

EMU robotics class visits Stellantis

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EMU football Spring Game gallery

See page 5



# The Eastern Echo

Serving EMU & Ypsilanti since 1881 | Monday, April 17, 2023 | Volume 139, Issue 25

## Inaugural EMU Student Media Gala honors Echo alumni Kevin Allen and Art Brooks

### ECHO STAFF

Eastern Michigan University alumni took the spotlight Thursday, April 13, during the inaugural Eastern Echo Student Media Gala and awards banquet at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse in Depot Town.

The student media leadership team tapped former USA Today sportswriter Kevin Allen as an Echo Eagle, a hall-of-fame-style honor recognizing his career and his contributions to journalism.

“Kevin Allen’s experience gives the Echo team inspiration for what is possible for us after graduation,” Layla McMurtrie, editor-in-chief of The Echo, said.

Allen, who lives in Ypsilanti, spent more than three decades covering the NHL, the Olympics, and sports events around the world for USA Today. He now works for the online publication Detroit Hockey Now. In 2013, he was awarded the Lester Patrick Trophy by the NHL and USA Hockey.

The EMU student media team—student editors from The Echo and arts magazine Cellar Roots—also tapped former editor Art Brooks as a Friend of the Echo, recognizing his continuing support of the student media program at EMU.

While serving as a copyeditor at The Echo in the 1980s, Brooks, who lives in the Detroit area, wrote a guidebook for college journalists that Echo team members still use today. Brooks has since offered his assistance to the program, and established a scholarship fund to support Echo journalists. With additional donations from other sources, that fund has supported student journalists into 2022-23 academic year. McMurtrie was one of the recipients.

“I’m really appreciative of Brooks for helping me be successful in my role as editor-in-chief,” McMurtrie said. “He emailed me after the event letting me know that I did a good job and has given me advice on how to do well in the journalism world.”

Ally Graham, who served as The Echo’s editor-in-chief during the pandemic, said Brooks would often contact her with suggestions and assistance as the team put a strong emphasis on the online publication.

The event also included a scholarship award announcement. Echo advisor Christine Uthoff announced that the 2023 Larry Cathey Memorial Scholarship would go to Echo Sports Editor Blake McQueary.

The scholarship honors former Echo Sports Editor Larry Cathey, and was created by his family as a memorial to their son by providing financial support to a member of the Echo staff seeking a career in sports media.

McQueary, who has been part of The Echo team since October 2021 will continue his leadership role as sports editor through the 2023-24 academic year.

“I’m just honored and blessed to be able to receive this scholarship,” McQueary said. “I want to thank the Cathey family for selecting me, as well as Mrs. Uthoff and my

peers at the Echo.”

Several student journalists also were honored for their contributions to The Echo over the past years. They are:

Photographer of the Year - Jayla Ford  
Artist of the Year - Kasey Deschler  
Echo Legend - Ronia Cabansag  
Echo Legend - Layla McMurtrie

Allen, who joined The Echo during his freshman year at Eastern, said he had 500-600 published stories by the time he graduated college.

“There’s no other internship I could have received that could have provided me the level of practical experience that I received at the Eastern Echo,” Allen said. “I majored in political science, with minors in history and journalism. But the reality is I majored in the Eastern Echo. The newsroom was the equivalent of one of my classrooms.”

SEE “MEDIA GALA” PAGE 2



ABOVE: KEVIN ALLEN, BLAKE MCQUEARY

LEFT: LAYLA MCMURTRIE, ART BROOKS AND OTHER ECHO ALUMNI, AMEERA SALMAN

PHOTOS BY JAYLA FORD AND JORDAN BOYD



## What's the move at EMU? April 17-20

VICTORIA SMITH  
COPY EDITOR

Check out these events happening on and around Eastern Michigan University’s campus this week.

**Wall Painting - April 17**  
The Women’s Resource Center, Sexual Assault and Rape Awareness, and the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office will be providing supplies for painting the walls by Pray-Harold. To bring awareness to sexual assault, the painting will take place from 1-3 p.m.

**Protecting Your Uterus - April 17**  
Join the Women’s Resource Center and Cathy Bamrick, a women’s health nurse, in learning about how to take care of uterine health. With cookie decorating and free pregnancy tests and condoms, the event will run from 6-8 p.m. in Room 270 of the Student Center. The link to register can be accessed @emuwomenscenter on Instagram.

**De-stress Goodie Bags with the WRC - April 18**  
The Women’s Resource Center will be handing out de-stress goodie bags from 12-2 p.m. at the lobby tables in the Student Center. Individuals will also be given a chance to win an item that aids in de-stressing.

**De-stress Goodie Bags with Happiness Hop - April 19**  
De-stress goodie bags will be handed out from 4-5:30 p.m. in Room 310B of the Student Center.

**VEMMY Awards - April 19**  
The Videographers at Eastern Michigan University (VEMU) is hosting the first annual VEMMY (Vee-Mee) award show on April 19 in the Student Center.

**Rock the Patio - April 19**  
Join Campus Life for a music festival that will include lawn games and food. With performers such as The Third Degree, Baddie Brooks, and Queso Tone,

the festival will run from 5-8 p.m. in the University Park.

**Pie-a-King - April 19**  
Kings of Color will be hosting a fundraiser in which individuals can pie a member of the organization. The fundraiser will run from 5-8 p.m. in the University Park.

**2023 Annual Lavender Celebration: Enchanted Forest - April 19**  
The LGBT Resource Center will be hosting its 2023 Annual Lavender Celebration. Encompassing two events, the Lavender Graduation will highlight graduating students and leaders on campus, and the following event, Pride Prom, will highlight and celebrate identities. The celebration will begin at 6 p.m. in the McKenny Ballroom. The link to register can be accessed @emulgbtrc on Instagram.

**Take Back The Night: Sign & Poster Making - April 19**  
Join the Women’s Resource Center in creating signs and posters for the Take Back The Night event occurring the following day. The sign and poster making will run from 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 270 of the Student Center. The link to register can be accessed @emuwomenscenter on Instagram.

**An Evening of Anime Music - April 20**  
Join the Anime Music Club in listening to a variety of anime songs. Beginning at 4:30 p.m., the event will take place at the Honors College Church.

**Take Back The Night - April 20**  
The Women’s Resource Center, Sexual Assault and Rape Awareness, and the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Office will be holding a walk to counter sexual violence and intimate partner violence. With resources and a Speak Out opportunity available, the walk will take place from 6-8 p.m. It will begin at the Martin Luther King Jr. statue and end at Room 310B of the Student Center.

## Wall painting event at EMU raises awareness for sexual assault

ERIN FLYNN  
NEWS REPORTER

The Women’s Resource Center, Title IX and Sexual Assault and Rape Awareness (SARA) are painting the walls between Pray-Harold and the REC/IM to bring awareness to sexual assault on Eastern Michigan University’s campus. The event takes place April 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. with paint and supplies being provided. All students are welcome to attend.

The event was first originated by members of SARA last year. After a successful turnout, the organization found it would be beneficial to have it again.

Read more: EMU students protest in response to lawsuit accusing EMU officials of ignoring sexual assault claims

“Last year we had the president of EMU, its Chief of Police, administrators, and many students all attend,” Kaitlyn Green, the president of SARA, said. “So when the WRC contacted us about working with them in April, this was something we knew we wanted to do again because we had a lot of success with it last year.”

SARA was established on EMU’s campus to raise awareness for sexual assault and rape. The organization offers various avenues of support to survivors on campus. This includes peer support through their organization, assisting survivors in navigating support on or off campus and collaborating with other organizations to offer accessible and inclusive resources.

“This event will connect survivors with a community of people who may have had similar experiences to them,” Green said. “We also want to have somewhat of a lighthearted environment that will connect people with their resources on campus such as the Women’s Resource and Title IX. If



they have any questions or concerns about anything, they can ask them right then and there without the intimidating environment of an office.”

The mission of the women’s center is to recognize and celebrate the diverse representations of women on campus. The center provides a safe space for women to go on campus while encouraging and supporting their personal growth, academic, and professional development. They offer advocacy and referral services while providing educational programming and resources to help women at EMU reach their full potential.

Read more: Women of Color & Feminism Leadership Symposium fosters community on campus

“Every 68 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted, according to rainn.org,” Deanna Kowaleski, WRC’s program coordinator, said in a written statement. “Women ages 18-24 are at an elevated

risk of sexual violence and because of this, we want to bring this awareness to campus and work towards preventing these assaults from happening on and around our community.”

EMU’s Title IX is dedicated to promoting gender equality and inclusion, including the coordination of the University’s efforts to prevent and effectively respond to all forms of gender discrimination and sexual misconduct, including sexual and relationship violence, that occurs within and impacts the university’s community including sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking.

“With the visualization of the paintings, it will provide the campus community to help speak out against Sexual Assault,” Kowaleski said. “We believe ALL survivors and help those who have been assaulted to come forward and report their assault.”



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EMU robotics class provides hands-on experiences to students in STEM



AMEERA SALMAN  
CELLAR ROOTS EIC

Eastern Michigan University classes in the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology are a place for students to discover their passion for real world applications in the field. One such class, CEET 326 Industrial Electrical Control, prepares students for a variety of careers in electrical engineering.

Last month, the class had the opportunity to partake in a field trip to a Stellantis Automotive Plant in Sterling Heights, Michigan. At the factory, five students and two faculty members were given a tour, coordinated by Sanni Adekunle and led by Mike Alschbach.

The experience was a fantastic one for the class’ professor Kyle Koskinen, who has a passion for robots and their numerous capabilities.

“Almost the whole pick-up truck [we saw] was assembled by robots ... everywhere you look there [were] robots,” Koskinen said of the factory tour.

As a professor in the STEM field, Koskinen aims to give students opportunities to see what they’re studying in action. The robotics classroom in Sill Hall is filled with the same FANUC robots that the Stellantis plant is.

“The students said, ‘That’s exactly what we’re doing in class,’ so it just reinforced that it is actually a valuable knowledge to have,” Koskinen said.

His students certainly agreed.

“It was overwhelming ... it [was] really crazy to see the small, minute things that we’ve been doing here on a grand scale,” Mike Martin, a computer and electrical engineering technology veteran student graduating this spring, said.

While the work these students are doing in the classroom may seem small at times, its applications certainly are not.

“The biggest thing that [the field trip] actually really showed me was that even the smallest, niche applications that we learn in school have such an importance in the real world. For example, we spent, I think, five or six weeks just building a panel, and I never actually understood the real world application until we went on the field trip,” Karim Fares, a computer and electrical engineering technology major also graduating this spring, said.

The field trip served as an opportunity for students to see their education in action in the real world.

“Exactly what we’re doing in here is what we’re going to be doing out there,” said Isabella Trueblood, a sophomore majoring in computer and electrical engineering technology.

For some students, classes like this one have broadened and shifted their perspectives of their education and career goals.

“When I first went, I thought it was going to be boring, but I’m a curious person ... and after the field trip, I was surprised that it was interesting. I was considering maybe I would want to work in this field,” Ghazal Abushal, a junior majoring in computer and electrical engineering technology, said.

Field trips like this are one of the many

ways the department and faculty work to support students in the GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology. With an overall smaller program providing smaller class sizes, students have more opportunities to work directly with professors, equipment, and earn internships.

“The fun thing about the [computer and electrical engineering technology] degree is that it kind of gives you a basis of a little bit of everything ... and now that we’re so close to graduation, we get to look at what we want to try first and explore,” said Martin.

Many of the students have already started internships in their desired fields, using the knowledge gained from EMU to set themselves up for success.

“I did start an internship as an electrical engineer, and at first I thought maybe I wouldn’t be fully prepared, but once I started, I realized I did learn a lot more than I thought I did when I was in school. I learned a lot about the circuitry, and the electrical work, and, most importantly, mapping out schematics. So I do feel like I was prepared,” Fares said.

Not only has the college provided students with future career development opportunities, but while in the classroom, all students have been able to succeed.

“I’ve never really experienced anything like this ... and so far it’s been pretty great. This class [CEET 326] especially, it’s been so helpful and it makes me feel more confident,” Trueblood said of her experience as a STEM student.

“Our professor is very supportive ... he’s making it easier for us,” Abushal said of her academic support network at EMU.

Media Gala



The banquet included a taco bar, a showcase of recent copies of The Eastern Echo, and a silent auction of gift baskets donated by EMU, the EMU Foundation, individuals, and several Ypsilanti area businesses. Also auctioned off were prints of photos taken by Echo photographers. The auction raised money for the student media development fund, which provides assistance and support to The Echo and Cellar Roots operations.

Starting off the night around 7 p.m., Echo Editor-in-Chief Layla McMurtrie spoke about her experience at the Echo and thanked everyone for coming. She also announced The Echo’s new leadership team, who will take the reins of the student media operations when she graduates later this month.

Current Content Editor Marie White will be stepping into the position of editor-in-chief and Copy Editor Victoria Smith will then be filling the position of content editor.

The event also included a video presentation, created by Podcast Editor Jordan Boyd, featuring Echo editors, writers, photographers, and podcast team members discussing what they love about working for the publication. Photographers talked about a need for equipment such as cameras and microphones, and the podcast team talked about how podcasts are the

future of multimedia.

Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief Ameera Salman spoke during the event about EMU’s literary magazine, as well as their time working with the Echo this year.

Incoming Editor-in-Chief Marie White provided closing remarks at the banquet, and outlined her goals for the future, including updating the newspaper’s guidelines and website, creating a welcoming environment, and growing the banquet in future years.

Allen acknowledged people don’t trust journalism the way they once did, but he told the student journalists at the banquet they have what it takes to solve that problem.

“Every generation is faced with unique challenges,” Allen said. “It’s that generation’s job to figure out fresh solutions.”

Allen illustrated his faith in today’s generation of journalists with the story of Apollo 13, and how a group of creative thinkers on Earth led by NASA Chief Flight Director Gene Krantz turned a disaster into their finest hour.

“That’s my hope for the next generation of journalists,” Allen said. “That you will restore the trust in the profession. We need your generation to be like Krantz, to be optimists who embrace challenges with excitement and hope.”



The National Society of Black Engineers is promoting a safe space for minorities



AARON HUGHES  
CONTENT EDITOR

The GameAbove College of Engineering and Technology (CET) has the goal of increasing opportunities for students in the fields of engineering, technology, and more. The department works with many programs and organizations in STEM, one of which is the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE).

NSBE was founded in 1975 as a place to support and promote aspiring Black engineers. Since it has been founded, it has grown into a worldwide organization even finding a home at Eastern Michigan University. EMU’s NSBE organization wants to continue this success by making an impact in Ypsilanti.

Usually, the organization hosts career-building workshops or game nights where they can connect, such as their last meeting where they collaborated with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) in a Family Feud game night. This was the first time the two groups collaborated.

Current freshman and member Mussa Geyre was adamant about having the minority groups on campus work together.

“Its so important to have us and groups like SWE because being a minority it is harder to connect. Like in my classroom, there are only three minorities,” Geyre said. “Having these groups bring us together and allow us to grow.”

Recently with the help of CET some of the members were able to attend the NSBE national conference for the first

time. Hosted in St. Louis, Missouri, the conference featured collegiate organizations from across the country, in addition to guest speakers, job fairs, and more.

Kevan Pack, the current president of NSBE at EMU, saw this trip as a great opportunity for all members involved.

“The experience at the NSBE conference was very eye opening I was able to see all the companies I can work for and that were accessible to me. I was able to network with all types of people that I wouldn’t be able to if i wasn’t in NSBE in the first place,” said Pack.

Other members like Geyre were also inspired by what they witnessed in Missouri.

“Academically, it pushes me to grind more. After going to the NSBE conference I can tell there are people like us that are pushing themselves to be the best person possible. It makes me realize I can’t be lacking and I have to push myself,” Geyre said.

Now, after the knowledge and experience from the conference and the school year, NSBE is planning on bigger and better things.

“We plan to go to the next conference in Orlando, Florida, and bring more members than just five. We want to collaborate with more companies and we plan to have more workshops on resumes, LinkedIn, cover letters, and more. Just making NSBE a safe space for minorities to succeed in the engineering program and graduate.” Pack said. “NSBE is like a brotherhood everyone in NSBE will feel the camaraderie.”



## Org Spotlight: Active Minds

SHAYLA MOSTYN  
NEWS REPORTER

Every student has a unique college experience, a different reason, a different path that they are following. One commonality among college students is their overwhelming sense of stress.

“Active minds being a mental health org, can be helpful ... We cover different topics that can be relatable to different students on the campus,” Summer Torres, Active Minds president, said.

Eastern Michigan University’s Active Minds is a mental health organization, with the goal to help break the stigma that surrounds mental health. Many of the organization’s events center around teaching members about different mental health disorders. Some events include Mental Health Monologues, where students get the opportunity to share their mental health stories with others through artistic expression, and a World Kindness Day event where mini packages are made and distributed to the students.

“We did an ‘Inside Out’ [movie night], and did a discussion based on why that movie is important for mental health,” Torres said.

It is unknown as to when Active Minds first started, but no matter how long it has been at EMU, the club has provided a safe space for students to come and share their struggles. However, it is important to note that the executive board members of the organization are not licensed therapists.

“We are sharing the information, but we are not registered to do therapy sessions,” Torres said.

One of the more influential events that Active Minds does is the Mental Health Monologues, which Torres expresses is actually one of her favorite events. One crucial part of the event is that the students perform their own original work based on personal stories and experiences with mental health. It is a personal and vulnerable experience both for those who are telling their stories and those who are in the audience.

“There’s always that one sentence or



one word about a song that you can connect with,” Torres said. “If you’re writing it or creating it, it’s always going to be more personal and true to your story because it is based off your personal experiences.”

With the 2022-2023 school year coming to a close, Active Minds is starting to plan for next year. One goal is to hopefully increase their membership and attendance at events. Although it has been a couple years since the initial start of COVID-19, Active Minds is still recovering from the hit its members took. However, Active Minds is not letting that get in the way of being there for the students.

“Pre-COVID, we had like 25 members, if not more people coming to meetings. So I think they, [the founders], would be sad about the member retention that we have, but I think they’d be happy seeing that we’re still reaching out and we’re still giving a voice to those who are there,” Torres said.

An important factor of Active Minds is that they cover everything under the scope of mental health, a reminder that mental health affects everybody in all different ways.

“We are here for the students. If there is any topic that you wanna hear about or know about, let us know,” Torres said.

## Club Spotlight: The French Club

SHAYLA MOSTYN  
NEWS REPORTER

At Eastern Michigan University, students come from a diversity of cultures and backgrounds, and as such, there are clubs that offer students the chance to experience other cultures. EMU’s French Club helps students experience all aspects of French and Francophone culture. Francophone culture is French culture that is experienced outside of France.

“The French Club highlights and celebrates French and Francophone culture through fun activities, games, films, events, and more,” Tatianna Rice, French club president said.

The French Club had its first official meetings back in Winter 2022, and although it is still fairly new, the club is making itself known throughout the EMU community. When the club was first starting out, the executive board positions were open to anyone who wanted it. Rice and Ariana Fisher, French club’s vice president, both knew they wanted to be on board.

“I’m a K-12 French education major, so French is very important to me, especially getting the culture out to everyone,” Fisher said.

All of the club’s events have an interactive component where the members can get a taste, sometimes literally, of what French culture is like. Some events include the collaboration with the Honors College Mardi Gras event, tasting French foods, hearing French music, and guest

speakers. There is a diversity of activities that help to highlight aspects of French and Francophone culture, whether one is already familiar with it or not.

“What it brings to Eastern, is that it is another piece of the [cultural] puzzle,” Rice said. “There is a lot that we can teach students.”

A prominent part of the club is that it provides a unique learning environment outside the classroom. Members can learn about French singers, ask for recommendations for youtube channels to watch, or podcasts to listen to. It offers members a chance to keep up with the culture, in a way that works for them.

Members do not need to be taking a French class or be a part of French culture in order to join. Anyone who wishes to expand their knowledge on French or Francophone culture or simply looking for a way to learn about a new culture, is welcome to join. The French Club encourages members who are either learning the French language or are already conversational in French, to participate in their Conversation Tables where students can meet together to talk and improve their conversational skills.

One of the club’s more well known events was the Mardi Gras event, held back in February 2023, in collaboration with the Honors College. Rice emphasizes that she had been wanting to do a Mardi Gras event ever since the club first started. At the event, students were able to decorate masks, wear beaded necklaces, and learn what Mardi Gras is all about.

“I thought it was weird that a lot of

people don’t really know anything about Mardi Gras, even that it means ‘Fat Tuesday,’” Rice said. “I thought ‘Oh gosh! We gotta let the people know what it’s all about.’”

Fisher expresses that her favorite events are the Karaoke Night and cheese tasting events, demonstrating two different cultural aspects members were able to participate in: French music and French food.

“We had six cheeses from France that we all got to try. It was great watching people go from ‘Oh this is great!’ to ‘I’m not putting that in my mouth.’” Fisher said.

Although EMU has other culture clubs aside from the French Club, one differentiating factor is that French and Francophone culture is so vast, that it covers a plethora of other countries and their cultures.

“We have Europe, North America, Africa, French Polynesia, [and] we have some of the Caribbean Islands.” Fisher said. “There is a lot of diversity that we can bring in, and [can] spotlight a lot of unique and different cultures on top of all that.”

The French Club has had a very exciting beginning, for both the executive board as well as the members that attend the events.

“French Club has been something that we created and that we started out and I’m excited to see where it goes from here.” Rice said. “That we’ll have language students and French students in the future that are excited as we are and were when we created it.”

## Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti returns

LAYLA MCMURTRIE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With an expanded line-up and growing community impact, the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti is returning for its fourth season from April 19-22.

The four-day event will include a set of film showings, workshops, parties, and a gallery show. The main programs will happen at the Riverside Arts Center in downtown Ypsilanti, with afterparties each night at varying nearby locations, said a press release.

To grow ties with the local community, the festivals team is bringing film

workshops to local high schools as well.

“We’re excited to expand iFFY this year and create more opportunities for people across our area to experience films in Ypsilanti,” said iFFY co-founder and board member, Donald Harrison. “Getting our non-profit status last year helped strengthen our iFFY team and enabled us to think bigger about what the festival could offer the community this season.”

The festival will showcase a unique mix of short films that explore a variety of topics.

On Thursday, April 20, attendees will also see the Southeast Michigan premiere of director Mike Cheslik’s “supernatural winter epic” feature film Hundreds

of Beavers, which was also filmed in Michigan.

Also on April 20, the festival will feature a reception in the Riverside Arts Center gallery for a new video art installation from artist Parisa Ghaderi. On Saturday and Sunday, April 22 and 23, there will be free and paid workshops for both youths and adults, exploring filmmaking techniques, animation, and even new trends with AI in filmmaking.

The festival’s press release also said that the team has worked to keep their ticket costs low in 2023, in hopes of attracting a wide cross-section of film enthusiasts from the Ypsilanti area and beyond.

# Opinions

## Daniel Caesar finds success in third project ‘NEVER ENOUGH’



AARON HUGHES  
MANAGING EDITOR

Toronto singer Ashton Simmonds, better known as Daniel Caesar, has been one of the biggest and most controversial names in R&B for years now; attracting millions of fans due to songs like “Best Part” and “Get You,” but also turning many away due to ill-mannered comments on social media.

Now, after almost four years since the release of his sophomore album “CASE STUDY 01,” he is ready to open up with his newest project “NEVER ENOUGH.”

**Album Highs**

It is always great to watch an artist

develop and refine their sound. On “NEVER ENOUGH,” Caesar’s songwriting seems to reach new heights as his verses focus on the themes of time, religion, overthinking, and loss of innocence. The topics themselves make this album refreshing as many artists are now copying and pasting the theme of toxic relationships.

While the album has the angelic falsetto and gospel-inspired soul that fans are so used to, Caesar also leaves room to experiment. Tracks like “Cool” favor Frank Ocean’s “Blonde” vocal effects while other songs like “Shot My Baby” seem to be Caesar’s take on D’Angelo’s “Shit, Damn, M\*\*\*\*\*r.”

Every decision on this album was

meticulously thought out; from the guest artists like serpentwithfeet, the additional writers such as Raphael Saadiq, or the producers like Sir Dylan, who himself has had his hands all over this project.

“NEVER ENOUGH” is cohesive and keeps the listener’s attention all 55 minutes.

**Album Lows**

There is not much not to like about “NEVER ENOUGH.” All songs are either solid performance-wise or some of his best work to date.

A complaint about the album is his use of features when compared to his past work. Though artists like Sabrina Claudio, Omar Apollo, and Justine Skye appear on the album, they have small roles, which was not the case for “Freudian.” For instance, “Buyer’s Remorse” features Omar Apollo and only gives him around 30 seconds and four lines to shine.

Besides that, the only other faults on this album would be “Cool” and “Pain Is Inevitable” sounding too similar to Frank Ocean.

**Summary**

This may be his best album, at the very least giving “Freudian” a run for its money. With potential radio hits like “Do You Like Me?” while also having potential deep cuts like “Homiesexual” and “Toronto 2014,” this album is Caesar at his peak.

The album gets better with every listen and is already in discussion with being one of the best projects of this year.

**I give “NEVER ENOUGH,” a rating of 9 out of 10.**

## Rauw Alejandro's Saturno World Tour is a space-themed spectacle

GERLIZ HERRERA  
COLUMNIST

Rauw Alejandro’s “Saturn” World Tour has become one of the most talked-about tours of the year. Starting in February and running until October of this year, the tour has received high praise from those who have attended. It’s not just the music that people are raving about, but the theme of the show and Rauw Alejandro’s presentation.

Rauw Alejandro is a Puerto Rican reggaeton artist whose career is on the rise. Since his breakout feature in the song “Toda” in 2018, he has become more well-known, performed globally, and won awards presented by the Billboard Latin Music Awards and iHeartRadio Music Awards. What sets Alejandro apart from other reggaeton artists is his ability to sing and dance in his performances, making him a complete entertainer.

The “Saturno” World Tour started in the United States on March 4 in Tampa, Florida, and will conclude its run on May 6 in Seattle, Washington. The tour’s main attraction is its space-themed setting. Rauw Alejandro’s latest album, “SATURNO,” inspired the tour’s theme, with space and the galaxy featured in the album’s music videos and cover art. The concert itself is designed to resemble outer space, with Alejandro and his backup dancers wearing space-themed outfits and accessories. Concert-goers have also embraced the theme, donning leather clothing, galaxy colors, and Oakley Radar sunglasses.

One of the things that makes the Saturno



World Tour so unique is the performance that Alejandro has prepared for his fans. During the concert, he floats in the air, singing, and the opening act has been particularly noteworthy. In a recent concert in Puerto Rico, Rauw Alejandro flew in as part of an exciting entrance that included a news report and an alien invasion, all culminating in his performance of “PUNTO 40.” He has also invited special guests such as the famous dance group The Jabbawockees, as well as El Alfa, Rosalia, Angel Dior, and many others.

The concert’s success has been overwhelming, with some shows completely selling out. Raygoza from Billboard notes that the Brooklyn, New York, show on March 24 was completely sold out. The fans who have attended the concert have expressed their satisfaction with the concert on various social media platforms.

With the tour still ongoing, fans can look forward to experiencing the magic of the “Saturno” World Tour for themselves.



# OPINIONS

## ‘The Super Mario Bros. Movie’ is the origin story fans have been waiting for

MARIE WHITE  
CONTENT EDITOR

“The Super Mario Bros. Movie” is a surprising hit that takes you straight back to your childhood. I wasn’t even sure of the plot of the movie coming into it, but it surprised and amazed me with how good it was. I hope Nintendo plans to make more movie because I want more than just the taste we got with this film.

### Synopsis

Princess Peach is ready to protect the Mushroom Kingdom at all costs. With help from Mario, they get ready to face off against the all powerful Bowser to stop his plans of conquering the world.

This movie stars Anya Taylor-Joy as the voice of princess peach, Jack Black as the voice of Bowser, Charlie Day as the voice of Luigi and Chris Pratt as the voice of

Mario.

### Movie highs

The animation. It truly captivates your attention from the minute the studio credits come on. Illumination and Nintendo teaming up just truly makes this outstanding world of Mario to life in so many ways. From light scenes in the Mushroom Kingdom to the dark lands and haunted forest, it all keeps your attention the entire time.

The music was outstanding. They not only perfectly used already existing music to enhance scenes perfectly, but it also created themes from the games in new music that perfectly brought you back to playing the games. The sounds kept me simply enchanted the entire time, because it worked so well with the animations and scenes.

Honorable mention for the plot. I didn’t

know if a movie that was made for kids would keep me intrigued but it did it ten times over. I can’t wait to watch it again because I know I missed some cool plot points, because there were so many hidden gems throughout.

### Movie lows

The voices didn’t always fit the characters. I really liked the plot and characters like Luigi and Bowser’s voice actors, but sometimes Princess Peach and Mario didn’t exactly fit the character in my head. It didn’t take away from the movie too much, but I couldn’t definitely tell at some points, yes this is someone voicing a character.

Sometimes the movie’s plot lost interest for me. Now, I never wanted to stop watching the film (because I didn’t want to miss the visuals), but sometimes I just stared into the screen instead of truly

listening to the movie. I understand it was made for kids, but I wish it was more clever in a way, and not always so kiddish (even though that is the audience).

### Verdict

I am honestly still shocked with how awesome this movie was. From the music to animation everything felt so intriguing and just so much fun.

I give “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” a 9.5 out of 10



## Waterparks' 'Intellectual Property' walks a fine line

KASPER MIELKE  
COLUMNIST

Waterparks has been around for a little over ten years now, and their sound has predominantly stayed in the realm of being pop punk. However, in recent years, their sounds has become more chaotic and unhinged. “Intellectual Property” is no exception to the rule with some hyperpop influenced tracks.

Sometimes, a band puts out an expectation and then completely flips it on its head. Half the time, it ends up being a flop, and it makes the band less favorable for instance Fall Out Boy’s “Mania” record. However, other times it totally works like with Suelco’s “It Was Fun While It Lasted.” It is a fine line to walk in the music world as not many fans take change lightly.

### Album Highs

“2 Best Friends” - 7.5/10

This song is an example of when the backing track and the lyrics completely contradict themselves. Musically, the song is upbeat. It’s bright in nature, and it’s all fine and dandy until one looks at the lyrics.

This song is about a person having strong romantic feelings for another, but that other person is not wanting to give them the time of day. So, in combating the feeling of rejection, the narrator is doing everything in their power to not think about the other person.

A great thing about this record is that it flows well from song to song. Nothing seems too out of pocket this is the perfect song for the leading singles.

### Honorable mentions:

“Closer” - 7/10

“Self-Sabotage” - 7/10 (this rating is mainly based off the version they did with Good Charlotte)



### Album Lows

“End of the Water (Feel)” - 5/10

The main reason this song is here is because of the backing track and how repetitive the lyrics are. This track does not show off some of the better qualities of the record, which includes its ability to flow well and fit in, along with lyrical uniqueness.

Lyricaly, it is not their magnum opus. However, one thing that is pretty cool about some of the songs on this record is that there are some interesting outros/intros. This one in particular has a little dialogue from the youtuber Kurtis Conner, so that is a plus.

### Not-so-honorable mentions:

“A Night Out On Earth” - 6/10

### Overview

To answer the question in the beginning: it’s complicated. This record is experimental in a lot of ways, both good and not-so-good. Overall, this record is going to be a hard one to warm up to, and it’s not for everyone. However, it can be done.

I rate “Intellectual Property” a 6 out of 10.

JOUD BAMEHRIZ  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Although the poster for “On a Wing and a Prayer” may provide viewers with a general sense of the movie’s plot, it cannot fully capture the emotional depth and thrilling moments that the audience will encounter while watching the film. Only by actually viewing the movie can one truly experience the full range of emotions and excitement that it offers.

### Synopsis

“On a Wing and a Prayer” is a movie that is based on a true story about a man named Doug, who tragically loses his pilot brother. Despite his own failed attempts to become a pilot, Doug’s passion for flying remains undiminished. After his brother’s funeral, Doug and his family board a flight home, and his wife manages to persuade the pilot to allow Doug to sit in the co-pilot’s seat. However, when the pilot suddenly dies mid-flight, Doug is left with the daunting task of landing the plane.

The movie follows Doug and his family as they confront seemingly insurmountable challenges, with the help of air traffic controllers and flight instructors who provide remote guidance and support. Their struggle to survive is a testament to the power of perseverance and prayer in the face of incredible adversity.

### Movie’s Highs

“On a Wing and a Prayer” is an outstanding movie that truly captivates its viewers with its inspirational storyline. The fact that it is based on a true story makes it all the more remarkable. Roma Downey, who has produced other excellent movies, does a fantastic job with this one as well. The subplot involving the young aspiring pilot and her friend who follow the plane

online adds another layer of interest to the film.

The casting of Dennis Quaid in the lead role is perfect, and he delivers an outstanding performance that is both convincing and captivating. The tension and suspense build as the control tower, King Air pilot guru, and other experts work with the emergency pilot (Quaid) to get him and his family safely on the ground. I was literally on the edge of my seat, riveted by the unfolding drama. I highly recommend this movie to anyone who enjoys inspirational, true-story-based films.

### Movie’s Lows

There was a subplot that didn’t really change anything in the storyline. It was involving a young aspiring pilot and her friend who follow the plane online and try to catch the plane’s landing or crash, which doesn’t really make sense. The presence of the two young children in the movie is puzzling, as it is not clear what purpose they serve in advancing the plot. In fact, they are more of a distraction and annoyance than anything else.

It almost feels like the filmmakers added them in as a contrived plot device, hoping to appeal to a younger audience. At times, it seemed as though they were building up to a Disney-style climax where



the child pilot would save the day, but this never materializes. Overall, the inclusion of these characters felt unnecessary and did little to enhance the movie’s storyline.

Also, while the flying visuals are stunning, the character development feels rushed and lacking, making it difficult to connect with the story.

Overall, I liked this movie, although I was confused about some parts.

However, I would still rate this movie a 7 out of 10.

## 'STARBOY' cover from The Veer Union reimagines The Weeknd's nostalgic song

SYDNEY BROWN  
COLUMNIST

“STARBOY” by The Veer Union brings back the well-loved, original “STARBOY” by The Weeknd, but in rock rather than its R&B and electropop original. This reconceptualization creates a new form of excitement for a song that’s more than half a decade old.

Remembering The Weeknd’s “STARBOY”

“STARBOY” by The Weeknd hit number two in Billboard’s Hot 100 back in 2016 with the album reaching number one. Every track made Billboard’s Hot 100. Anyone who wasn’t living under a rock would’ve heard “STARBOY” at one point, even if it were just in grocery and retail stores at the time. The lyric, “Look what you’ve done” most definitely became an earworm for those of us who were listening to local radio stations at this time. There’s

no denying The Weeknd’s talent.

### The Veer Union

The Veer Union, like The Weeknd, is Canadian. These alternative and hard rock artists started the band almost 20 years ago in 2004. They’ve produced multiple albums with their latest album being “MANIFESTATIONS” last year. The cover for “STARBOY” is one out of four singles that have been released this year. The selection of “STARBOY” is definitely a compliment to how influential The Weeknd has been in his music career so far.

### Highs

The lyric we all remember, “Look what you’ve done” is performed very similarly, ending with a high note, in The Veer Union’s version of “STARBOY.” This is great because it’s one of the catchiest parts of the song. It shows respect for the original piece in this way. The lyrics don’t appear to be altered, which some covers tend to do. This was simply a genre change.

“STARBOY” transferred to rock beautifully. Produced by the band’s vocalist, Crispin Earl, and obviously still composed by Doc McKinney, the song lands extremely well and I could see it being loved by fans of The Weeknd, not just rock fans. There’s a tasteful amount of dirty vocals for an R&B cover, and they tend to be layered and drawn out into the background once the line is finished.

### Lows

The release of this cover would’ve likely been more popular if it had been released closer to the release of the original “STARBOY.” Almost a full week from its release, it only has 3,927 views on YouTube. The band did do some Instagram advertising for “STARBOY,” but there could’ve been more mention. The surprise didn’t work in their favor, if we’re basing that off of views.

### Rating

There was enough of a rock spin on the



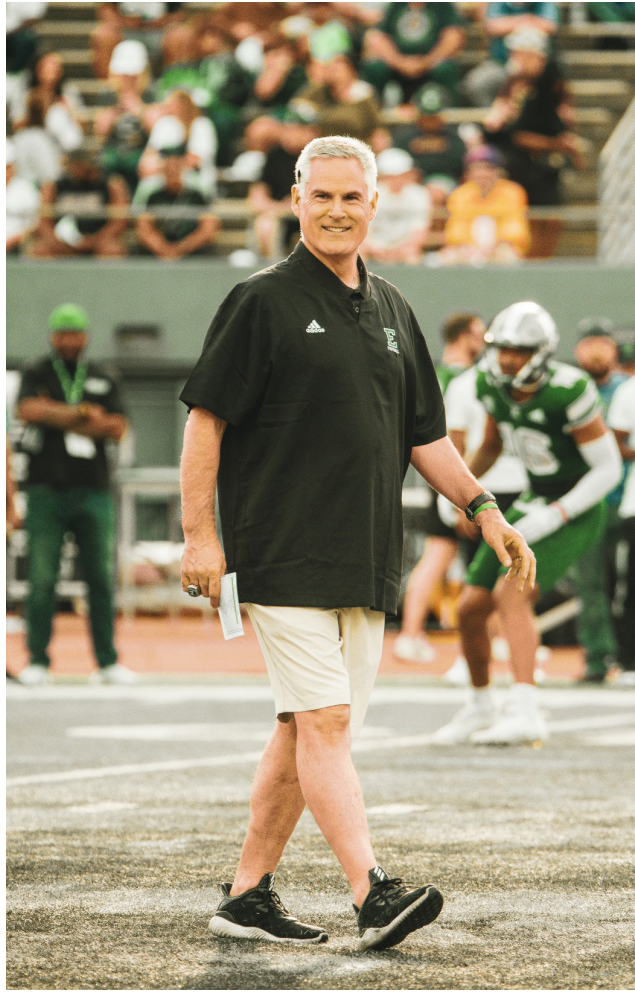
song while remaining rooted in the original song, which I felt was impactful. Give this catchy cover a listen on your chosen streaming platform.

The Veer Union’s cover of “STARBOY” has received a 9 out of 10 review from me.



# SPORTS

## EMU football Spring Game: Green wins 14-12



PHOTOS BY JAYLA FORD

### THE BLOCK E

Tune in for commentary and an overview of all things sports at EMU, hosted by Sports Editor Blake McQueary and co-hosts Prithish Kokate and Cody Almasy.



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# COMICS

## CONSTRUCTION | RYLEE CURLEY



## CONFETTI | RYLEE CURLEY



## STR8TS

No. 643 Medium

			4		3		
							3
	8				1		4
3							
							2
7	6	8		9			
				3			
5			3	2		4	
					7		6

You can find more help, tips and hints at [www.str8ts.com](http://www.str8ts.com)

Previous solution - Easy

7	6	8			3	2	
8	7	6	4	5		1	3
	5	7	6	4			2
2	9		7	6	8	5	4
1	2	4	3		7	6	5
	4	3	5	7	6		1
4	3	5		8	9	7	6
3	1	2		9	5	8	7
6		1	2	3	4	9	8

How to beat **Str8ts** – Like Sudoku, no single number can repeat in any row or column. But... rows and columns are divided by black squares into **compartments**. These need to be filled in with numbers that complete a 'straight'. A **straight** is a set of numbers with no gaps but can be in any order, eg [4,2,3,5]. Clues in black cells remove that number as an option in that row and column, and are not part of any straight. Glance at the solution to see how 'straights' are formed.

## SUDOKU

No. 643 Very Hard

		8					
						5	7
							6
2	5		9				9
							3
			7		8		4
			5		7		
7				6		4	
9							8
8	2	4					3

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

Previous solution - Tough

2	7	6	5	1	4	9	3
3	8	5	9	7	6	1	4
1	4	9	8	2	3	5	7
6	5	3	4	8	2	7	9
8	1	7	6	3	9	2	5
4	9	2	1	5	7	8	6
9	6	1	7	4	8	3	2
5	2	4	3	9	1	6	8
7	3	8	2	6	5	4	1

To complete Sudoku, fill the board by entering numbers 1 to 9 such that each row, column and 3x3 box contains every number uniquely.

For many strategies, hints and tips, visit [www.sudokuwiki.org](http://www.sudokuwiki.org)

If you like Str8ts check out our books, iPhone/iPad Apps and much more on our store.

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