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Provost Nancy Mathews abruptly resigned Sept. 10. The

to her interim replacement, a familiar face from faculty.

to say about politics, the election and the state of the

It was the best of games, it was the worst of games

University football failed to deliver in Miami. Sports Editor

nation in our 2024 election coverage kick-off.

After a blazing season opener, Central Michigan

Kaja Zimmerman takes a look at what comes next.

same day, President Robert Davies introduced the campus

See what some Central Michigan University students have

A note from the editor-in-chief



By Lauren Rice Editor-in-chief

few weeks into the semester, some of the novelty has faded. Classes become demanding, we realize the odd habits of our roommates and we only went to Target once this week.

If that sounds drab or uncomfortable, fear not! For our political climate never ceases to entertain (even if it does occasionally disappoint).

For better or worse, there is always some-

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MANAGING EDITOR Masha Smahliuk

News Editor Courtney Boyd

SPORTS EDITORS Kaia Zimmerman Sydney Neal

VISUAL EDITORS Jo Kenoshmeg Ella Miller

thing going on. We have realized one

widespread shortcoming of media coverage of politics, however: It's reactionary. We let candidates set the agenda first, and ask citizens what you think second.

Within this paper, you will find a turn of those tables where we asked you what should be on the agenda. What issues are important to you?

It might not be what they're actively talking about.

You will also find advertisements from political candidates. Our policy is to accept legally compliant advertisements from those that pay us, and advertisements are in no way to be viewed as an endorsement. If you want

a particular candidate represented with an advertisement, we would be happy to sell you one.

This is not the first of our election coverage for the year, and do not expect it to be the last. As it is our responsibility as journalists and truth-tellers, this newsroom will not only be active in conveying messages to you, we will also convey your messages to the world.

There are a lot of different ways to be powerful, so as we get further into election season, consider how you can empower yourself. It's easier than you think, and even better when it's a group project.

Lauren Rice is Central Michigan Life's 2024-25 editor-in-chief.

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Sav his name ...

A change in leadership

In their own words

The ghost with the most is back from the cinematic dead with this fall's must-see flick, "Beetlejuice, Beetlejuice." Reviewer Carter Salley has the details.



Always watching

Did you catch the Sept. 10 debate? Visuals Editor Jo Kenoshmeg was with the nonpartisan Central Votes Coalition to capture the watch party action in video.

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On the cover: Senior running backs Myles Bailey (left) and Marion Lukes laugh while throwing chocolate chandies Thursday, Sept. 10, in Kelly/Shorts Stadium. (CM Life photo | Ella Miller)

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Keepin' it sweet

For Marion Lukes and Myles Bailey, friendship exceeds football.

By Sydney Neal Assistant sports editor

'n a small town like Mount Pleasant, a brotherhood can form in the most unexpected places. For the Central Michigan football running backs Marion Lukes and Myles Bailey, their bond was forged in the heat of competition, the familiarity of shared experiences and the hunger for greatness.

Lukes and Bailey were both born in Virginia and found their way to Michigan through different paths. They are now entering their senior years with each other. They've grown from talented freshmen into team veterans, with a friendship that fuels their on-field performance and inspires those around them.

From Virginia to **Central Michigan**

Bailey's introduction to football came early, thanks to his father, a former Division I athlete. Moving to New Jersey at the age of 9, Bailey's talent quickly made him a standout.

"I was a three-star coming out of high school," Bailey recalls. "I had Power Five offers, but ultimately, it came down to Central Michigan and Toledo."

A visit from Central Michigan's head coach sealed the deal for Bailey, who appreciated the family-like atmosphere of the program.

Lukes, on the other hand, had a different journey. Coming from a family of 12, Lukes was surrounded by athletes in every sport.

"Football wasn't even my first sport, I played baseball," Lukes said. "I started playing football when I was 5 and I was always pretty good, I guess. They used to limit how much I could play when I was younger because I would score every time I touched the football."

Growing up in Indiana, he was recruited by several schools that wanted him to switch positions, but Lukes was determined to play running back. With the choice between three different schools, an opportunity to see the

Chippewas' heavy running game at the time solidified his decision. "Coach Mac was a blessing to be around at the time," Lukes said. "I had a son when I was 15 years old, so my biggest thing was I wasn't trying to move away from him too far, and he made that seven-hour drive not feel so much like seven hours away."

While many expected competitions between the two young running backs, their connection was immediatethough it started with a bit of a mix-up.

"He took my dorm room," Bailey laughed. "We switched keys by accident.

"Coming in, I thought we were going to be rivals. but it turned into more friendly competition as we progressed. I was learning from him ... through time we became friendly competitors to brothers. I love him, he has my back, and I got his."

Learning and growing along the way

Lukes and Bailey have not only matured as athletes but also as individuals. Their time at Central Michigan has been a journey of discovery and self-improvement. Lukes reflected on his early days, where youthful confidence was replaced with an understanding of the discipline required for success.

"When you first come in, you're young and think you're invincible," he explained. "But over time, you learn the importance of the little things – like stretching, watching film and taking care of your body."

Lukes credits much of his growth to observing his mentors, particulary Chippewa alumnus Lew Nichols, whose work ethic and dedication left a lasting impact on him.

Bailey, too, saw his transformation extend beyond football.

"I was a little immature as a freshman," he admitted. "I wanted to live the college life, but then I realized I wanted to play. I got deeper into the playbook, and in life, I started reading and writing more. It's the little things



Ella Miller | Visuals editor

Senior running backs Myles Bailey (left) and Marion Lukes hold handfulls of M&M candies Tuesday, Sept. 10 in Kelly/ Shorts Stadium. The duo has a tradition of throwing chocolate candies when one of them scores a touchdown.

you must do to be successful."

Their off-field adventures further solidified their bond, with waiting for that email." one memorable experience being a camping trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes.

"We didn't know you needed a permit to camp," Lukes said. "We woke up to find a police officer outside our tent, and he gave us \$80 tickets. But it was still one of were kids. Our bodies hurt every the best experiences."

"It was like a big playground for us," Bailey said. "We went hiking, fishing and just had fun."

Together, their journey at Central Michigan has been about more than just football — it's been about personal growth, friendship and shared memories that will last a lifetime.

The M&M celebration and what's next

In their freshman year, Lukes and Bailey began a tradition known as the "M&M Celebration" after their shared initials. Every touchdown they scored would be celebrated by throwing the candy in the end zone.

"We joked about how cool it

would be to get sponsored by M&M," Bailey said. "We're still

As they look toward the future, their goals are clear: the NFL.

"There's no 'attempt' for us," Lukes said. "Plan A is to make it to the NFL. Plan B is to make sure Plan A works."

"We've been playing since we day, but this is what we love," Bailey said. "The NFL is the dream, even if it's just for one day."

As they enter their final season, Lukes and Bailey are already thinking about their legacy and what they want to leave behind for the younger players.

"Focus on doing what's right,"

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Bailey said. "You're in a small environment, and if you're looking for trouble, you'll find it. But if you focus on your goals, vou can accomplish anything."

Lukes said to take things dayby-day.

"It feels like just yesterday we were freshmen," Lukes said. "Enjoy the moment because it doesn't last forever."

For these two running backs, despite their final year playing together, there is one thing that won't change.

"Stay tuned," Lukes said. "Even when we separate, M&M is always going to be strong. You'll catch us both in the league, I can promise you that."



Campus news

'I'm very student focused' Paula Lancaster named interim provost and EVP

By Blace Carpenter Staff reporter

Rown for her role as the Dean of Education and Human Services, Paula Lancaster was officially named Interim Provost during the Academic Senate meeting on Sept. 10. This comes after the sudden resignation of Nancy Mathews, the now-former executive vice president and provost of Central Michigan University.

"At this time, the best way I can help the CMU community is to continue the great work this college is doing," Lancaster said. "My background is education, I'm very student-focused. ... I want to understand and learn students' barriers."

Lancaster has been working in higher education since 1999 and started her role as dean at CMU in 2020.

President Bob Davies said he "has always been impressed" with Lancaster's performance at CMU. During his report with Lancaster, he addressed Mathews's resignation and thanked Lancaster for swiftly accepting the interim position.

"I am extremely grateful that Dr. Paula Lancaster accepted my invitation to serve as our Interim Provost," Davies said. "I know that sudden change is very disruptive, especially when we have so many initiatives and goals underway."

Faculty and senate members said that they were shocked by the change but aren't nervous about Lancaster taking on the role.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," Senate member and Associate Dean of The Herbert H. & Grace A. Dow College of Health Professions Gregory Zimmerman said. "I worked with Paula (Lancaster) as dean, and she was outstanding. ... It's a big lift to step into that role."

Biology professor and Academic Senate chair Steve Juris said he has enjoyed working with both Mathews and Lancaster, and that the change is "bittersweet."

"It took me by surprise," Juris said. "I had the opportunity to work with Provost Mathews last semester as I was coming into this new role."

When asked who will be filling the role of Dean of Education and Human Services, Davies said that "there's always a domino effect with leadership changes," and that the college will be immediately looking for an interim dean.

HLC reaffirmation

process

Also during the meeting, Juris asked Vice Provost Dave Patton and Basic Course Director Kristen Weber to present the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) re-affirmation process that CMU will be undertake through 2026.

HLC is an accrediting organization that evaluates colleges and universities throughout the United States. Its mission is to "advance the common good through quality assurance of higher education," according to its website.

During the process, faculty are asked to volunteer to make sure every department is represented.

"It's important that we have representation across the university, across all divisions, and at all levels of representation," Weber said. "We want to make sure we have faculty and staff involved (and) from administration and staff as well."

This year, the college will be gathering and sending reports to HLC. A team of accreditors will visit campus next year to interview and inspect CMU.

University wins more than \$4M in grants

During her first report as interim provost, Lancaster talked about a list of 61 grants that CMU acquired since April.

"We have recently been reading off and acknowledging a significant number of



Paula Lancaster

extensive funding awards that we have been coming into the university," Lancaster said. "We have quite a list today ... it's a total sum of 61 awards of \$4,843,760."

Future Academic Senate meetings will occur at 3:30 p.m. every other Tuesday at the Education and Human Services building in the French Auditorium. Livestreams of this meeting and all future meetings can be found on CMU's website.

CM Life Editor-in-Chief Lauren Rice contributed to this

Life through our lens





Jasmine Brookins| Staff photographer

Flags fly in the lawn outside the Park Library on Wednesday, Sept. 11. Central Michigan University honored the nearly 3,000 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and on flight 93 on Patriot Day.

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Leading the change New faces bring fresh energy to the Center for Student Inclusion and Diversity

By Masha Smahliuk Managing editor

or Bee Taylor, the college experience meant finding work they were passionate about and discovering their identity. They said college was a comfortable space where they were able to embrace their queer identity.

This safety and opportunity to learn is what Taylor said they want to bring to Central Michigan University students in their new role as a director of LGBTQ Services and Gender Equity Programs.

"College is a really important and pivotal point for a lot of queer students, because they're away from their family and for the first time able to, one, focus on just themselves, and two, learn about different people," they said.

Taylor went to Western Michigan University to study music, but they soon discovered it was not for them. They also worked at Western's Office of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender Student Services center, where they were an ally to support the community.

"My journey through higher education was a little bit messy," they said. "I had a bit of a life crisis, and I didn't really know what to do."

Before going to Western, Taylor said they didn't have time to learn about their sexuality or gender because "family life was really chaotic at home, and there was a lot of stuff going on."

"As a young person, I always said that I was straight, but that if I met a girl who I really liked and thought I wanted to date, I would date her," Taylor said. "I cried the day that marriage equality passed."

At college, Taylor was comfortable to come out to their friends and colleagues at the LGBT Stu-



The Director of LGBTQ+ Programs and Gender Equity, Bee Taylor, poses for a portrait in their office Thursday, Sept. 5 in the Bovee UC.

dent Services office. Soon, they told their parents about their sexuality. By the end of their sophomore year, they were using they/them pronouns exclusively.

That was also when the dream and plan to become a director of an LGBTQ+ center was born.

"My director at the time ... was like a mentor to me. ... I was laying on the floor, and I was freaking out ... he was like: 'OK, well, vou don't know what to do. What do you want to do?" Taylor said. "I was like: 'Well, I want your job."

At that moment, they wrote in their passion planner that they would become the director of an LGBTQ+ center. And at the end of this August, Taylor arrived to take their dream position at CMU.

"It's given me a lot of sense of pride, but also confidence that I can do the work and that students appreciate it, and it's

useful, and it's beneficial," they said. "I'm really proud of myself, but also excited to be here. This is ... a type of institution that I've always wanted to work at."

At CMU, Taylor said they want to focus on providing

programming, support services, advocacy, training and education for the campus community.

They said they are excited about the October and November events that will celebrate the LGBTQ+ History month, International Pronouns Day, National Coming Out Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Taylor said they want the events to appeal to everyone. Their goal is to create a space where questioning or unsure students have a safe space to explore their identities.

Taylor learned the importance of this while working at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

According to the U of M website, 55% of the population in Dearborn is Arab-American. Taylor said the campus is also small, communal and many students are non-degree-seeking or non-traditional, which could be challenging.

"A lot of queer people of color come out a little bit later in life because they're dealing with racism from day one, whereas as a young person, you may or may not be experiencing homophobia or transphobia at the time," Tavlor said.

They said even though they may not fully understand the experiences of people of color, their background makes them more sensitive to the diversity and understanding of many ways that people come out and experience sexuality.

Taylor had an opportunity to

come across different cultures also because their stepmother is Filipino, their brother is mixed and their father is a citizen of Britain.

"I think having a much less-traditional or expected coming out makes me more sensitive to others who do not know for their whole life that they are a certain way," Taylor said.

Some of their other goals are to have sexual health products and resources, such as a list of queer or trans people on staff or faculty, available for students.

They said they will also continue advocacy work making the campus climate more inclusive.

"I think our queer students often get overlooked, because a lot of them don't complete school," Taylor said.

In the United States, more than a third of LGBTQ+ students dropped out of a four-year college, transferred or considered dropping out, according to a 2022 study by the Williams Institute.

"I really hope that they can see that the work that I'm doing is here to help get students to matriculate and to be successful," Taylor said. "I hope that they know that I am very similar or I have an experience that is very similar to a lot of students that are coming here."

Kasey Perez

Kasey Perez, the new director of Indigenous Affairs at CMU, can also relate to students on Central's campus.

Perez started her journey at CMU in 2009, when her mom, two sisters and three cousins enrolled.

"I was just able to really find my home at CMU," Perez said. "I just had such a good experience, and I ended up being able to show that and tell that to my

younger sisters. ... We're really also [a] very traditional family, so we wanted to be involved with Native American programming ... and when we've seen how much CMU does within that area, that became a driving force for our whole family to be involved."

Perez is from Hannahville Indian Community, a band of the Potawatomi that's in the Upper Peninsula. She said she went to a small K-through-12 school on the reservation with her cousins.

"I had a culture shock when I came to Mount Pleasant, because I was like, 'Oh, Mount Pleasant's so big," Perez said. "Now I'm like, 'Mount Pleasant is not that big."

At CMU, Perez was on the PowWow planning committee, and said that the Office of Indigenous Affairs helped her to connect with other Native students.

"When you come from a traditional family or a tight knit community, a small reservation, it's really hard to ... not be around anybody that you grew up with," she said. "I was able to meet other Native students and network through the office, and then they helped me with professional development, everything, even personal things where I would be homesick, or if I was going through mental health things myself."

After college, Perez worked at Bay Mills Community College as an academic advisor. Back in Mount Pleasant, she was in the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe's education program and then the Student Transition Enrichment Program (STEP) academic advisor at CMU.

Now, as the director of Indigenous Affairs, Perez hopes to re-create the home environment for Native students that she felt during her college years.

"I feel like it's very full-circle moment for me, and I feel like when people say that it's very full-circle, they mean that they're almost at some sort of end," Perez said. "But I feel like it's very full-circle beginning for me."

One of her goals is to research how Indigenous students would be able to smudge with sage on campus. She is also excited for the advocacy work and creating "very robust programing" to get people involved with Native American Heritage Month on campus in November.

"You don't need to be Indigenous ... to be involved with the programming and advocacy," Perez said. "Everybody is welcome here. We want you to come in. We want you to learn."

Perez said it is important for CMU students to learn about Native American culture because CMU is wearing the Chippewa name.

"The more programming we go to, the more we understand one another, and ... the less room for ignorance there is, the less room for misunderstanding and miscommunication," Perez said.



Courtesy photo | Kasey Perez Director of Indigenous Affairs Kasey Perez she said she found a sense of home as a CMU student, and is eager to help today's students do the same.

"It's a beautiful thing when we can start understanding each other's cultures ... and when we do that, we start seeing similarities between our cultures. ... The differences become smaller."



'It's your future' CVC co-chair talks voter participation, youths' influence

By Courtney Boyd News editor

T's a presidential election year, and political discussions are seemingly unavoidable. Students across Central Michigan University's campus said they feel like the country is polarized, and some said they stay out of politics altogether aaza of how complicated things are.

But some campus groups, like Central Votes, believe students shouldn't shy away from politics, but instead learn about it and make a difference through voting. They believe that the youth vote matters now more than ever, and say it could even shift the tides of this year's election.

Norma Bailey is the co-chair for the Central Votes Coalition and a member of the League of Women Voters at CMU. A retired faculty member, she said she found her passion in civic education after going on a Civil Rights tour in Alabama. She learned that the youth had a huge impact on the movement, and she said it changed her perspective.

"I thought if youth could make a difference down there, they can make a difference here too," she said.

By the numbers

Since then, Bailey has led and witnessed a number of political events and changes on campus. When she started the Central Votes in 2014, she said CMU only had 16% voter participation. As of 2022, she said that number had tripled, reaching roughly 46%.

Additionally, during coalition's 10 years of operation, voter registration rates have risen; rates started at around 59% in 2014 and reached 88% in 2022.

Bailey said she believes this happened because Central Votes advocated for voter registration and civic education even when there weren't major elections.

"If you want kids to know voting matters, it's gotta matter all the time," she said. "I have 20 years left of my future, you have 80. Don't you want to have a voice in that?"

The impact of the youth vote

Bailey said she believes the younger generation impacts elections "tremendously," and said she believes they could easily sway any election if they all collectively voted.

Her claim is reflected in national data. According to an elections report from the state of Michigan, 40.8 million United States citizens who are ages 18 to 27 will be eligible to vote in this year's election. The report says this would be one-sixth of voters nationwide.

The state also led the nation in youth voter turnout in 2022, at 37.6%.

Despite this, youth turnout across the state was rocky that year. The report shows that roughly 60% of younger eligible voters in Isabella County did not vote, and the state as a whole averaged at 59.2%.

Different types of voice

Bailey said lower turnout could be due to students growing up during a time where they may have been told their vote doesn't count. She said it's important for them to know their voice does matter, through protests, petitions and voting.

"Protests are great, but you have to vote, too," she said. "Your voice makes a difference,



but the best voice you have is the one in the ballot box."

Bailey said she doesn't just strive for students to vote, but to actively focus on what's happening in politics. She said everything in life connects back to politics, and that the young generation should pay attention because they are impacted by the people that represent them.

The general election is on Nov. 5. Bailey said students who want to vote early can do so in Powers Hall from Oct. 26 to Nov. 3. In the meantime, various civic education events will be occurring across campus, such as Ten Tuesdays, events out on the lawn and events hosted by the College Democrats and College Republicans.

" Line the second se

— Norma Bailey, Co-chair of Central Votes Coalition

Opinion

How do you feel about politics and the state of the country?

Compiled by Courtney Boyd and Masha Smahliuk | News editor and managing editor



Reann Nelson Senior

"I think they're a little too polarizing. People can't meet each in a respectful way in a conversation where you can walk away and say 'I don't completely agree with you, but I respect your worldview'.



Adriana Acles Sophmore "They're definitely complicated and way-too divided right now."



Noah Orol Senior

"Every politician kind of sucks. I don't like the two-party system, I think it divides the United States whereas we should all work under one roof, cause we're in the same country."



Keisha Rodgers Freshman

"I don't know who I'm voting for yet, but I know it's not gonna be Trump. I was not a fan of when he took away Roe v. Wade, and I feel like he's just not good for the country."



Brayden Mhadley Freshman

"It's a mess. I can definitely tell by seeing the comments on different social media outlets... And now we're at the decision between Kamala Harris and Trump for president, so I'm always seeing the ads."



Chioma Asomugha Sophomore

"I feel like there's a lot of polarization going on and people don't want to talk about what actually matters. People are more defensive and like, "This is what I think, and you're wrong.""



Zoey Lawrence | Staff designer

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

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Of liberal and conservative



By Courtney Boyd News editor

In less than two months, citizens of the United States of America will get to vote on who will be the next president of their country. As election day approaches, political conversations and advertisements are getting harder to avoid, and burning questions are being asked both to candidates and to peers.

Some topics are pressing issues on the

More than just buzzwords, political labels get tossed around but carry significant weight

ballot, such as the war in Israel and Palestine, inflation and abortion rights. But some conversations are more flagrant and seemingly off topic or outlandish, with the goal of dividing or getting an upper hand as opposed to actually focusing on current issues.

These conversations see phrases like "woke," "cancel culture," "fascists" and "snowflakes" thrown around -- mostly used in an effort to provoke fear or rage in voters. These phrases are also known as "buzzwords."

Two more buzzwords that only make the political puddle even more muddy are "liberals" and "conservatives." Many politicians and voters use the terms liberal and Democrat interchangeably, as well as conservative and Republican. But these terms actually aren't interchangeable, and it can further alienate members of these parties by assuming they relate to the extreme wings of the left or right.

Allow me to explain.

The terms liberal and conservative actually describe a specific belief system or position on issues, and are the most "extreme" sides of the spectrum (though you could argue the spectrum could just be a circle, but that's a topic for another day).

In simpler terms, liberal ideology is the far-left side of the spectrum, advocating for more social changes like universal healthcare, abortion rights, stricter gun control and same-sex marriage. Of course, some ideas on the liberal side can be even more extreme, such as wanting to defund the police and completely recreate the prison system, or to completely abolish private ownership of property/production and convert it to collective ownership.

Conservative ideology is the opposite: the far right side of the spectrum that advocates for things to stay the same or to be more rigid. This ideology advocates for things such as increased border security, the free market, gun rights and allowing religion in schools. Just like the

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liberal side, some conservative ideas can be more extreme, like banning contraceptives and surrogacy pregnancies or removing slavery and colonization from U.S history books.

But how do the United States' two largest political parties fit into this? Political parties will tend to support certain ideologies. Democrats push for policies that increase healthcare access and supporting the working class, and Republicans push for national defense policies and less government regulation economically.

Notice how while these policies tilt one way or another, they are not the same as the extremes mentioned for the belief systems. That is where interchanging titles hurts party members.

Not all Democrats want to completely dismantle and recreate the prison system, and not all Republicans want to censor the racism in U.S. history. But when politicians and voters group them together, polarization occurs, and it can make many people afraid to share their political beliefs because they fear others think they're extremely left or extremely right.

Identifying with a political party should give others an idea of what you support, but not the assumption you support 100% liberal or conservative ideologies just because you're a Democrat or Republican.

The truth is, most voters are more in the middle on issues, or they may lean left on one issue and right on another. The political "spectrum" is a great way to describe it, as most people will not sit perfectly in the middle, or to the far right or far left.

It just so happens those on the farthest ends are the loudest, and their loudness creates the stereotypes and harmful, interchangeable terms we've been left with. Understanding the difference is important, because "far left" and "far right" beliefs do not describe the people of this country, but the extremists of the country.

Courtney Boyd is Central Michigan Life's news editor. She is a senior majoring in journalism and minoring in media arts.



Zoey Lawrence | Political cartoonist

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Not as bad as we thought?

fter watching the presidential debate Tuesday night, we were underwhelmed. There was no aggressive off-topic bickering and we don't even know who has a better golf swing.

But it was a lot to take in. There are a few different ways to look at that 90 minute debacle that we'll explore here: Whether the candidate answered the question, how they addressed their own reputations and (for fun) who was the most out-of-pocket.

Just answer the question

The moderators of this debate did well in a few areas. They were more aggressive in actively fact-checking the candidates, which was refreshing, but they also developed questions that are relevant to what's going on in the country and in the world.

In general, Vice President Kamala Harris was more effective in actually answering the questions presented to her. Presenting her plan to boost the economy with specific tax credits, her interest in reinstating the practices of Roe v. Wade and a two-state solution in the Middle East.

While she answered the question about her position on the extraction of natural oils, also known as fracking, explaining that she would not ban it. Her answer was most likely unsatisfactory to both of the interest groups she was trying to appeal to.

Environmentalists wouldn't appreciate her unwillingness to ban the practice, but she wasn't firm enough on keeping it to appeal to the pro-fracking traditional energy faction.

But that pales in comparison to former President Donald Trump's performance. He answered every question with concise, clear — nope. Just kidding. If he didn't have an answer he wanted to share, Trump resorted to fear mongering about immigrants "pouring in" from the Southern border.

He did this for nearly every question, including those about the Israel-Hamas war, contention over his loss in 2020, the events of Jan. 6, 2021 and the economy.

Resolving their reputations

Trump and Harris were both confront-



Kamala Harris

ed by questions about their policy and leadership history — Harris for fracking and the Southern border, and Trump to see if he had any regrets for the way the Jan. 6 insurrection played out, along with his recent comments about losing the 2020 election "by a whisker."

Trump failed to answer whether he had any regrets about the insurrection, redirecting to immigration, and gave multiple conflicting answers to his contentious-but-confirmed loss in 2020

- also redirecting to immigration (see a theme yet?).

If there was a message Trump was trying to convey here, it got lost somewhere between his brain and his mouth. But given his almost total lack of direct answers to policy questions, it's questionable whether he had one in the first place.

Harris was prone to using a lot of platitudes. The Democrats right now are experiencing a surge of energy and new identity as the "party of joy" that she was inclined to play on. She made a habit of pointing out she grew up middle class, and repeated her plans for the economy on occasions where it wasn't the topic of discussion.

Sometimes those keyword statements got in the way of actually conveying a message; and rather than explain her stance on the Southern border, she



Donald Trump

blamed Trump for sabotaging the formerly bipartisan bill that would have made some changes.

Most out-of-pocket

Like most of American politics in the 21st century, there are moments where we laugh so we don't cry. But there were a few highlights from the debate:

Harris: "Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people ... and clearly he's having a very difficult time processing that."

Trump: "In Springfield (Ohio), they're eating the dogs, the people that came in. They're eating the cats. They're eating the pets of the people that live there."

Trump: "Our country has gone to hell." Trump: "Wait a minute, I'm talking now. Does that sound familiar?"

Trump: "I have concepts of a plan."

Trump: "She's going to my philosophy now. In fact, I was gonna send her a MAGA hat."

Trump: "She's a Marxist ... her father is a Marxist professor in economics, and he taught her well."

Trump: "Her boss, if you can call him a boss, he spends all his time at the beach." Harris: "And this ..." she bit her tongue

for a few seconds, " ... former president."

Trump: "She wants to do transgender operations on illegal aliens that are in

prison."

Harris: "I'm going to actually do something really unusual, and I'm going to invite you to attend one of Donald Trump's rallies, because it's a really interesting thing to watch."

By the numbers:

- Trump interrupted the moderators more than 20 times, Harris - five
- Harris called back to being raised middle class four times
- Trump said positive things about dictators ... too many times (six, exactly)
- Trump equated Harris to Biden four times
- Harris branded herself as a prosecutor at least three times

Final thoughts

At 11 p.m on a weekday, our brains were struggling to process all the information that had been thrown our way. Coming out on the other side, it's safe to say both sides have very strong views on topics and both want to make policy changes if elected into office.

Despite Trump constantly circling back to the topic of immigration like a vulture lost in a desert, he did make good points when it came to how the country has been handling the border and their foreign policy involvement. Harris, on the other hand, spoke strongly on healthcare and uplifting the middle class, though there were moments she tended to repeat the "free money for struggling groups" monologue in places it wasn't appropriate.

Even among the serious discussions, the American people still managed to find humor in it all. We found much joy in seeing "THEY'RE EATING THE DOGS" trending on X the morning after, as well as the jokes on TikTok about what Harris really wanted to called Trump during her pause. Even in the heaviness and tension of it all, we feel like we can always rely on the American people to bring crude optimism to the abysmal.

Overall, the debate wasn't perfect, but it also wasn't as bad as we expected.

'It was interesting to see them debate'

By Masha Smahliuk and Keara Banks Manging editor and Staff reporter

Nearly 100 Central Michigan University students gathered at French Auditorium on Tuesday to laugh, clap, cheer and, most of all, watch, as the major party presidential candidates met for the first time in debate.

Former President and Republican nominee Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris, who is the Democratic nominee, addressed issues such as the economy, abortion, the war in Gaza, the Russian invasion in Ukraine, immigration and climate change.

Avery Harbison is vice president of Central Votes, a nonpartisan campus organization that put the debate watch party together for CMU students. They said they wanted students to be engaged and educated on the candidates' values before the election.

"I think it's important to watch the debate because it gives a very explicit view of what the candidates' policies will be going in the future," Harbison said.

Harbison said they were specifically looking forward to hearing candidates address the state of the economy. It is also the voters' top issue in this election, according to Pew Research Center data.

"Seeing how both candidates address the economy is really important, not to mention it's something that I think they both are very avid about the opponent's inadequacy," Harbison said. "It's interesting to see how they play that and measure against each other."

During the debate, Harris said that she is "the only person on this stage who has a plan that is about lifting the middle class and working people of America."

Harris said that she intends

to impose a tax cut for young families of \$6,000 and give a \$50,000 tax deduction to startup small businesses.

Alternatively, Trump said he would substantially cut taxes. He also said that Harris doesn't have a plan for the economy.

"I'll create a great economy like I did before," he said during the debate. "We had the greatest economy."

Brayden Wares, a CMU freshman, wanted to hear how the candidates envision the future for the middle class.

"The job that I want will probably be middle-class, so it's really just important to me," Wares said. "We don't need any more inflation. But I think tax cuts would probably help out a lot of people."

However, Blake Blackhurst, also a freshman, said he believes tax cuts for the middle class, proposed by Harris, would only increase inflation and said that the economy was better during Trump's presidency.

According to Forbes, inflation was 6% during Trump's administration and 19% during current President Joe Biden. However, CBS said economists predict that inflation could actually go up if Trump were to serve a second term.

Blackhurst said another issue that also concerns him is the American military strength.

"I think what they both said about Hamas ... is an interesting topic," Blackhurst said. "I feel like they were both saying, try to stop that war."

When the issue was brought up to the candidates, Harris said that the war in Gaza needed to end.

"We need a cease-fire deal and we need the hostages out," Harris said. "We will continue to work around the clock on that.

"We must have a two-state solution where we can rebuild Gaza, where the Palestinians



Izzy Newton | Staff photographer Audience members express a mix of reactions during the presidential debate watch party, Tuesday, Sep. 10, in the French Auditorium.

have security, self-determination and the dignity they so rightly deserve."

Trump countered that if Harris was to be president, Israel would be gone.

"I've been pretty good at predictions," Trump said. "I hope I'm wrong about that one. She hates Israel. At the same time, in her way, she hates the Arab population."

Second-year student Emily Love said the Israel and Hamas war is one of the most important topics for her in this election.

"I knew everyone's position going into it, but it was still interesting seeing them debate," Love said. "I have my own feelings about (Harris's response), but I did expect it to go how it went."

Women's access to healthcare and abortion was also a hot topic Tuesday.

Sophomore Emma Apap said reproductive rights are among the most important issues to hear about in this debate.

"It's quite sickening that some people don't have empathy towards rape survivors or people who might be having a medical issue," Apap said. "It's quite sad seeing that people don't support reproductive rights."

Trump said the Democrats have a radical stance on abortion. He said the Democrats believed that "execution after birth is abortion."

However, there is no state that allows the killing of babies after they are born.

Harris said that Trump wants to impose a full abortion ban, but she will "proudly sign (Roe v Wade protections) into law."

"A survivor of a crime of violation to their body does not have the right to make a decision about what happens to their body next," Harris said, adding that, that is immoral. "One does not have to abandon their faith or deeply held beliefs to agree the government, and Donald Trump certainly, should not be telling a woman what to do with her body."

Meanwhile, Trump said he believes in allowing abortions in cases of rape, incest or danger for a life of a mother.

The Presidential election will take place on Nov. 5. To learn more about voting, visit Michigan.gov and follow *Central Michigan Life* online for election coverage every Tuesday.



SPORTS

A tale of two contests

By Kaia Zimmerman Sports Editor

entral Michigan football entered Pitbull Stadium Sept. 7 looking for its first 2-0 start since 2020. However, from the beginning, Florida International controlled the game, eventually winning 52-16.

The loss shut down any momentum the Chippewas had after their win over Central Connecticut State the week before. As CMU heads to Memorial Stadium to take on Big Ten opponent Illinois Sept. 14, head coach Jim McElwain wants to make sure the Chippeweas don't beat themselves and limit mistakes.

"Whatever you do, wherever you play, doesn't matter," McElwain said. "Don't make the mistakes that give them easy scores. And really the big piece is to make the opponent earn it, have respect for whoever you're playing, but don't just give it to (them)."



Helmets sit on the sideline as the Central Michigan University Marching Band performs the halftime show during the season opener Thursday, Aug. 29 in Kelly/Shorts Stadium.

Ella Miller | Visuals editor

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LIFE CM-LIFE.COM SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

CMU struggled on the road in the 2023 season and it continued into this year, going 1-6 last year and starting the year off 0-1. The loss against the Panthers marked its fifth-straight loss on the road.

"Being able to embrace the uncomfortable is something that we've really worked on," McElwain said. "For our guys, being able to go to an environment that we're going to play in (Illinois), I think it's great, it's a lot of fun."

Costly mistakes

One of the biggest aspects that McElwain wanted to improve on coming into the season was winning the turnover battle; the Chippewas threw 11 interceptions, compared to their opponents' five in 2023.

After having no turnovers against CCSU, turnovers became an issue against the Panthers. In the loss, the Chippewas had six turnovers, comprising five interceptions from quarterback Joe Labas and a muffed punt from senior defensive back Donte Kent.

"I think when the game kind of

got a little bit out of hand, (Labas) tried to force things a little bit, (tried) to make things happen, which you don't need to do," McElwain said. "You go through the progression. Take what they give you."

It was a completely different story in week one against the Central Connecticut Blue Devils. Labas went 18-for-24 with 342 passing yards and three touchdowns in front of a rowdy hometown crowd.

The turnovers in Miami gave the Panthers good field position throughout the game, earning 39 points off of CMU's mistakes.

"We've got to control the things we can control," McElwain said. "We gave the opponent last week 39 points. And I don't care who you're playing, you give somebody 39 points, you aren't going to play very good."

Kent said the game against FIU was a learning experience for both him and the team.

"You got to have short-term memory, so I was just trying to put the play behind me," Kent said. "(I'm) just (using) it as a learning moment."

Another area that hurt CMU against the Panthers was penalties. The Chippewas had 10 penalties for 70 yards, resulting in more opportunities for the Panthers.

In the win against CCSU, penalties were still prominent for CMU. The Chippewas booked eight penalties for 64 yards; however, the Blue Devils had 11 penalties for 94 yards.

Mentality going ahead

CMU is looking to learn and grow from the loss while also realizing that there is a lot of season left to play.

"It's better that this past game happened earlier in the season, because it doesn't define us," Kent said. "So in the moment, I'm basically just telling everybody just stay calm, stay together."

Senior running back Marion Lukes said the team understands where they went wrong in the game, and want to make sure they execute better going forward.



Soli Gordon | Staff photographer

Central Michigan University competes against Central Connecticut at the first game of the season, Aug. 29 in Kelly/Shorts Stadium. CMU won its season opener for the first time since 2020.

"At the end of the day, the coaches can draw all the X's and O's," Lukes said. "If those X's and O's aren't doing their job, then it's not going to mean much. We know we're super talented. Talent don't mean much if you're not using it the proper way whenever you are supposed to use it.

"We just got to take it in stride, understand that every down, anything can happen. Just got to get back up when you get knocked down, and that's what we're going to do."

The Chippewas will square off against a Fighting Illini squad that is coming off a win against No. 19-ranked Kansas.

"It's not really about our opponent," Kent said. "It's really about us and how we're going to handle the opponent when we get there."





Life through our lens

Views from the field



Soli Gordon | Staff Photographer Central Michigan University faces Central Connecticut State at the line of scrimmage during the first home game of the season on Thursday, Aug, 29 in Kelly/Shorts Stadium. The game started at 7 p.m. and lasted three hours.



Soli Gordon | Staff Photographer CMU freshman Olivia Mcgraw cheers during the season's first game on Thursday, Aug, 29 in Kelly/ Shorts Stadium. Mcgraw is a base on the cheer stunt team.



Jo Kenoshmeg | Visual Editor CMU sophomore defender Caitlin Gill celebrates after scoring a goal during a match against Cincinnati, Sunday, Aug. 25 in the CMU Soccer Complex. Gill scored the first goal of the game.

Mark Hoover | Staff Photographer

The Central Michigan soccer team looks toward the U.S. flag during the national anthem. The game was held at CMU against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

CMU volleyball nears record-breaking start

By Joshua Washington Sports reporter

fter Central Michigan volleyball started the season 6-0, the victories are adding up to a place in the history books. The best start came in 2007 when it began 8-0 and finished second in the Mid-American Conference.

The red-hot start has been fueled by a fired-up offensive attack, mixed with a smothering defense. The offense is led by junior outside hitter Natalia Rejment, who leads the team in kills (57) and junior setter Allie Korba, who leads the team in assists (133).

As a team, the offense is ranked second in the MAC in points and hitting percentage. Individually, Korba is ranked 10th in assists while sophomore setter Keelyn Muell is ranked ninth in service aces. Freshman middle blocker Grace Thomas and redshirt junior middle blocker/outside hitter Abby Olin are ranked sixth and seventh in hitting percentage in the MAC.

The defense is led by freshman defensive specialist Hannah Langton who leads the team in digs (121) and Thomas who leads the team in blocks (28).

The CMU defense is ranked third in digs and second in blocks in the MAC. That might have something to do with the two leading Chippewas. Langton is ranked third in digs and Thomas is ranked fifth in blocks.

Even with lineup changes and new faces, CMU has continued to adjust while leading a strong start.

"We had several people that returned from last year's team, but we have a variety of people in new roles," head coach Mike Gawlik said.

As athletes graduate or transfer, Gawlik said freshmen and veterans

have to step up.

"And so as you settle into those roles and to find success early on I think is really confidence building for getting better throughout the season," Gawlik said

Despite the undefeated start, Gawlik thinks the team still has room to improve.

"I think one of the things we're really working on is just our consistency," Gawlik said. "You look at the wins and you're thinking okay, well obviously they're consistent they're winning matches, but in volleyball, you wanna be consistent from rally to rally.

"We wanna make sure that players that play well one week can replicate that and play as consistently as possible, so I think that's probably our biggest thing."

The Chippewas have six games left before they start conference play. They look to keep the winning ways Sept. 14 and 15, as they host the Chippewa Invitational.



Nico Mendoza | File CMU's senior libero/defensive specialist Aly Gurtiza and junior outside hitter Natalia Rejment watches other members of their team play against Ohio, Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, in McGuirk Arena.



FEATURES

The Juice is loose!



By Carter Salley Film reviewer

Say his name three times, because Beetlejuice is back in theaters.

The resurrection comes three decades after the original and just in time for the Halloween season.

The film follows Lydia Deetz (Winona Rider) and her daughter Astrid (Jenna Ortega "Wednesday") who must reunite after Lydia's father dies in a hilarious way I won't spoil here. They travel back to the old Ghost House to help Lydia's mom (played once again by Catherine O'Hara), try to sell the house to a new couple.

But strange things start happening after Astrid meets a mysterious boy and Lydia starts seeing visions of Beetlejuice's return. Afraid for her and her daughters safety, Lydia must find out why the Ghost House is restless and why Beetlejuice may be in desperate need for help.

in desperate need for help. So many "legacy sequels" like to put older characters into more depressing, down-on-their-luck situations (*cough cough* Luke Skywalker. ... Sorry I had something in my throat.) Not "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." This movie was so much fun to watch!

Michael Keaton's still got it as the ghost with the most. As Beetlejuice, he's energetic, hilarious and as zany as ever. He gets a bit more screen time than in the original movie; the follow-up does a fantastic job on when and how to use Beetlejuice as both a comedic and dramatic character.

Beetlejuice's backstory was really

fun to explore and constituted my favorite scene of the movie.

Catherine O' Hara steals the show with her out-of-the-box acting, portraying Mrs. Deetz as still that crazy artist we all know and love. Seeing her character succeed in life and art was touching. Tim Burton looks like he had the

Tim Burton looks like he had the time of his life directing and writing this film. The movie is still in the original "Beetlejuice" style, but with better cameras.

This set and character design is some of the most interesting and clever I have ever seen. In the Afterlife everything is vibrant, colorful and playful. It feels like they're trying to scare you, but still allowing you to laugh and have a good time.

Astrid was a great character and holds a strong message in the movie.

If you are grieving someone in your life at this point or another, watch this film.

This movie has such a great, heartwarming message about life after death. While it is spooky and kooky, it manages to find moments for depth and characters to express heavy emotions with class and care. I was very impressed by Burton's ability to make serious and silly balance without it feeling like a hurricane of tonal shifts.

The only big negative about this movie is the multiple plot lines. Some are more interesting than others, but stay patient and you'll be rewarded with lots of laughs and frights! This movie looked amazing in the theater and should be seen with a group.

I give "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" a solid 9/10.

Art From Our Park: Music, dances, pumpkin painting opens to public in Deerfield

By Keara Banks Staff reporter

Art, nature and community will come togther at an event soon, according to Art Reach Executive Director Amy Powell.

"(The) Mount Pleasant community will have an opportunity to enjoy nature, explore art and unplug from busy lives at the event in Deerfield park next week," Powell said.

The 17th annual Art From Our Park event will run from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 21 at Deerfield Nature Park, 2425 W. Remus Road.

The event will feature various forms of art, ranging from musicians and belly dancers to screen printing and painting pumpkins.

Powell said that this event is accessible to all ages and abilities. Admission to the event is free and park fees are waived during the event.

The event is hosted by Isabella

County Parks in partnership with Art Reach of Mid-Michigan.

Staff at the county park started Art From Our Park 17 years ago as a way to get more people out to parks to experience Deerfield and as an opportunity to learn about their community.

"A couple of years ago, the park reached out to us to ask if we would be willing to partner with them on some of the planning logistics," Powell said. "They wanted to be able to continue it, but they didn't have the capacity to coordinate all of the elements around the event, but they still felt that it was important."

Powell said people are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities that can take from 15 minutes to an hour.

"We try to vary the projects such that you could spend more time making the project more complex, or adding different layers to it," Powell said.



Courtesy photo | Amy P Community members join together at Art From Our Park to work on projects and activities.



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As the school year begins, I would like to take this special moment to welcome you back to campus.

It feels like yesterday that I was a student at Howard University. I found forever friends, people who shaped me and supported me. I found my beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha sisters. Like many, college is when I started to become politically engaged. Together, we learned that progress happens in our country when young people fight for it.

Throughout my travels as Vice President, I love talking to young leaders. I am continually amazed by your grit, your perseverance, your intellect, and your deep passion for making our world better.

It is because of the record turnout among college students in 2020 that I am Vice President today. And to win this election, I need your support.

This November, so many of our fundamental freedoms are at stake. The freedom to vote. The freedom to live safe from gun violence. The freedom to love who you love, openly and with pride. The freedom to breathe clean air and drink clean water. And the freedom to make decisions about your own body.

Later this semester, you will have the opportunity to vote in an election that will decide the future of our country. You will have the power to shape our future. To continue to build the country you want to live in—one where your fundamental rights are protected—by taking to the ballot box and making your voice heard.

Your vote has never mattered more. When young people fight for progress, it changes the course of our nation. I believe in you. I am inspired by you. And I am rooting for your success.

Sincerely,

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