



EMU men’s basketball drop out of MAC tournament in Feb. 28 game

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The Eastern Echo

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Women in Art at EMU: Nia Crutcher



LAYLA MCMURTRIE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Eastern Michigan University Bachelor of Fine Arts student Nia Crutcher has been creating art since before she could speak. Looking forward, the artist has hopes to one day open her own gallery in New York City showcasing people of color.

While some college students are still unsure of what career to pursue, Crutcher said she has known she wanted to be an artist since early elementary school art classes.

Creating her own work, Crutcher does a lot of portraiture art; recently, she has been focusing her work on Black women and their hair journey.

"I am originally from Detroit but then my parents moved me out of Detroit in to Grosse Pointe and I was a lot of white

people and so my hair been definitely a journey for me I guess," Crutcher said. "I just want to recognize I guess the struggles that we might have as Black women with our hair and also how beautiful it is despite all of that."

A recent favorite piece of Crutcher's titled "Duality" showcases that theme, depicting a woman with an afro in two different lights. One blue who appears to be down and another golden and extremely happy.

The art was created with oil pastels, bleach, gold leaf and paint marker on mulberry paper, she said. Colored papers are taped underneath the medium to show the colors in the hair through holes, which were cut out with an x-acto knife and incense stick burning, Crutcher said.

"I kind of wanted to show the idea of how I might be confident, or Black women

might be confident one minute with their hair versus sometimes you aren't always as confident it might be like 'Oh, I hate how I look, I look like a boy' or things like this but you're still beautiful through all that and that's not the case," Crutcher said. "You just kind of have to you know keep pushing."

Another one of Crutcher's favorite pieces is called "Can't Touch My Soul," an oil painting that will be featured in the Annual Juried Student Show in EMU's Ford Gallery beginning on March 8.

"This woman is beautiful through everything despite white people maybe overstepping and touching her hair. She's still peaceful and calm despite the overstepping that people might be doing or like dehumanizing, treating her like a pet, kind of petting her hair and stuff like that," Crutcher said.

Similar to her current theme, Crutcher focused a lot on social justice in her art back in high school, and is currently working on a piece in an EMU class that will be surrounding gentrification in Detroit.

Crutcher feels that she has really just recently gotten the right guidance for her art journey at EMU. Since there is not an over abundance of art students at the university, she said that the ones there are really able to connect with each other and the professors.

"[The art program at EMU] feels very personal," Crutcher said. "I just love how kind and driven and I guess they really push you, they're very encouraging, and so it makes me feel like I can do anything as an artist."

Apart from being featured in Ford Gallery, Crutcher currently has a piece in the children's museum in Detroit at the Live Coal gallery at 80 Clairmount, both of which are great accomplishments for the artist, she said.

While she isn't completely sure about the future just yet, Crutcher has thought about going to graduate school to become an art professor at a university.

Ultimately though, her main goal is to have her own gallery in New York for people of color that allows her to show others work and help young artists with networking and resources.

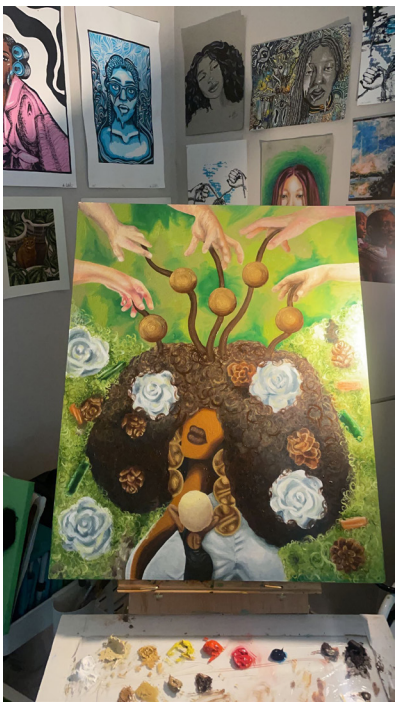
"I wanna have a gallery hopefully in New York, maybe even have like a chain and have one in Detroit or Chicago or something like that because I don't necessarily want to leave my city behind but the end goal is definitely to be in New York and I would love to teach children," Crutcher said. "I want it to be a safe space for people of color, especially Black people, to be able to show their art without limits on what they want to speak about through their art and also to sort of give them those connections that maybe I don't have or haven't had so young."

Apart from being a visual artist, Crutcher is an "artist in other ways" as well, and has been playing the cello for over 10 years.

"Before COVID, I was in the civic creative jazz ensemble set in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and it was nice because I got to be around like-minded people, people who look like me playing music, that was different," she said.

Crutcher's advice to young artists is to not compare yourself to other people, as everyone's work is unique in different ways.

"Art can be anything almost nowadays," she said. "Just don't limit yourself and just create."



TOP LEFT: NIA CRUTCHER STANDS WITH "DUALITY" ART PIECE. (PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER SHORT)

BOTTOM RIGHT: "CAN'T TOUCH MY SOUL" WILL BE FEATURED IN EMU'S FORD GALLERY BEGINNING MAR. 8.

Club Spotlight: Bronze Beauties

SHAYLA MOSTYN
NEWS REPORTER

Eastern Michigan University offers a variety of clubs that emphasize the importance of bonding among members and creating long-lasting friendships. EMU's Bronze Beauties prides itself on the strength of its sisterhood that the members are a part of.

The mission of the club is "to bring forth positive self identity, development to the women of EMU's campus while providing community outreach to people of all walks of life," DeShaia Ventour, president of Bronze Beauties, said.

Along with social events, the club participates in many volunteer events both on campus and within the Ypsilanti community.

"We've done Blessing Bags, [where] we give out hygiene bags to different places and across shelters in Washtenaw County," Ventour said. "A lot of our events are mainly social, but we have the community outreach aspect as well."

Members have the opportunity to be on committees and help plan events, whether it strictly be Bronze Beauties events or collaboration events with other organizations on campus.

A prominent aspect of Bronze Beauties is the balance between focusing on the community and building relationships among the members. The club does not strictly serve as a way to volunteer within the community, but it also serves as a safe space for women to come together and relax and vent about school or any issues they might have.

"Our club brings attention and awareness to having a sisterhood and also doing community service in our university and the Ypsilanti community," Anya Fuller, vice president and social chair of Bronze Beauties, said.

The impact of Bronze Beauties' sisterhood can be seen among its current members as well as alumni who often make an appearance at events.

"Once you in [Bronze Beauties], you're forever in [Bronze Beauties]," Ventour said.



At the beginning of each year, the club holds an informational where prospective members can come and learn about the club, as well as get to know its current members and enjoy some delicious snacks. The welcoming atmosphere of Bronze Beauties is what drew Ventour and Fuller to join. They both were looking for ways to be involved in campus life as well as wanting to make the most of their college experiences.

"I was looking on Eagle Sync, and I thought Bronze Beauties stood out by their mission statement," Fuller said. "I connected with them quickly."

Ventour and Fuller express that many of their favorite events have been the ones that were collaborations with other organizations on campus. Fuller's favorite is "Aux Wars" where Bronze Beauties hosted different organizations to perform different songs.

"We had different song categories, and each organization had to pick a different song pertaining to that category," Fuller said.

While Ventour says that she loved that event as well, one of her favorites was "Dip Wars."

"Dip Wars was between the four main female based organizations on campus ([Bronze Beauties], Project Big Sister, You Beautiful Black Women, and I am P.I.N.K.) Ventour said. "It is a friendly cooking

competition to bring unity [among] black women on campus."

Aside from being a fun way to bring the organizations together, "Dip Wars" also served as a fundraiser for the organizations. People were able to come in and pay \$1 to each organization and try their dip.

Bronze Beauties started on April 1, 2016. Every year on April 1, the club has a founder's day brunch, in honor of the founders who started the club, as well as getting a chance to reflect on the progression of the club over the years.

"I think the founders would be proud of the progression from back when they started in 2016 till now in 2023," Fuller said.

Although many aspects of Bronze Beauties have stayed the same, such as bylaws, the mission statement, and the core events, there have been new faces that help make the events that much better.

The club has much to offer that it may be easy to be swept up in the hustle and bustle of the events. However, Bronze Beauties works to maintain a balance between work and play.

"When we induct new members, we want them to feel welcome and comfortable. We don't want them to feel like they are in it just to be in it," Fuller said. "We want them to know that they have a voice and can add to the organization."

What's the move at EMU? March 6-11

VICTORIA SMITH
COPY EDITOR

Sexual Assault Awareness - March 6
Kings of Color will be hosting an event that brings awareness to sexual assault. Covering topics such as consent, the discussion will take place from 7-9 p.m. in the intersection of the Student Center.

"Thank an Eagle" Kick-off - March 7
Join Campus Life in learning more about The Faculty Development Center's annual "Thank an Eagle" event. Free food will be available, and the form for nominating an Eagle will open during the event. Running from 2-6 p.m., it will take place on the first floor of the Student Center.

Family Feud: Kings Edition - March 7
Partake in Kings of Color's annual Family Feud event. The game will take place from 7-9 p.m. in the Student Center Auditorium.

Multi-Cultural Fest - March 8
Student Government will be partnering with other campus organizations to host Multi-Cultural Fest. This event will showcase a multitude of campus organizations, providing the opportunity to meet their members. In addition, there will be open mic performances and the opportunity to shop products from student vendors. The event will be from 4-6 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom.

Gender and Technology: The Digital Divide and Women in Tech - March 8
As part of the 2022-2023 Women's and Gender Studies Lecture Series, Carmela M. Roybal and Rianka Roy will be discussing the 2023 theme of "Gender and Technology: The Digital Divide and Women in Tech." The panel will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be hosted through Zoom. The Zoom link can be found on the Women's Resource Center's Instagram.

Karaoke Night - March 8
The International Student Association and the Latinx Student Association will be teaming up to host a night of music, dance, and food. Taking place in the intersection

located on the second floor of the Student Center, the event will start at 6 p.m.

Psychology Course Planning - March 9
Join the EMU Psychology Club to discuss Fall 2023 course options within the Psychology Department and to hear students' experiences with professors. The event will begin at 5 p.m. in room 328 of Mark Jefferson.

Mocktail Read & Sip - March 9
Center of Race and Ethnicity and Sistas that Care will be hosting a discussion regarding Natalie Gutierrez's "The Pain We Carry." Mocktails will be available, and the event will be held from 6-8 p.m. in room 270 of the Student Center.

Kings Casino Night - March 9
Join Kings of Color and Campus Life for a night of casino games. Consisting of free food and prizes available to win, the event will take place from 7-9 p.m. in the McKenny Ballroom.

March Madness Basketball Tournament - March 10
Kings of Color is hosting their "March Madness Basketball Tournament" from 12-5 p.m. in the Rec/IM. There will be a total of eight teams each consisting of five players. Players must be EMU students, and the entry fee per player is \$5. To sign-up, one can direct message Kings of Color on Instagram or discuss in-person during their earlier events.

"Hare & Tortoise" - March 10-11
EMU Theatre will begin its run of "Hare & Tortoise." With a length of forty minutes, showtimes are on March 10 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on March 11 at 2 p.m. All productions will take place at the Sponberg Theatre, and admission is \$5.

Centering Your Values in the Dating Game - March 11
Presented by Jessie Katz, this event will discuss what values are, how to identify personal core values, and how to implement them within relationships. Taking place at the Zion Well location in Ann Arbor, it will run from 3-6 p.m. Free to attend, the link to register for the event can be found on Counseling and Psychological Services' Instagram.



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Sam Smith's 'Gloria' LP is full of inspiration



GERLIZ HERRERA
COLUMNIST

In January this year, Sam Smith released their latest album "Gloria." The album contains the famous song "Unholy" featuring the German singer Kim Petras. The album itself has been successful so far as it reached number one in countries like the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia.

"Gloria" is the fourth album that the British singer Sam Smith has released. The name of the album means liberation. According to Jamieson Cox, Sam Smith explained that they picked the name

before, one of the popular songs on the album is "Unholy." It reached number one on the Billboard's Hot 100 Songs Chart, and the song got a Grammy for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance.

The song is so good that it was trending on TikTok, one of the most popular social media platforms.

The album holds a total of 13 songs, featuring artists like Ed Sheeran, Jessie Reyez, Kim Petras, and Koffee. Most of the songs on the album were all composed by Sam Smith, along with the help of other songwriters.

The project has been such a success that it ended up being Sam Smith's third album

"Gloria" for this album to express the freedom of being who they are as a person and the self-love they hold for themselves.

By listening to the songs in the album, listeners can feel their confidence and how proud they are of themselves for living in their truth.

As mentioned

to reach number one out of the four albums they have released throughout their music career.

"Gloria" is mainly about expressing who you are. Sam Smith has always been open about who they are and what they are like. They have made sure to express in their songs what they feel and their love for themselves.

For instance, the song "Love Me More" talks about once being down on yourself, but slowing loving who you are wholly. This song describes how Sam Smith felt about themselves in an indirect inspirational way.

"Gloria" has received many good reviews from people like Rolling Stone, The New York Times and Billboard. It has also received 83% from Google Users.

Unsurprisingly, this album has received positive feedback because it has such powerful words and a beautiful melody in all of its songs. There is something about the theme of the music that makes the listener wants to hear the songs and even put it on repeat a couple of times.

This album is recommended especially because of its positivity and affirmational vibes. It can be found on platforms such as Apple Music, Spotify, Youtube Music, iheart, and Deezer.

If you want inspirational songs, "Gloria" is the album you are looking for.
I would rate the album a 10 out of 10.

Fall in love with Don Toliver's 'Lovesick'

AARON HIGHERS
MANAGING EDITOR

Cactus Jack artist Don Toliver released his third project "Love Sick" on Feb. 25. This album follows his album "Life of a DON," which received good reviews, but nowhere near the level of his debut "Heaven Or Hell."

Based on feelings of love, this project has 16 tracks and a heap of features.



Album Highs

As always, Don Toliver has some of the best beats and production in the game. The r&b trap artist collaborates with well-known producers on "Love Sick," such as Wheezy, KAYTRANADA, Hit-boy, Dez Wright, James Blake, and more. These all lead to these out-of-the-world beats that fit right into the artist's niche.

In addition, he continued to play onto his strengths in many songs with dazzling hooks and memorable choruses, such as in "Let Her Go" and "Go Down."

Also, many featured guests gave outstanding performances, such as Charlie Wilson on "If I Had" or Future and Justin Bieber on "Private Landing."

However, the two songs that stole the attention were "4 Me," the love ballad with his partner Kali Uchis, and "Bus Stop," a Jersey dance song that will sweep the charts.

Album Lows

For his third album, it feels as though little thought went into the entire production. For as many great songs as there are on the album, there is a tolerable one following it. In general, the project does not flow well together and fails to feel

like a love album.

While Toliver has never been known as a lyricist, many of his verses are subpar except for songs like "Go Down" and "Honeymoon."

There are solid performances from all the guest stars, but they do not mix well together. "Private Landing" seems to be a failed attempt at Travis Scott's "Maria I'm Drunk," and "Leave the Club" featuring Lil Durk and GloRilla left much to be desired.

Summary

Even with all those issues, there are many great songs that make it hard to hate this album. However, it seems as though Toliver hasn't progressed much since his debut. He has the potential to create an amazing project, but he has yet to try.

Hopefully, since he is his protege, Toliver will attempt a "Rodeo" type project like Travis Scott next time.

After release, he also said that a deluxe version will follow, which will hopefully make up for some of the lows of this album. Poor rollout, lack of pacing, and superficial love songs about lean make "Love Sick" appear worse than it is.

I would give the album a 7 out of 10.

'We Have a Ghost' is not a typical ghost movie

JOUD BAMEHRIZ
OPINIONS EDITOR

Netflix's new movie "We Have a Ghost" isn't at all what most people expected. Coming from a traditional haunted house movie experience, the audience might be shocked by this movie. It represents a haunted house but in an emotional and comedic frame.



Synopsis

The movie starts with a family moving into a haunted house without them knowing. After they move in, Kevin, one of the sons, has an encounter with a ghost called Ernest in their attic. Kevin's relationship with the ghost evolves over time, and they become close friends. At the same time, his family starts getting recognized from social media after posting a video of the ghost. However, things get complicated when Kevin and Ernest try to uncover the mystery of his death.

Highs

A movie about a haunted house is never expected to be emotional or funny, but "We Have a Ghost" was a successful attempt at changing the conventional idea of a haunted house movie. "We Have a Ghost" is considered a unique experience, since the typical genre for ghost movies is usually horror or thriller movies. The movie ends in an emotionally unexpected way, while many instances in the movie were focused on comedy.

Furthermore, the overall production, and especially the ghost effect, was realistic to a point where everything was believable.

Lows

The only thing that is considered a downside of this movie was that some scenes were boring. To be honest, I fell asleep a couple of times while watching the movie because some scenes were all about characters arguing over things that are not highly related to the main storyline. On the other hand, many scenes were exciting and had my family guessing what was happening next.

The movie had me and my family crying at the way it ended.

I would rate "We Have a Ghost" an 8 out of 10.

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Why LeBron James is the NBA's undisputed Greatest Player of All-Time after securing NBA All-Time Scoring Record

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

A record that stood tall for more than 30 years. NBA greats like Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O’Neal, Tim Duncan, and even Stephen Curry not being able to come within even 1,000 points of the record. One man, some may call him “The Chosen One,” some may call him “King,” some may call him nothing at all, but that one man; LeBron James.

This past month, on Feb. 7, James surpassed NBA legend and first-ballot Hall of Famer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, to become the NBA’s all-time regular season scoring leader, a record that stood untouched for nearly 40 years.

Upon entering the NBA in 2003, James was arguably the most scrutinized, highly touted, and criticized high school prospect to ever exist. Deemed “The Chosen One” by many sports figures and himself, James was being told that if he, someday, wasn’t a first-ballot Hall of Fame selection, he would be referred to as a “bust“ or “overhyped.”

Fast forward to today, and James has

lived up to every expectation that was made of him and more.

His resume reads as follows; four-time NBA champion, four-time Finals MVP award winner, four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, 19-time NBA All-Star, 13 All-NBA First Team selections, three All-NBA second-team selections, two All-NBA third-team selections, five All-NBA defensive first-team selections, selected to the NBA’s 75th Anniversary team, a four-time AP Athlete of the Year winner, and many more honors, accolades, and awards that I’m not going to bore you with.

Now in 2023 and his 20th year in the NBA, James finds himself ranked in the top spot for many historical categories in NBA history.

Currently, James is number one in All-time scoring, All-time NBA Honors, first-team All-NBA honors, playoff scoring, playoff wins, Player of the Month awards, Player of the Week Awards, and is tied for the most All-star selections.

Along with being in the number one spot for all of those categories, James is also atop many other historical lists as well.

James currently sits fourth on the NBA’s all-time assist leader list, ninth in all-time steals, and third, in all-time minutes played as well.

If you think it stops there, it doesn’t. James has dominated the game of basketball for 20+ years, inside and out, and that includes playoffs too, where James has also proven himself to be one of the best players in that category as well.

As far as NBA playoff records, James holds almost all of those. Including being the NBA’s all-time playoff leading scorer, and the NBA’s all-time playoff win leader, James sits at 10th in all-time playoff blocks, first in NBA all-time playoff steals, second in NBA all-time playoff assists, sixth in NBA all-time playoff rebounds, third in three-pointers made all-time in the playoffs, first in field goals made all-time in the playoffs, and first in all-time minutes played in the playoffs.

Former NBA and Duke guard, JJ Redick, even chimed in on the argument on his podcast “TheOldMan&TheThree,” pointing out that LeBron is leading, or at least top five, in numerous NBA history

scoring categories.

According to Redick and his podcast, James ranks fifth for all-time NBA career scoring average, has the most clutch-time points in NBA history since the tracking began in the 1996-97 season, ranks second for most game-tying or game-winning shots inside the final minute of the fourth quarter or overtime, and has five game-winning buzzer beaters in the playoffs, which is the most ever in NBA history.

“Just a kid from Akron, Ohio” is a saying that James reminds the world of occasionally. Never forgetting where he came from, staying true to himself, and not giving a single care about what anyone says, James has proven himself to be arguably the greatest basketball player that this world has ever seen.



Instead of debating, let’s just appreciate greatness while it’s here. He is the GOAT though. He just is.

‘Cocaine Bear’ is simply that



MARIE WHITE
CONTENT EDITOR

“Cocaine Bear” is for someone who likes strange, gorey comedies with no actual plot line or connections to follow. I wasn’t exactly sure what to expect from this movie, but it surely wasn’t what I saw. I expected a semi-scary, light hearted comedy, but it was an outrageously gorey comedy that was truly either hit or miss.

Synopsis

“Cocaine Bear” is a comedy horror movie centered around a real life event about an American black bear that ingested 75lbs of lost cocaine in 1985. This story follows the beginning, middle and end of illegal drugs being smuggled into the United States and landing all over the southern United States. Part of the drugs land in Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest where the American black bear ingests them and goes on a drug-fueled rampage.

Directed by Elizabeth Banks, starring Kerri Russell as Sari, O’Shea Jackson Jr as Daveed, Jesse Tyler Ferguson as Peter, and Ray Liotta as Syd.

What I loved

It was hilarious. The entire theater continuously laughed at this movie (even when it wasn’t very funny). That’s simply how high the comedy was. It made me curl into a ball at points and burst out laughing at others. It even brought down some levels of gore and made them tolerable because of characters’ one liners.

I don’t have anything other than I like than the comedy. Most characters were funny, and their one liners made you either giggle and shake your head or completely lose it. I don’t think there was a silent moment in the theater (from the laughter).

What I didn’t love

The other side of the comedy. While I thought a lot of the film was hilarious, some parts of the film felt like they were trying way too hard. I’m all for a movie where you laugh because it’s funny, not because you know they want you to laugh, and some parts were just too on the nose for me. I wanted it to be funny on its own, not forcibly funny, and it did feel just too much in some parts. Certain characters like the park inspector, you could just tell their character was trying to come off as funny, but nothing really landed.

The gore. Holy shit, this film was so gorey that it was ridiculous. I didn’t even know it was rated R until I bought the tickets, and even then, I thought it was rated that way for language, not gore. While this movie makes you laugh really hard, it makes you gag just as much, and in a lot of parts, the comedy couldn’t overshadow how nasty it was. By the end of the movie, you’re like “We get it. It’s a bear. I don’t need to see a million disconnected limbs.”

With the honorable mention going to the unfollowable and unemotional plot. There are several plot lines going throughout the movie, but none of them are fully fleshed out and make you want to root for the characters. A lot of the story felt like they wanted you to have that shock value, but when you’re not connected to the characters, how emotional can you really be?

Verdict

If you want to watch a funny movie about a bear on coke with a ton of gore, then this film is for you. Otherwise, you can watch other movies that have more plot and are not completely disgusting. I definitely don’t regret watching this movie, but I wouldn’t watch it again.

I give “Cocaine Bear” a 3.5 out of 10.

'Raw Ambition' by EMU's very own Queso Tone is promising

SYDNEY BROWN
COLUMNIST

Eastern Michigan University student Antonio Byrd, known as Queso Tone, dropped his debut album titled "Raw Ambition" on Feb. 17. The project explores a variety of topics and demonstrates a unique sound that shows promise for Queso Tone's future in the music industry.

Queso Tone is a rapper, singer, songwriter, and producer from Detroit, Michigan. Apart from being a student at EMU, he spends his free time with his family and friends, making music, and participating in NEXT Scholars.

Personally, I am more of a metalhead and rock enthusiast, and the farthest I've gone into rap before Queso Tone was Kim Dracula. Queso Tone's album managed to impress me, and "Trust" was an earworm for me before the single. His music managed to be contagious enough for me, despite being out of my typical genres. I anticipated the release of "Raw Ambition."

This is a different reaction from the

typical reactions that I give peers when they share their music with me; Queso Tone is already good and his voice isn't cracking in the recordings he's sharing (maybe that's a more intimate thing or a style I'm unfamiliar with though)!

Queso Tone is also standing with survivors of sexual assault. "Criminal Intention," featuring artist Karma, was a cathartic experience for me as a survivor. In my humble opinion, it is important for men to take part in the fight against crimes that are disproportionately against women.

On the track "Psychosocial," Queso Tone opens up, going just as hard as Slipknot's song by the same name, but in different ways. The beat is easier to keep up with, and Queso Tone discusses his struggles with anxiety, unhealthy relationships including friendships, loss, and grieving.

"Raw Ambition" is raw. Despite his personal struggles, Queso Tone encourages others to believe in themselves, notably in the song "Super Villain," which I could honestly imagine in a Marvel movie.



It's important to listen to local artists, and there is some sort of solidarity in supporting those in our area. Moreover, Queso Tone has catchy beats that have had my metal self engaged. I think that you don't know until you try.

"Raw Ambition" is out on Spotify, YouTube, and Apple Music— and from someone with interests typically out of this genre, I would give the album a 7 out of 10.

'You People' is an amazing love story that unites worlds

JOUD BAMEHRIZ
OPINIONS EDITOR

Seeing the poster of the movie "You People" hints at a beautiful comedy movie, but the audience would never expect such a movie to have a lot of emotions involved.

Synopsis

Netflix's "You People" tells a story of love that transcends borders and tries to unite two different worlds. Both of the main characters lead very different lives at the beginning of the movie.

Jonah Hill stars as Ezra, a Jewish white man with a bugging family that always insists that he gets a girlfriend. He meets Amira, a Muslim black woman with an intense father, who cares a lot about her to the point of insanity.

Their families keep getting in the way of their happiness when they fall in love and decide to make things official. The couple decides to cancel their wedding on the wedding day since the situation was too unbearable, but as the events unfold, things become a bit more interesting.

Highs

I think many would agree that it is

interesting how the movie indirectly discusses sensitive topics like microaggressions toward people of color and how racism takes place in many situations that people never have thought of. The movie itself previews a story about race and religion, which are two main issues in America, but the movie was a great tool to spread awareness of that.

Furthermore, the upbeat vibe of the movie is honestly addicting since the couple tries to cope with a very hard situation, and they even make it look fun.

Moreover, I found it really well-thought how the idea of love was portrayed in the movie, conveying the message that love can be enough no matter what the circumstances are.

Low

I found it really interesting how Muslim people were shown in the movie. To be specific, the way they dress and talk. As a Muslim myself, I would say there were many flaws with the representation of Islam in the movie, but there were some parts that were close to correctness.

Also, the couple’s siblings and other parents had little to no effect on the



storyline. It mainly seems like only Ezra, his mom, Amira, and her dad were the only important characters in the movie, and for a 1-hour 50-minute long movie, that could not be enough.

The movie had me sobbing at the end. I didn’t expect it to be this emotional, but it holds a really deep message that hits hard.

I would rate “You People” a 9 out of 10.



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Both EMU track and field teams crowned MAC indoor champions

DESTINY JENKINS-JONES
SPORTS REPORTER

The Eastern Michigan University men’s and women’s track and field programs collected team titles at the 2023 Mid-American Conference Indoor Championships on Saturday, Feb. 25 inside the Perry Fieldhouse in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Senior Baldvin Magnusson put on an outstanding performance for the Eagles, collecting three championships in the mile, 3,000m and 5,000m runs, scoring 30 total points.

Magnusson led the two-day event with a total five men winning eight individual titles. The Iceland native won gold in the 5,000m run on Friday night in a meet-record time of 13:58.24. On Saturday, he excelled in the mile run with 4:15.29, then proceeded to claim gold in the 3,000m run, in another meet-record of 8:02.59. The senior passed former Eagle Boaz

Cheboiywo’s mark of 8:04.53.

The men’s team were able to retain their championship title from the previous year as they tallied 171 points against Kent State University’s second place with 168 points. The women’s side scored 89.5 points ahead of Ball State University’s 83.0 points.

Junior Kaleb Simpson saw two titles as he won gold for the 60m and 200m dashes. Simpson marked 6.76 in the 60m dash which would tie his personal-best and the ninth overall time in program history. The junior would then place first in the single-lap race with a time of 21.60.

Freshman Connor McCoy finished the 800m dash in 1:51.97 during his MAC indoor debut.

On Friday night, EMU won a pair of events in the field. Graduate student Newlyn Stephenson was stellar in the weight throw competition with a winning throw of 22.27 meters, while junior Yvan Lopes Riberio jumped to gold in his first MAC indoor meet.

Lopes Riberio won in the long jump contest with a best of 7.38m.

The Eagles had one individual title with senior Angel Gazaway winning gold in the 60m hurdles. Gazaway was the top-qualifier for Friday’s preliminary round with a time of 8:46. She won the title on Saturday in 8:41, the sixth-fastest time in program history.

For the women’s team, sophomore Saraiah Walkes was the top scorer with 16 points coming in second place for both the 60m dash with 7.53 and the 200m dash in 24.29. Graduate student Mair Edwards tallied nine points, placing second in the 400m dash in 56.31 and eighth for the 200m in 24.94. Sophomore Chloe Musta also placed second in the 800m dash while junior Maura Lane finished the pole vault in second.

Parks collected a pair of awards as well as she was named the MAC Men’s and Women’s Coach of the Year after her team’s sweep. Parks earned four women’s honors

with the Eagles and has been honored with the men’s accolades in the past two years. Winning both awards, Parks has become the first coach to sweep the accolades since University of Akron coach Dennis Mitchell in 2017.

The Eagles swept the team titles for the fourth time in program history as both teams held the trophy in the same meet in 1997, 2000 and 2018. With the sweep, the Eagles have brought MAC Championships No.156 and No.157 back to Ypsilanti. The titles won in the meet records the 17th crown for the indoor men’s team and eighth for the women’s team.

Up next, the Eagles that qualify on both men’s and women’s teams will be heading to the NCAA Championships held on March 10-11 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Eagles will then travel to Miami, Florida, for the outdoor season that is scheduled to gun-off on March 17-18 for the Black and Gold Invitational hosted by the University of Central Florida.



PHOTO CREDIT: ISRAEL MILLER

EMU women’s basketball soars past Ohio; Eagles earn a spot in MAC tournament

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern Michigan University women’s basketball team (15-14, 7-11 MAC) were on the road in Athens, Ohio, to take on the Bobcats of Ohio University (6-23, 4-14 MAC) in a must-win game for the Eagles to earn a berth in the Mid-American Conference tournament.

The Eagles answered the challenge and took the win, 74-64. With the win, the Eagles are headed to Cleveland, Ohio, as they officially earn a spot as the seventh seed in the 2023 MAC tournament held on March 8-11 at RocketMortgage Fieldhouse.

Three Eagles scored double-digits as sophomore guard Lachelle Austin led

the Eagles offensively, finishing with 25 points, six rebounds, and four assists. Junior Ce’Nara Skanes notched her 31st career triple-double as she scored 21 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, while sophomore Tayra Eke was dominating both ends of the floor as she scored 12 points, eight rebounds, three steals, and two blocks.

EMU attacked the glass offensively as they pulled down 14 offensive rebounds and turned them into 11 second chance points. On the other end of the floor, the Eagles defense showed up as they forced 15 turnovers, turning those into 16 points on the offensive end.

In the first quarter, a back-and-forth battle to start the game found the Eagles trailing Ohio, 16-15, right before EMU



would go on an 8-0 run with Skanes burying a three-pointer to go up, 23-16, to end the first quarter.

The second quarter was almost identical to the first as Ohio fought their way back and tie the game at 32-32, before the Eagles generated another 8-0 run highlighted by an Austin bucket to regain the lead, 40-32.

The Eagles picked right back up where they left off at entering the third quarter as they held onto their lead before a 7-0 run highlighted by Austin again would expand the lead, 55-42, with 3:44 left in the quarter. Ohio would attempt to cut into that lead, but EMU still entered the fourth quarter with a 60-48 advantage as they outscored the Bobcats in the quarter, 20-16.

Ohio would then outscore EMU by

a difference of two points, 16-14, in the fourth quarter, but it wasn’t enough as the Eagles held on for the win, 74-64.

The Eagles dominated the Bobcats in the paint, as they finished the game with 40 of their 74 total points near the basket. For comparison, the Bobcats only scored 20 total points in the paint.

Now that the regular season has come to an end, the Eagles will now set their focus to the 2023 MAC tournament. EMU will faceoff against the No. 2 seeded Bowling Green Cardinals on Wednesday, March 8, inside RocketMortgage Fieldhouse. Tipoff is scheduled for 4:00 pm and it will be streamed on ESPN+.



PHOTO CREDIT: JAYLA FORD

EMU men’s basketball drops crucial road game to BGSU; falls out of MAC tournament

BLAKE MCQUEARY
SPORTS EDITOR

The Eastern Michigan University men’s basketball team (8-22, 5-12 MAC) traveled to Bowling Green, Ohio, on Tuesday, Feb. 28 for a matchup against Bowling Green State University (11-19, 5-12 MAC). The game was a must-win scenario for the Eagles as they held the eighth and final spot in the MAC tournament.

Unfortunately, the Eagles did not come away with a win as BGSU was victorious, with a final score of 88-68.

With the loss, the Eagles will fall to 10th place in the MAC conference standings and will now need a win against Northern Illinois on Friday to continue their season, as well as losses from Miami OH, Central Michigan, and BGSU.

Five Eagles scored double-figures as freshman point guard Orlando Lovejoy led the Eagles offensively in his start, finishing with 15 points and three rebounds. Sophomores Tyson Acuff



and Legend Geeter both finished with 11 points, as fellow sophomores Emoni Bates and Yusuf Jihad added 10 points.

In the first half, the Eagles jumped out to an early 6-2 lead with 15:55 left as

the defense forced three BGSU turnovers in the first five minutes of play. BGSU would storm back from the deficit after an improved shooting performance would put them within one point, 19-18, with 10:11 left in the first half.

It was a back-and-forth battle the rest of the half, with BGSU in the lead heading into halftime, 35-31. EMU was outrebounded by BGSU, 20-14, as well as getting themselves into foul trouble which led to the deficit at the end of the half.

In the second half, BGSU would continue to expand their lead as EMU continued to struggle with fouls and finding the basket. The rest of the matchup would be all BGSU as they caught fire and ran away with the win, 88-68.

The Eagles struggled all game attacking the glass with BGSU outrebounding EMU, 37-25.

Up next, the Eagles will travel to Dekalb, Illinois, for a matchup with the Huskies of Northern Illinois University. Tipoff for that game is scheduled for 8 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN3.

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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