve slavery.

The 35-year-old photo on his yearbook page of a person in blackface and another person in a Ku Klux Klan robe has brought about a stunning reversal of fortune in Northam's political career and laid bare for the nation just how deeply racist behavior remains interwoven in American culture, institutions and politics.

In rejecting calls to step down, the 59-year-old white son of Virginia came across to many African-Americans as displaying a sense of white privilege.

"What we have learned over the last 24 hours along with all the incidents of the last two years brings front and center the need for this

nation to deal with the question of race once and for all," NAACP President Derrick Johnson said in an interview Saturday. "Because we have (President Donald) Trump in the White House, who has created a political landscape of intolerance and racial hatred, this has exposed a wound that has been festering for a while now."

The incident came on the first day of Black History Month and as Virginians prepare to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved Africans to the settlement of Jamestown.

"I think a lot of black folks are tired of apologies and talking," said Wes Bellamy, a councilman in Charlottesville, Virginia, who has worked for the removal of Confederate statues in the city. "This is another ugly stain on our state's history. We are going to have to commit ourselves to making this right — not just with our words, but with our resources."

Should Northam, a Democrat, ultimately step down, Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax would become the second black governor in the South since Reconstruction. Last month, Fairfax, the only black official currently elected statewide, sat down in protest as the Virginia Senate recognized



AP Photo/Steve Helber

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam, left, accompanied by his wife, Pam, speaks during a news conference Saturday.

Lee-Jackson Day, which honors Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

Virginia is still healing from the racial wounds inflicted in August 2017, when white supremacists marched on Charlottesville to protest the removal of a statue of Lee. Many of the mostly white men who converged on the city chanting racist slogans and burning torches were about the same age that Northam would've been as a student at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Northam's age belies the assumption that their actions reflected the tenor and tone of the era. In 1984 when the photograph was included in Northam's yearbook page,

civil rights activist Jesse Jackson was running for president. Pioneering black entertainer Bill Cosby was the star of one of America's most popular television shows. African-Americans were climbing the nation's social, professional, political and economic ladders at unprecedented speed.

In his initial apology, Northam said that the photo does not represent who he is now. A day later, he denied being in the photograph at all, while admitting to wearing blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest.

The incident is the third in recent weeks: Last month, Florida's secretary of state resigned after photos from a 2005 Halloween party showed

him in blackface dressed as a Hurricane Katrina victim. Also last month, videos surfaced of people in blackface at the University of Oklahoma, including a man walking near campus. Two students withdrew from the university and apologized.

Such incidents are not only hurtful; they can be harmful when they happen at institutions of higher learning and are perpetrated by people who go on to impact the lives of people of color as decision-makers — from politicians to doctors. A recent University of Virginia study showed that black Americans are systematically undertreated for pain relative to white patients, and that white laypeople and medical students and residents hold false beliefs about the biological differences between the races — beliefs that can affect the perception and treatment of black patients.

The trust Northam, a pediatric neurologist, established with his patients was not unlike the faith he sought from voters. In running for governor, many people — including the 87 percent of black voters who supported him — saw Northam as a candidate who belongs to a party associated with justice and equality, who ran against an opponent

tied to a president who has been accused of racism.

Their vote for Northam was, in part, a rejection of those views and beliefs. The governor's defiance amid the roar for him to step aside among even his Democratic colleagues, black and white, casts doubt on Northam's ability to represent these voters going forward, said NAACP President Johnson.

"If we cannot recognize African-Americans are full citizens entitled to humane treatment by our public policy makers, how can we expect public policy to meet the needs and interests of those communities being portrayed as less than human?" Johnson asked.

It also raises a critical question: In politics, should sincerity and repentance for a racist past matter more than the hurt feelings of Americans who live on the receiving end of racism?

Northam's lieutenant governor doesn't think so.

"I have worked closely with Ralph Northam over many years. He has been a friend to me and has treated my family and me with hospitality and respect," Fairfax wrote in a statement Saturday, noting that he is a descendant of people enslaved in Virginia.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Pentagon sending another 3,750 troops to Southwest border

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Sunday it will send 3,750 more troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to put up another 150 miles of concertina wire and provide other support for Customs and Border Protection.

The additions will bring the total number of active-duty troops on the border to 4,350.

The announcement is in line with what Acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan had said last week when he provided estimates for the next phase of a military mission that has grown in size and length. Critics have derided it as a political ploy by the White House as President Donald Trump seeks billions to build a border wall.

Members of Congress have questioned whether the border mission is distracting troops from their main work of fighting extremists abroad and training for combat. The first active-duty troops were sent to the border on about Oct. 30 for a mission that was to end Dec. 15. It has since been extended twice.

Plane breaks apart over California neighborhood, 5 killed

YORBA LINDA, Calif. — Five people died and two were injured after a small plane apparently broke apart Sunday over a Southern California suburb, raining debris on a neighborhood and setting a house on fire, authorities said.

Four people in the house that burned in the city of Yorba Linda were killed, along with the pilot, who was the only person in the twin-engine plane, Orange County Sheriff's Lt. Cory Martino said.

The Cessna 414A reached an altitude of about 7,800 feet and then made a rapid descent, according to the National Transportation Safety Board. The debris field spanned about four blocks.

The main cabin of the airplane and one engine came to rest at the bottom of a ravine in the backyard of a house

and the other engine landed on a street, creating a hole. The house where the four people were killed caught fire.

European nations raise pressure on Venezuela's Maduro

LISBON, Portugal — A key group of European Union countries endorsed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as the country's interim president today, piling the pressure on embattled President Nicolas Maduro to resign and let the country hold a new presidential election.

Maduro, for his part, stood defiant, accusing the United States of preparing a coup in the South American country and rejecting a U.S.-backed effort to send emergency food and medicine into his country.

Spain, Germany, France and Britain delivered diplomatic blows to Maduro's rule by publicly supporting Guaido after giving Maduro a Sunday deadline to call a presidential election, which he didn't heed. Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, the Czech Republic and Portugal also lined up behind Guaido, the self-declared interim president who also has the support of the United States and many South American nations.

The European countries urged Guaido to hold free and fair elections as soon as possible.

New Jersey Sen. Booker declares presidential candidacy for 2020

WASHINGTON — Cory Booker leaped into the 2020 presidential race on Friday with a call for Americans to unite in a time of bitter polarization while some of his Democratic rivals are taking a more combative stance as they vie to take

on President Donald Trump.

Booker's entry into the Democratic primary was steeped in history and symbolism, befitting his status as the second black candidate in a historically diverse field. Invoking the legacy of the national movements for civil rights and for women's suffrage, the New Jersey senator urged a return to a "common sense of purpose" and cast his appeal to the nation's better angels as an uplifting alternative to Trump.

The 49-year-old Booker told reporters outside his home in Newark that "love ain't easy," adding: "The people I admire are the people that lead by calling out the best of who we are and not the worst. So, I'm running for president because I believe in us. I believe in these values."

Whether Democrats are in the mood to embrace Booker's optimistic persona after two years of fuming about Trump's presidency remains to be seen. With Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren running as a champion for the middle class in a fight against powerful interests, and California Sen. Kamala running on taking on Trump directly, Booker's fate may hinge on a bet that the electorate will respond again to the soaring oratory that helped Barack Obama break through in 2008.

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TV SCHEDULE

A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach

MONDAY EVENING				FEBRUARY 4									
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Faces" (N)		News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News at 6pm (N)		Wheel Fortune (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	The Bachelor (N)				The Good Doctor "Faces" (N)		KOMO4News (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Talent	Hopeful stars display their talents.			Manifest		KING 5 News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Neighborhood (N)	Man Plan (SP) (N)	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)		Bull "Prior Bad Acts" (N)		News (N)	(35) Colbert
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	Neighborhood (N)	Man Plan (SP) (N)	Big Brother: Celebrity Edition (N)		Bull "Prior Bad Acts" (N)		KIRO News (N)	(35) Colbert
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent	Hopeful stars display their talents.			Manifest		News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
8	KRCW	(3) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	Arrow "Emerald Archer" (N)		Black Lightning (N)		News (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
9	KOPB	(10) This Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Antiques Rd. "Ca' d'Zan (Hour Two)" (N)		Oregon Experience "Rajneeshpuram"		Antique "Celebrating Black Americana"		Independent L. "Black Memorabilia" (N)	
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud (N)	Family Feud (N)	The Resident "Virtually Impossible" (N)		The Passage "Whose Blood Is That?" (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
11	KPDX	(2) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	8pm Prime News (N)		9pm Prime News (N)		Big Bang Theory	Family Guy	American Dad!	The Game
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Resident "Virtually Impossible" (N)		The Passage "Whose Blood Is That?" (N)		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
13	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	American Dad!	Conan (N)	Seinfeld
14	KZJO	(22) Black-ish	Black-ish	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN	(29) NCAA Basketball (L)		SportsCenter (N)		Wooden Awards	eSports	SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
16	ESPN2	(30) NCAA Basketball (L)		UFC Archival		UFC Archival		UFC Archival		UFC Archival		UFC Archival	
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Double Dare	Double Dare	To Be Announced		Bunk'd	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Andi Mack
18	DISN	(32) Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Coop & Cami	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Raven's Home	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Andi Mack	Andi Mack	Andi Mack
19	FAM	(34) (4:30) Gone in 60 Seconds	Nicolas Cage. ★★ Billy Madison (95, Com) Bradley Whitford, Bridgette Wilson, Adam Sandler. ★★ The Waterboy (1998, Comedy) Kathy Bates, Henry Winkler, Adam Sandler.										The 700 Club
20	FMC	(35) (2:00) ★★ Sausage Party (2016, Animated)	Kristen Wiig, Jonah Hill, Seth Rogen. (05) ★★ Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse (15) Tye Sheridan. ★★ Scouts Guide to the Zombie Apocalypse (15) Tye Sheridan.										(50) FXM Presents
21	LIFE	(36) The First 48 "One Heart"	First 48 "In Broad Daylight/ Fight Club"	Mariners (N)	Mariners Access	The First 48 "Twist of Fate"	The First 48	The First 48		(05) First 48 "Girl Fight/ Blink of an Eye"	(05) The First 48	(05) The First 48	
22	ROOT	(38) Mark Faw (N)	In Depth	Mariners (N)	Mariners Access	Mariners Access	MLR Rugby Seattle Seawolves at San Diego Legion			The Dan Patrick Show (N)		Mariners Access	Mariners Access
23	F51	(39) (5:00) NCAA Basket. Penn.St./N.West. (L)		Inside PBC Boxing (N)		Boxing Classics '17 Premier Champions	TMZ Sports (N)	Fair Game		Speak for Yourself		Boxing Classics	PBC Face to Face
24	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	The Office	Cops	Cops	Cops
25	COM	(44) (1:15) The Office	(5:00) The Office	(2:15) The Office		The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Daily Show	The Office
26	HIST	(45) American Pickers "Signs of Struggle"	American Pickers "Real Knuckleheads"	American Pickers "The Great Pick Off"	American Pickers "Picker's Dozen" (N)	(05) Pawn S. "Pawn of the Undead" (N)	(05) Truck Night "Up the Creek"	(05) The Will of the People "The Starr report is released ahead of midterms."		(05) Pawn S. "Pawn of the Undead" (N)	(05) Truck Night "Up the Creek"	(05) Truck Night "Up the Creek"	
27	A&E	(46) The Clinton Affair "The Blue Pass"	The Clinton Affair "Mixed Messages"	My 600-lb Life "Charity's Story"	My 600-lb Life "Robin's Story" Robin and Chris are ready to lose the weight.	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"		My 600-lb Life "Justin's Story" Justin never leaves the house for anything but food.		Garage Rehab "Keys Customs"	
28	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Outlaws:NoPrep Kings Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"	Street Outlaws: Full "Import This!"		My 600-lb Life "Justin's Story" Justin never leaves the house for anything but food.		Garage Rehab "Keys Customs"	
29	DISC	(48) Outlaws "Sweet Turns in Memphis"	Outlaws:NoPrep Kings Pt. 1 of 2 (N)	Drain the Ocean "WWII"		DrainOcean "Undersea Empires" (N)	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"		Drain the Ocean "Undersea Empires" (N)	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"	Drain the Bermuda Triangle	
30	NGEO	(49) Ancient Fighting Arts (N)				DrainOcean "Undersea Empires" (N)	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"		Drain the Ocean "Undersea Empires" (N)	Hitler's Last Stand "Enemy Allies"	Drain the Bermuda Triangle	
31	TNT	(50) ★★ Captain America: Civil War (2016, Action) Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Chris Evans.				Night "Phenomenon of Interference" (N)	Night "Phenomenon of Interference" (N)	Night "Phenomenon of Interference" (N)		(10) Con Air '97, Action) Nicolas Cage.	(10) Con Air '97, Action) Nicolas Cage.	(10) Con Air '97, Action) Nicolas Cage.	
32	AMC	(51) (5:00) ★★ A Few Good Men (92, Dra) Demi Moore, Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise. ★★ Twister (1996, Action) Bill Paxton, Jami Gertz, Helen Hunt.				WWF Monday Night Raw	Kids Baking "Macaron Madness"	Kids Baking "Opposites Attract" (N)		WinnerCake "Guy's Grocery Cakes" (N)	WinnerCake All	Modern Family	Modern Family
33	USA	(52) NCIS "Love and War"	NCIS "Deliverance"	WWF Monday Night Raw	Kids Baking "Macaron Madness"	Kids Baking "Opposites Attract" (N)		WinnerCake "Guy's Grocery Cakes" (N)	WinnerCake All	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family
34	FOOD	(53) Cake Wars "Champs: Pokemon"	NCIS "Champs: Disney Princesses"	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Home Town (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
35	HGTV	(54) Love It/ List It "Lackluster Lake House"	Love It/ List It "Nostalgia Is Not Enough"	13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi (2016, Drama) John Krasinski, Max Martini, James Badge Dale.		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
36	FX	(56) (5:30) ★★ The 5th Wave (16) Zackary Arthur, Nick Robinson, Chloe Grace Moretz.		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
37	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
38	FNC	(58) Hannity		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
39	CNBC	(61) American Greed "The Lady Killer"	American Greed: Scam	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
40	TRAV	(63) Vanderpump Rules "Love Thy Mother"	Vanderpump Rules "Girls' Night In"	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
41	BCM	(64) (5:00) Battleground (49) John Hodiak.	(15) ★★ She Wore a Yellow Ribbon (49) Joanne Dru, John Agar, John Wayne.	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
42	SYFY	(65) Leatherface (2017, Horror) Lili Taylor, Sam Strike, Stephen Dorff.	★★ Priest (2011, Action) Cam Gigandet, Maggie Q, Paul Bettany.	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Cuomo Prime Time	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon
43	RFD	(62) Rancher (N)	Red Steagall	Horse Master	Horse of the West	Craig Cameron	Rural Eve. News	Rural America "Live" "Crop Vitality"		American Rancher	Red Steagall	Product Showcase	