

U.Va., legislators react to Rolling Stone story

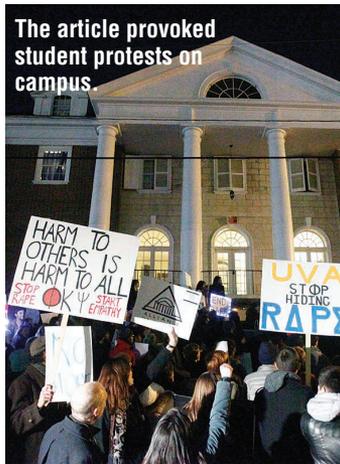
by Veronica Garabelli

A Rolling Stone article depicting a brutal rape on the University of Virginia campus more than two years ago could have a lasting effect on it and other state schools even though the magazine has backed away from the story since its publication.

In the Nov. 19 article, a U.Va. student identified as “Jackie” describes being gang raped in September 2012 by seven men at a fraternity house party and the university’s poor handling of the incident. Before the story ran, U.Va. had been named one of 86 schools being investigated by the U.S. Department of Education for sexual assault violations.

The story ignited protests on campus, a zero-tolerance policy for sexual assault passed by the U.Va. Board of Visitors, a suspension of fraternal activities until Jan. 9 and plans by the Virginia General Assembly to address sexual violence on college campuses. The Charlottesville Police are investigating the alleged rape and the attorney general’s office has appointed an independent counsel to review the university’s handling of sexual assaults.

The article jolted a campus already in shock over the abduction and death of fresh-



AP Photo/The Daily Progress, Ryan M. Kelly

man Hannah Graham last fall. Her murder and the arrest of a Charlottesville man created national headlines.

In early December, Rolling Stone backtracked on the rape story, acknowledging discrepancies in its account after questions about its accuracy were raised by the fraternity (Phi Kappa Psi), The Washington Post and other publications. The magazine acknowledged the reporter failed to contact the men allegedly involved in the attack.

“We published the article with the firm belief that it was accurate,” says a statement from Rolling Stone Managing Editor Will Dana on its website. “Given all of these reports, however, we have come to the conclusion that we were

mistaken in honoring Jackie’s request to not contact the alleged assaulters to get their account.”

Nonetheless, U.Va. and state leaders appear committed to addressing sexual assaults at public universities. “We will continue to take a hard look at our practices, policies and procedures, and continue to dedicate ourselves to becoming a model institution in our educational programming, in the character of our student culture, and in our care for those who are victims,” said U.Va. President Teresa Sullivan, who appointed a committee to investigate the university’s campus culture and practices with the aim of creating a safer environment for students.

Del. Dave Albo, R-Springfield, says he still plans to file a bill in this year’s General Assembly session combatting violent crimes on campus. The bill, to be co-filed with fellow Republican Delegates Rob Bell and Todd Gilbert, would make it mandatory to report violent crimes against students to local law enforcement and the local Commonwealth’s Attorney’s office. “We believe that mandatory reporting is still needed even if the story turns out to be false,” Albo said in an email. **VB**



For the Record

Allegiant Air, an ultralow-cost, pay-for-extras airline, will begin seasonal jet service between Richmond and Florida’s Tampa-St. Petersburg area in February. Allegiant will start its twice-weekly, nonstop service to Ft. Pete-Clearwater International Airport on Feb. 13. Though ticket prices will vary with demand, Allegiant said its average, one-way fare is about \$90. Allegiant will fly its round trips between Richmond and St. Petersburg on Fridays and Mondays. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

Charlotte-based **Babcock & Wilcox Co.** (B&W) will spin off some segments into an independent company by the middle of 2015, effectively splitting its workforce into two parts and beginning a shift of all Lynchburg B&W employees to a separate corporate label. Company officials said no significant changes will occur, and the number of employees should remain about the same. Lynchburg-based BWX Technologies, the new company, will have about 4,500 workers formerly employed at B&W. BWXT will focus solely on the nuclear industry, while the company’s steam-generating-equipment business will stay with B&W. (*The News & Advance*)

Henrico County-based **Baby Jogger Inc.** is being bought by the owner of Graco strollers. Newell Rubbermaid Inc. announced plans to buy Baby Jogger for \$210 million. The deal should close by the end of the fourth quarter, subject to regulatory approvals. Baby Jogger, the designer and manufacturer of high-performance strollers, is owned by private-equity firm The Riverside Co., which took a majority stake in a 2012 transaction. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

Live Well Financial Inc. announced in November that it will hire 120 people to work at its corporate headquarters in the Boulders office park in north Chesterfield County. The announcement came nearly four months after Live Well said it was hiring 100 people to staff a call center that it was opening Oct. 1 in the Arboretum office complex. At the same time, the company added 200 jobs for a call center in San Diego. The company is a lender for conventional mortgage loans, mortgages insured by the Federal Housing Administration and reverse mortgages. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)

Virginia Commonwealth University joined the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) as its fifth academic member. CCAM, based in Prince George County, is a collaborative research organization involving public universities and industry representatives. (*VirginiaBusiness.com*)

People

Toni R. Ardabell, named chief executive officer for Bon Secours Richmond Health System, effective Jan. 1. Ardabell also will continue as CEO of Bon Secours’ St. Mary’s Hospital and St. Francis Medical Center. She will report to **Peter J. Bernard**, Bon Secours Virginia Health System CEO, who previously led both Bon Secours Richmond and Bon Secours Virginia. (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*)



Jonathan Davis, named president of Martha Jefferson Hospital in Charlottesville, effective mid-January. Davis currently is president of Methodist Charlton Medical Center in Dallas. (*News release*)

Pamela Hammond, provost at Hampton University, named interim president at Petersburg-based Virginia State

University, effective Jan. 1. **Keith Miller**, president of VSU since 2010, announced on Oct. 31 that he would step down as president as of Dec. 31 but remain on staff as a tenured faculty member. (*Daily Press*)



Herschel V. Keller, tapped to lead Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP’s new Lynchburg office. Keller lives in Lynchburg, where he has

practiced law for the past 15 years. The firm is based in Roanoke. (*VirginiaBusiness.com*)



Dr. Sheldon Retchin, tapped to lead Ohio State’s Wexner Medical Center starting next spring. He is senior vice president for health sciences at Virginia Commonwealth University and CEO of VCU Health System. (*VirginiaBusiness.com*)