

THE ROTUNDA

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MLK Unity March, Jan. 20, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda

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Table of Contents

Staff and Table of Contents 01

Junior Marshal Team 02

FEATURES

Unity March 03

NEWS

Eminent Domain 04

Enrollment Concerns 09

AI Task Force 10

PHOTO GALLERY 07

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Wicked 11

A Complete Unknown (Bob Dylan) 12

SPORTS

Longwood Women's Basketball 13

Crossword 14

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By Jordan McPherson | News Staff | @longwoodrotunda

On January 20, 2025, students, faculty, staff, and community members representing all parts of Longwood, Hampden-Sydney, and Farmville came together for the student-led Unity March and forum held at the Robert Russa Moton Museum.

The date was both Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Inauguration Day. Two hours before the march, Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States. In an interview, Longwood junior and march organizer Logan Macklin said, “I feel like, on this day, we have two major figures in American history, but on such opposite sides of the spectrum.”

“I think politics, sadly, has become such an integral part in American everyday life, that we have to work together... and really understand what we need as a people to move forward together,” said Macklin.

In his opening remarks, Macklin recalled the presidential election. He said, “I remember walking on campus [on November 6], like it was yesterday. There was a feeling on campus that I had never felt before. It felt heavy.”

“Since that day, I knew we needed something like this. I knew that we needed to all come together and help push and re-energize our focus,” said Macklin. “Martin Luther King, Jr. was focused on bringing people together rather than dividing people. And I think that that is the purpose of this event.”

The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. James Fedderman, former Virginia Education Association president and Longwood class of 1998.

UNITY MARCH:

THE ONLY WAY THROUGH IS TOGETHER

Fedderman’s speech centered on the importance of community support in advocating for racial, social, and economic justice. “Only when we are an organization, people, commonwealth, and a nation that makes ‘with liberty and justice for all’ a reality for all, will we experience the kinds of security and peace of mind that we seek and deserve. Then it matters not who is sitting in the White House, because we will be a Commonwealth that takes care of everyone,” he said.

Macklin closed the forum with a call for unity. “I think Dr. King would have wanted us to, regardless of the color of our party or the color of our skin, to come together and move forward together as a university, as a campus, and as a community,” he said.

As attendees marched out of Moton as one, Longwood’s Chief of Police Angela

Comer filled the auditorium with song. She sang “We Shall Not Be Moved” and “We Shall Overcome,” songs which empowered the Labor and Civil Rights movements of the 1930s-60s. Some sang, most clapped or stomped along, and the sound of solidarity reverberated through the halls of the historic Civil Rights landmark.

On the importance of the Unity March for minority students, Macklin said, “One thing that made it so important for me was, a lot of the time on these campuses, we feel alone.” He added, “Being able to have that sense of community and power can really be a change factor.”

When he started planning this event, Macklin was prepared to do it alone. Soon, he found support in Comer, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Moton Museum, Hampden Sydney’s Minority Student Union, and numerous other organizations and people from the Farmville community.

“It really made me emotional when I saw my event being sent to every student on campus, and I think it honestly helped that, ironically, getting postponed just added another email into students’ inboxes,” said Macklin.

“This event shows that change is possible,” said Macklin, reflecting on the march. “Just because you are the only person who might feel a way about something, 100% of the time, you’re not the only one.”

“I think that this march, this protest, this day of Unity, shows that anything is possible,” he said.



Unity March, Jan. 20, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda

"LASTING OFFENSE & PAIN:"

LONGWOOD COLLEGE'S GROWTH AT A COMMUNITY'S EXPENSE

By Nick Hamlett | Assistant Photo Editor | @longwoodrotunda
Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel

Bordering the southern end of Longwood's campus are over a dozen houses representing a once-vibrant community that lived where parking lots, academic buildings, and residence halls stand today. As evidenced by historical records, media reports, and eventually recognized by university administration, then-Longwood College frequently used eminent domain to roll over a predominantly black community in the name of campus expansion.

Matt McWilliams, university spokesman and deputy to the president, said, "Longwood sought and got permission to use eminent domain throughout the decades in the middle part of the century." He continued, "The threat of that being used would often prompt

them to sell their homes to Longwood."

Longwood's use of the practice formally ended 21 years ago, after a public promise from then-university President Patricia Cormier. President W. Taylor Reveley IV and the Board of Visitors formally apologized in a resolution passed in 2014, referencing the "real and lasting offense and pain in our community."

Eminent domain is the legal practice which allows the government to force owners to sell their private property for "just compensation," if the property will be used for "public use." Longwood, as a public university, was able to use eminent domain to rapidly expand the campus into its current triangular shape.

According to college master plans

covering 1962-1968, provided through Longwood's archive for the purpose of this reporting, then-Longwood College was expecting an increase in enrollment of 800 students to total 1,900 undergraduates by 1970. The plan published in October 1960 stated, "A survey was made to determine what areas are lacking and what facilities would have to be added or changed to efficiently accommodate the proposed increase in enrollment."

An updated master plan was approved by Longwood's board in 1966, covering the years 1966-1972, in which then-Longwood College reported improvements made in the general appearance of the campus during the past six years, especially in the fields of landscaping and sidewalks.

The plan directly references dozens of acquisitions, mostly homes listed as “dwellings,” and the Race Street Baptist Church, a predominantly black church founded in 1890. Records show costs of demolition fees, purchases, and construction on streets that were previously occupied. The church and its neighbors were forcefully relocated through eminent domain in 1967, and later demolished.

None of the college’s master plans from that time include specific references to the use of eminent domain. Official confirmation would come nearly four decades later.

A July 1, 1967 article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch references frustration from state government officials with then-Longwood College President Dr. James H. Newman for delays in campus construction and usage of state-allocated monies. Newman attributed the delays to families still in their homes after the college had purchased them.

The article stated Dr. Newman “had been reported as saying the college’s expansion plans were being hindered by local controversies over displacing and relocating Negro families.” The article then references Newman being given an “unrequested leave of absence” as college president. Later that year, Dr. Henry I. Willett, Jr. took office.

The next available campus master plan, dated July 1985 under then-President Janet D. Greenwood, again focused on potential campus expansion for student housing and the need to meet related demands.

Two years later, as reported in the Sept. 15, 1987 edition of The Rotunda, then-Longwood College continued to use and/or threaten eminent domain. In a front-page article, news editor Matt Peterman summarized a recent Board meeting, writing, “The Longwood College Board of Visitors unanimously approved a motion proposed by rector, Thomas D. Rust, that would implement eminent domain, the power of government to take land for public use, as a last resort concerning the master plan and more specifically, the construction of new parking lots.”

In the article, Peterman wrote, “The decision is against the cry of residents represented by the committee to save our neighborhood, who believed a compromise on the situation could be reached, concerning the expansion of Longwood College. Eventually the college may expand to where approximately sixty homes now stand. Currently seven homes are affected in the area of Hooper, S. Main, Franklin, and Pine Streets, located south of the College.”

The article continues, “James E. Ghee, a member of the Citizens Committee, listened to the proposal with concern. He stated earlier in the year that it was ‘A slap in our face



*Longwood's Campus from Above, 1960's
Courtesy of Longwood University*

for Longwood to develop a master plan that drastically impacts on the black community... (and for it)... not have any input into it...' On Saturday he said, 'In essence, they are saying "We are going to do what we want to and we don't want to deal with the community."'

The article was The Rotunda’s last reference to the college’s use of eminent domain.

The next campus master plan, dated October 1991, references a slowing of property purchases. “Land acquisition by the College has historically been in a southern direction. These older minority neighborhoods have been mostly razed with only homes fronting Griffin Boulevard and a single block between Race Street and Pine Street south of Franklin remaining.” It adds, “While it is anticipated that the College will remain a willing buyer of properties within the High/ Main/ Griffin triangle, very little property acquisition is mandated by the proposed Master Plan.”

Cormier took over as president in 1996, leading the transition from college to university, while simultaneously focusing on the development of the campus’ physical space. Eight years into her term, Cormier and the Board of Visitors made it Longwood policy to refrain from using eminent domain in the future.

Under Reveley's administration, as part of the Board of Visitors 2014 resolution, university leadership expressed regret for the usage of eminent domain.

The resolution in part read, “WHEREAS, in subsequent years, after passing from direct state governance to governance by an appointed Board of Visitors in 1964,

Longwood caused real and lasting offense and pain to our community with its use of eminent domain to facilitate campus expansion, and acted with particular insensitivity with regard to the relocation of a house of worship.”

McWilliams said Longwood is no longer actively approaching homeowners about selling their property. “We wouldn’t have those conversations until the property went up for sale, or until a property owner reached out to the university and expressed an interest in selling their property. We don’t initiate that conversation,” he said.

Reflecting on the university’s history of eminent domain use, McWilliams said, “I don’t think it was necessary or unavoidable in the way that [campus expanded]. I think it could have been done and should have been done in a much different way than it was, and I think the way that it was done caused deep pain and deep anguish. If we were in the position now where we were, growing at the rate that they were growing back then... we would certainly go about figuring out how to expand in a much different way, and we would certainly not acquire property through those means, which was really, really regrettable.”

This is the first of an anticipated series of articles by The Rotunda chronicling the college’s use of eminent domain, and its impact on the local community. The Rotunda’s Editorial Board encourages people willing to share their stories or provide information to contact the staff at therotunda@live.longwood.edu.



*Longwood's Campus from Above, 1970's
Courtesy of Longwood University*



*Artists rendering of 2025 Campus Master Plan, created in 2015
Courtesy of Longwood University*

PHOTO GALLERY



*Drag Queen Bingo, Jan. 25, 2025
Connor Prue / The Rotunda*



*Unity March, Jan. 20, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



*CPC Bid Day, Jan. 13, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



*MBB v. High Point, Jan. 17, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda*



Unity March, Jan. 20, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



WBB v. Radford, Jan. 23, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



Spring Involvement Fair, Jan. 30, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



'Last Lecture,' Feb. 4, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



Spring Involvement Fair, Jan. 30, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



CPC Bid Day, Jan. 13, 2025
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REVELEY, FERGUSON ADDRESS ENROLLMENT CONCERNS

By Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel

Longwood University has faced a growing trend among institutions of Higher Education, which have faced issues of declining enrollment – partially due to the ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also due to the rapidly-approaching ‘enrollment cliff.’ The enrollment cliff is a term used often by researchers to describe a phenomenon in higher education created by lower birth rates during the Great Recession of 2007 until 2009.

An October 7, 2024 report released by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) revealed low viability risks to Longwood University, but potentially troubling signs for the enrollment of the institution.

As part of their report, JLARC broke down enrollment numbers and trends, showing Longwood placing the third worst in the state in terms of growth over the past decade. Longwood’s FTE (Full-Time Equivalent) Enrollment dropped 17% since 2013, ahead of Radford (-29%) and Mary Washington (-20%), but behind 12 others, including Old Dominion University (-14%), Virginia Commonwealth University (-7%), and others.

Longwood President W. Taylor Reveley IV, who took office in 2013 amid a then-historic high for enrollment at Longwood, said in a December interview with The Rotunda enrollment at Longwood is and remains strong.

“The snapshot of a decade actually catches Longwood at its highest enrollment, FTE or head count, by whatever measure, that it’s had over its almost two centuries,” Reveley said. “So, if you zoom the camera out a little bit further and look at, say, a 20-year look or a 30-year look... the enrollment of the present moment is in keeping with where we’ve been over the last generation, more or less.”

For context, 20 years ago in 2004, Longwood sat at 3,739 Undergraduate Students (~12% higher than 2024) and 4,289 Total Students (~7% lower than 2024). 30 years ago in 1994, Longwood sat at 3,006 Undergraduate Students (~10%

lower than 2024) and 3,351 Total Students (~37% lower than 2024).

In the same time period, statewide FTE enrollment increased 6%, assisted by increases in enrollment at larger schools such as Virginia Tech (22%), George Mason University (21%), James Madison University (20%), and others. In fact, according to JLARC, “Two of the state’s largest institutions (GMU and Virginia Tech) grew more than the entire student population at seven institutions,” including Longwood.

Reveley partially pointed towards national trends to explain the drop in undergraduate enrollment over the last two decades. In part, he pointed towards the ‘enrollment cliff,’ a long-discussed phenomenon in higher education as a result of quickly-dropping birth rates.

As reported by Courthouse News Service, birth rates began to plummet around 2008-2010, as the Great Recession discouraged already-struggling young people from having children. While the ‘cliff’ began to plateau, and in-fact slightly increase, the years leading to the COVID-19 pandemic saw declines.

“Birth rates are declining, which is a very new phenomenon for America,” Reveley said. “Previously in American history, each generation was significantly bigger than the generation before it, and instead, we’re right at the cusp of seeing a phenomenon of the population beginning to plateau, and that the generation that’s coming of age now is not going to be as big as the generation before.”

This trend will take particular effect in the coming years, as teenagers born in 2008 will turn 18-years-old within the next two years. However, the trend has already begun. According to Reveley, “Nationally, the number of freshmen at 4-year colleges and universities was actually down by eight-or-eight-and-a-half percent this fall.”

Dean of Admissions Jason Ferguson, who previously served as Director of Admissions at Hampden-Sydney College, said in a December interview with The Rotunda this trend is worrying for colleges and universities across the country. He

said, “If you ever talk to any admissions professional, and they tell you that’s not a concern, they’re lying.”

However, Ferguson said Longwood is in a good position to buck national trends. He said, based on what he has seen from other institutions, Longwood is currently outperforming when it comes to recruitment.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) reports Longwood has seen a consistent increase in freshman numbers since Fall 2021. That semester, Longwood brought in 786 ‘New Freshmen,’ meaning this was their first time in college. In Fall 2024, 915 ‘New Freshmen’ arrived at Longwood, a ~16% increase. “That’s swimming upstream against a lot of my colleagues,” Ferguson said. “If you’re flat right now, you’re doing well.”

That said, ensuring continued growth remains a challenge. Reveley, however, isn’t concerned about Longwood’s ability to attract new students.

“At a very practical level. I very much believe that people fall in love with Longwood, fall in love with Farmville, when they have the chance to actually physically come and make that visit,” he said. As the primary driving force behind getting students to attend Longwood, he believes there is strength in Longwood’s academic culture.

“What really shines through at that more heartfelt level, philosophical level, is as so much of higher education nationally, but honestly statewide, too, drifts away from the classroom being sacred space and having full time professors who really love teaching, as higher education drifts away from that, we are a boat against the current, and we really put a heavy emphasis on just that,” Reveley said.

Ferguson added on this, and said, “All we have to do is get them to campus and get them to town and they see who we are. It’s not just the buildings, but they get to see the people... And there’s just a feeling about this place that doesn’t come across all the time in brochures or websites.”

PROVOST'S TASK FORCE

COLLECTING FEEDBACK ON AI USAGE & POLICIES

By Tyler Bagent | Editor-in-Chief | @tillerbagel
Jordan McPherson | News Staff | @longwoodrotunda

To address the ongoing debate concerning Artificial Intelligence (AI) usage in academics at Longwood, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Larissa Smith assembled an AI Task Force in August 2024. The Task Force has been directed to provide recommendations to Academic Affairs and the university community regarding best practices for AI usage.

In an interview with The Rotunda, Assistant Provost for Academic Outreach and Dean of the Greenwood Library Dr. Brent Roberts – who chairs the AI Task Force – shared a list of members, consisting of faculty and staff across the university. It also includes representatives from the Center for Faculty Enrichment (CAFE), the Digital Education Collaborative (DEC), Student Conduct & Integrity, IT and the Student Government Association (SGA).

“Hopefully, it'll provide some forums where faculty and students can discuss how they are using AI, and we can approach a way that allows some flexibility for everyone,” Roberts said. The Task Force distributed a survey to faculty members and is in the process of sorting through the results.

According to Roberts, the end goal of the Task Force – officially titled the ‘Provost’s Task Force on AI In Teaching and Learning’ – is to determine a “package of recommendations that will go to the provost.” This includes recommended policies, drafts of syllabus statements, and other resources.

Roberts said there will not be a “one-size-fits-all” policy, partially because different disciplines have different potential applications of AI, but also because there are a wide array of opinions from faculty on the applications and ethics of AI usage. “We have some faculty who are very excited about integrating AI into the curriculum... and at the other end of the spectrum, we’ve got people who think it’s a disservice to teach them AI,” Roberts said.

Dr. Don Blaheta, associate professor of computer science, said in an interview with The Rotunda reducing AI use to

plagiarism is “a misinterpretation of what AI is doing.” For the classroom, Blaheta said, “My AI policy is, essentially, it’s a tool. Let’s figure out what appropriate use of that tool means.”

While he does allow student use of AI, Blaheta recognizes its potential dangers. “My biggest academic concern is that, we all cut corners from time to time, because life comes at us, and if you do that once, whatever, but the student that is doing that routinely may be cheating themselves in a way that I can’t help them with, and I really do not have a good answer to that,” he said.

In an interview with The Rotunda, Dr. David Magill, professor of English and chair of the Department of English and Modern Languages said, “My main concern is that they would use it to replace their own thoughts and ideas, because in English, particularly for me, the whole point of taking an English class is to read and discuss and think about these things and get your own ideas and challenge your own ideas and communicate.”

While Blaheta and Magill are not members of the Task Force, as professors, they still face the realities of AI usage in the classroom. However, they have differing opinions on whether Longwood should enact across-the-board policies concerning AI.

Blaheta said, “I do think that it should be required that everybody state their policy explicitly... Other than that, I think it’s too early for the university to be setting that kind of university wide policy.”

Magill said, “I do think we need guidance that is consistent and that is rooted in fact... we need a policy that’s going to allow academic freedom to an extent, but also that those that are using it understand the concerns that animate the kind of difficulties of AI.”

Beyond the lone student representative on the Task Force, Roberts said a student survey is in the draft phase. He was unsure if there would be a question directly asking students if they had previously used AI for assignments. “In the last draft I saw, there was a question that was similar to that. Now, whether students will feel comfortable responding to that, it’s hard to say.”

Wicked / Universal Pictures



WE'RE OFF TO SEE WICKED

by Brandi Dawson | Arts & Entertainment Staff | @longwoodrotunda

In 2003, “Wicked” struck the Broadway stage. After its Broadway debut, “Wicked” quickly became one of the most successful Broadway shows of all time, being seen by more than 65 million people across the globe, according to the official Broadway site.

After being a hit on Broadway, fans were long awaiting a movie adaptation, which was announced in 2012. Finally, after 12 years of anticipation, and delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic and 2023 SAG-AFTRA strike, the movie version of “Wicked” was released on November 22, 2024.

The musical is based on the life of the Wicked Witch of the West from “The Wizard of Oz,” named Elphaba Thropp. The movie begins just after her demise in the original 1939 film, as the Good Witch of the North – Glinda Upland – sheds light on Elphaba’s origin story. While the musical isn’t technically canon, it offers a unique background on the story behind the classic film.

The movie itself is a perfect mix of music, action, fantasy, romance, and drama.

Not only is it incredibly entertaining, it consists of a talented and well-known cast. Some familiar names are Ariana Grande,

Cynthia Erivo, Jonathan Bailey, Peter Dinklage, and Jeff Goldblum. Everyone in this film gave stellar performances.

However, I have mixed opinions on the casting when it comes to vocal ability. While the main cast sounded amazing, I was slightly disappointed in the actors they chose for the Wizard and Madame Morrible. Jeff Goldblum and Michelle Yeoh are very talented actors, but I do not think their voices were strong enough to keep up with the rest of the cast.

Besides that, the songs in this movie are very well-written and sound stunning. Highlights include Erivo’s slightly-revised version of “Defying Gravity,” Grande and the cast’s gorgeous rendition of “No One Mourns the Wicked,” and Grande’s iconic performance of “Popular.”

I was especially impressed with the performances from Grande and Erivo, who played Glinda and Elphaba. While everyone knows that these women are very strong vocal artists, it was impressive to see them sing such difficult songs while acting. This movie overall was really well cast.

Another aspect from the film that I enjoyed was seeing the connections to

the Wizard of Oz. Many prequels or sequels separate themselves too heavily from the original, but that is not the case with Wicked.

The musical included pieces of “The Wizard of Oz,” like the flying monkeys, the yellow brick road and an extremely-brief cameo from the original four, all of which bring back memories of the original Oz.

Learning about and seeing a different side of the Wicked Witch of the West was one of the best parts of the film for me. The plot helps remind viewers that someone perceived as the villain in another story may have been misjudged or had a reason for their anger. It also shows how much power specific people have, and how those people can misuse their power.

Overall, I loved the film. It was honestly one of the best musicals I have ever seen and I would certainly watch it again. I look forward to the release of the second act, “Wicked: For Good,” in late 2025 – and I know it will not disappoint.

All in all, “Wicked” was my favorite movie of 2024 by far, and I would absolutely recommend going to see it.



"A COMPLETE UNKNOWN"

ANOTHER SIDE OF BOB DYLAN

by Elena Lavigne | Rotunda Alum

The ever-profitable genre of musician biopics struck again with James Mangold's "A Complete Unknown", a surprisingly solid biopic about the early years of Bob Dylan. Between an eclectic mix of songs, excellent casting, and a stellar final sequence, this movie succeeded in creating a balanced portrayal of an icon where similar biopics have failed, resulting in a film closer to "The Social Network" than "Bohemian Rhapsody".

Musician biopics are often rife with underdog stories, as though the tension of those stories isn't undercut by virtue of the films being made at all. "A Complete Unknown" sidesteps this conundrum entirely, focusing more on Dylan's immediate connections with established folk figures such as Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie than clashes with producers. It was a welcome spin on the biopic, skipping over tired scenes of dreaming of making it big or the subsequent self-pitying depictions of the struggles of fame.

Mangold does not shy away from portraying Dylan in a negative light. Throughout the film he cheats on his girlfriends, shows little genuine interest in social causes, and undermines friends out of self interest. As a general rule, if the Bob Dylan shown in "A Complete Unknown" associates with another individual, they will be somewhat worse off for it, a welcome change from the overly sanitized biopics of the recent past.

Timothee Chalamet, Monica Barbaro, and Edward Norton deliver stellar performances as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, and Pete Seeger respectively. Chalamet and Barbaro's vocals both perfectly encapsulate Dylan and Baez's singing voices, and while Chalamet's slurred (and often even incomprehensible) style of speaking can sound like a caricature at times, it is certainly an accurate portrayal of Bob Dylan.

The final sequence in the film, that of the 1965 Newport Folk Festival, is undoubtedly the standout. The last half hour of the movie shows Dylan at the Newport Folk Festival for a third time, now with a full electric band in tow – against the wishes of the managers of the festival, Seeger included. The sequence is fraught with tension as multiple parties attempt to dissuade Dylan from performing with a full band, something that conflicts directly with both the conventions of the folk genre and political goals of the festival.

At this point it is clear that Dylan holds little regard for the social causes dear to many of those involved with Newport. Emphasis is placed on the fact that his backing band is an all-white blues band, while the Civil Rights Movement was a cause supported by those performing at and attending the festival. Although the crowd's fury eventually gives way to some amount of interest, his performance does not end in changed minds and cheers – those only come after he returns to stage for an encore, alone with an acoustic guitar.

The depiction of the birth of folk rock isn't depicted as an uncomplicated triumph. Dylan is estranged from both Baez and Seeger, is unceremoniously broken up with, and leaves both the Newport Folk Festival and folk genre as a whole in ruins. In the end, he drives away alone, leaving the audience feeling more sympathy for the other figures in the film than Dylan himself.

"A Complete Unknown" gives me hope for the future of musician biopics, showing that the genre can do more than just serve as feel-good nostalgia fodder. With its nuanced portrayals of complex relationships, fame, and clashing values, it truly succeeds in showing another side of Bob Dylan.

WBB v. Radford, Jan. 23, 2025
Savannah Bartlett / The Rotunda



DOMINANT DEFENSE LEADS LONGWOOD WBB TO PROGRAM'S **BEST-EVER** BIG SOUTH START

Chris Matthey | Sports Editor | @longwoodrotunda

With half of conference play in the books, Longwood women's basketball roared out of the gate to their best start since joining the Big South in 2012. So far, the Lancers have already secured victories over last year's regular season champions, High Point, and the reigning tournament champions, Presbyterian.

Since being named the All-Tournament MVP in December's Shirley Duncan Classic, sophomore guard Amor Harris has been the Lancers' go-to shooter this season, leading the team in scoring. Longwood Head Coach Erika Lang-Montgomery complimented Harris' approach to her game, "She didn't just start putting in the work this season, she was putting in the work before she got to Longwood, even last year when she wasn't playing as many minutes. It says a lot about who she is as a person."

The emergence of Harris on the offensive side of the ball hasn't been the only thing that has paid dividends for the Lancers this season. Longwood's defense is among the best in all of women's college basketball.

Graduate guard Kiki McIntyre leads the entire country in steals with 87 as of Jan. 31. Lang-Montgomery's team has three players in the nation's top 30 in steals, with senior guards Mariah Wilson tied for twelfth with 61, and Malea Brown tied for twenty eighth with 56.

As a team, Longwood is first in all of NCAA women's D1 basketball in steals per game, averaging 14.9, and first in turnovers forced, at 26 per game. Their overall +7.77 turnover margin is good enough for fifteenth in the nation.

"[This is] the style of play that I wanted to do since I got to Longwood," said Lang-Montgomery. "We were able to show glimpses of it the first two years, but I think it had to be a total buy-in from everybody."

Longwood's only conference loss came by a single point on the road at USC Upstate on Jan. 25, and the Lancers responded by taking down Gardner-Webb at home on Jan. 29, led by Harris' 15 points. After the win, Lang-Montgomery

said, "Our response was great tonight. You never know when you have a tough loss, how the next game [will look], you could hang your head...or you could take a positive, next-game mentality."

For the players, they've focused on valuing team success over self, and their commitment to defense and shared scoring responsibility has been the key. The team also leads the Big South Conference in assists, at 14.6 per game.

McIntyre said, "We have no one who's selfish on our team. We don't have anyone who is going to take the last shot because they want extra points."

The first-place Lancers are one game ahead of High Point with eight games remaining before the Big South Tournament begins on March 5.

Sophomore forward Frances Ulysse, third on the team in scoring, said the team isn't getting ahead of themselves. "Even though we're on top, we're not taking it for granted and we're really focusing on the little details."

THE ROTUNDA

CROSSWORD

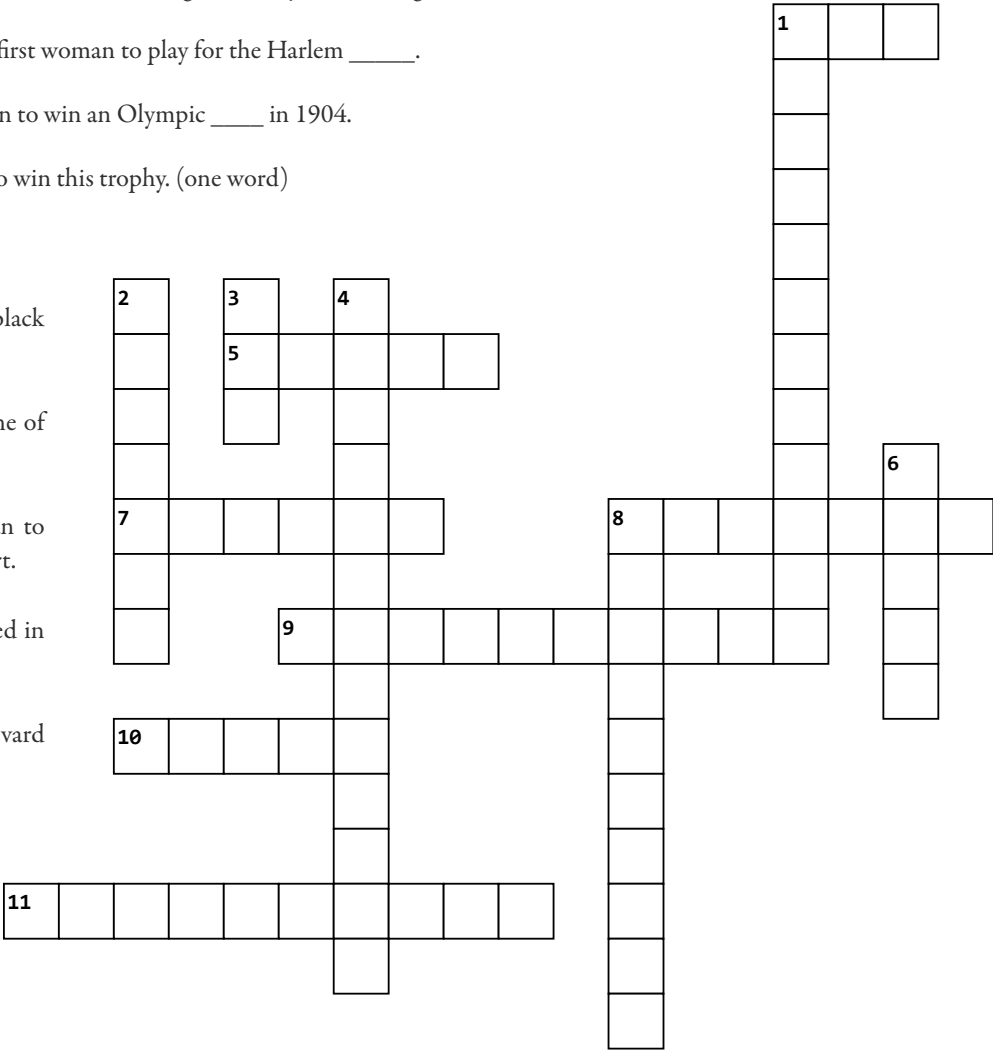
(BLACK SPORTS HISTORY)

DOWN:

1. Charles Follis, nicknamed "The _____", was the first black man to play professional football. (one word)
2. Robert L. _____ is the first black person to own majority share of a professional sports team.
3. Jerome Kersey was the first person to be drafted to this league directly out of Longwood.
4. In 1985, Lynette Woodard became the first woman to play for the Harlem _____.
6. George Poage became the first black man to win an Olympic _____ in 1904.
8. Grant Fuhr was the first black NHLer to win this trophy. (one word)

ACROSS:

1. _____ Fowler is the first known black professional baseball player.
5. Simone _____ is widely considered one of the greatest gymnasts of all time.
7. Kim Crabbe was the first black woman to play for the US National Team in this sport.
8. Sheryl _____ was the first person signed in the WNBA.
9. This black tennis great has a boulevard named for him in Richmond. (one word)
10. Wendell _____ was the first black NASCAR driver.
11. Ella _____ was the first black person to play the Super Bowl Halftime Show, at Super Bowl VI.



KEY:

- 1d. BlackCyclone
2. Johnson
3. NBA
4. Globetrotters
5. Biles
6. Medal
7. Soccer
- 8a. Swoopes
- 8d. StanleyCup
9. Arthur Ashe
10. Scott
11. Fitzgerald



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Recycle Bin



Inbox



Network
Neighborhood



Longwood
Univ. Network



My Briefcase

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