



The Kid LAROI visits
EMU with opener
Jeremy Zucker

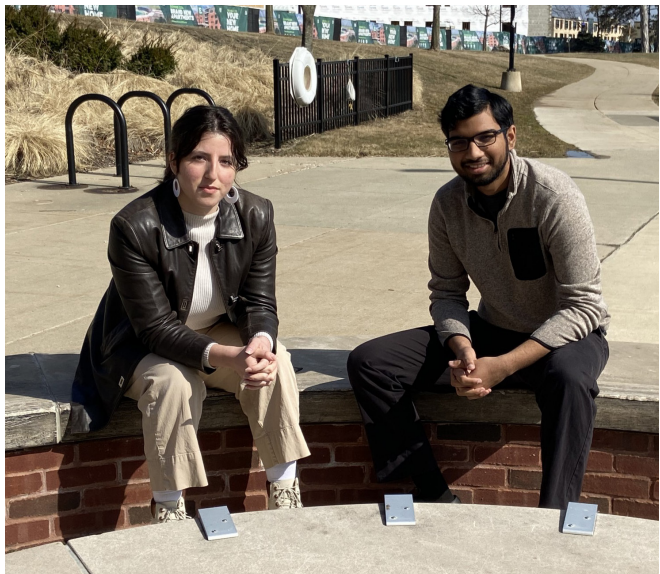
See page 6



The Eastern Echo

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Syed Wasiuddin and Ameera Salman elected as student body president and vice president



LAYLA MCMURTRIE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Following Eastern Michigan University Student Government elections on March 29-30, Syed Wasiuddin and Ameera Salman have been elected as student body president and vice president, according to unofficial election results.

Wasiuddin and Salman received 61% of the total vote with 313 votes, while the other duo in the running for president and vice president, Cedrick Charles and Louise Engohang, received 204 votes, 39% of the total vote. During the voting period, 517 total votes were cast.

Charles, who is the current vice president of the student body, congratulated

organizations and EMU administrators on the issues we hoped to tackle," Charles said. "I want to congratulate Syed and Ameera on a great campaign, and offer the best of luck on their term. There is a higher duty in Student Government, and it's much more than holding the role of president and vice president; the voice and the needs of the students must always come first. I pledge my support in whatever advances the cause of the students further."

When it comes to voter turnout, Wasiuddin thought it went great, and said that the votes for the winning presidential candidate were the highest in five years.

"Being able to go meet people I think was really the reason why we had such a high voter turnout," Wasiuddin said. "Being

like 'hey, let me have your time, let me talk' and some people would hold me down for like 20 minutes, but I was happy to have their voice heard and that's what matters right now."

Salman agreed, but still hopes to get more students voting in future years.

"I'm just glad that we were able to talk to a lot of people and get them aware about the election," Salman said. "I definitely would have liked to see more people voting."

With approximately 14,000 total students at EMU, the voter turnout was near 3.7%, EMU Office of the President Chief of Staff Leigh Greden said.

"That may seem low but it's consistent with recent years, especially since COVID," Greden said. "Students who live on or near campus and/or who attend full-time are more likely to vote."

Wasiuddin and Salman are excited about their win nonetheless, and hope to bring unique perspectives to Student Government.

"I just want to be more inclusive, representing all of campus, using my major as a STEM person to better advocate for all of campus," Wasiuddin said.

With Wasiuddin majoring in biochemistry, and Salman studying journalism with a background in writing and art, the pair feels that their win is even more important, and that their time in office will represent students who are not always in these political leadership positions.

"I was born in Dearborn, first generation American citizen, my parents were Indian immigrants, so a lot of seeing them as pariahs after 9/11 has really shaped my

view of how we have to advocate and represent ourselves the best," Wasiuddin said.

Salman, as a queer person and Palestinian-American, is also proud to represent those groups of people.

"I want to bring that perspective to Student Government," Salman said. "Having a passion for being involved on campus is really important to me so I think working towards that goal of just making this a place that everyone loves is definitely a top priority."

Apart from Student Government, Salman is also the editor-in-chief of EMU's literary magazine Cellar Roots and the vice president of Planned Parenthood Generation Action on campus.

As part of their plans for office, Wasiuddin and Salman have three focus areas:

Engagement will look like surveying students to identify needs and feedback, increasing student organization awareness and utilization of Student Government as a resource and improving campus event times for commuters and residents.

Growth will prioritize adding the

telephone numbers of Counseling and Psychological Services and the Department of Public Safety to EID cards and increasing funding for Counseling and Psychological Services, Swoop's Food Pantry, and more campus resources.

Inclusivity will promote the expansion of dining options for individuals with dietary restrictions and expand the use of gender-inclusive language in university documentation.



In addition, Wasiuddin said he also hopes to bring more advocacy for work study, disabilities, and mental health.

Cellar Roots hosts dual magazine launch

LAYLA MCMURTRIE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With a new editor-in-chief and a post-pandemic comeback, Eastern Michigan University's literary magazine Cellar Roots is hosting a release party for the club's 2022 and 2023 volumes.

In the Student Center Gallery on April 5-6, artists who are featured in the magazine's new volumes will showcase their work. There will be a reception at 8 p.m. on April 6 where students will read their poems and people can pick-up a copy of the magazine.

Ameera Salman, who began their position as the editor-in-chief of Cellar Roots in January, said that it is the first time that the club is doing an event like this, and one of few times that two volumes will be released simultaneously.

The student organization came up with the idea for a launch party as a way to involve the artists as much as possible.

"I wanted it to be kind of a collaborative and immersive experience so that people can see the art inside of the magazine, even if they maybe don't buy it or if they didn't get a chance to be in it this year," Salman said.

Ashley Schemer, a graphic designer for Cellar Roots, is excited for the launch party as well, and said that her role has helped her achieve her goal of improving her design skills.

"So far, working on this issue has already broadened my experience with graphic design, and I'm excited to begin working on the upcoming magazines!" Schemer said. "I can't wait to see some students' submissions in person. I hope the event will bring awareness to Cellar Roots and get more students interested in possibly joining or submitting their

artwork for future editions."

Salman said that the process for creating this year's volume was hard, but fun and exciting nonetheless.

"It's taught me a lot about what I do and don't want to do going forward, what I want to do in my life," Salman said. "I really enjoy the job. I didn't know very much about it going in and I think that it's a process that needs more focus on it... I'm excited for what the future holds."

As the literary magazine used to be a bigger deal on campus, Salman said, the editor-in-chief wants to regain that hype from students, and would love to see more submissions and bigger magazines in the near future.

With the realization that the 2024 volume will be Cellar Roots' 50th, the club wants to do a big themed magazine next year.

In the past, community members served as jurors for the organization, to vote on work that will be included, which is something Salman hopes to bring back soon. Cellar Roots is also always looking for editors and designers. Submissions will be open for the next edition of Cellar Roots in fall of 2024.

Looking forward, Salman hopes to bring the magazine out into the Ypsilanti community more, selling old and new editions off-campus, and creating an archive of old volumes at the local library.

Anyone interested in buying a copy of Cellar Roots can purchase the 2022 and 2023 volumes separately or together through a pre-order form on Instagram @cellar.roots. A bundle of volume 48 and volume 49 can be purchased for \$25; individually, volume 48 is on sale for \$20 and volume 49 is on sale for \$15. The magazine can be bought with cash, card, check or venmo and can be picked up at the event on April 6 or another scheduled time.

EMU activist Naomi Barbour fights for student voter rights



ALEX KREPS
NEWS REPORTER

After Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed State Senate Bill 13 making Michigan's primary voting date unclear, students like Naomi Barbour began a discussion about student voter rights.

Changing the primary voting date seems like an innocuous shift, but in reality, it affects college students a disproportionate amount. According to "Voter Suppression and College Students," an article legally reviewed by Kellie Pantekeok, student's voices and votes are already some of the easiest to be suppressed especially those going to out of state universities.

Barbour is an Eastern Michigan University student activist working hard to increase student voter turnout in the Michigan primary elections.

"Michigan actually has had the highest increase in young voters since 2022 compared to previous years," Barbour said.

This makes Michigan uniquely positioned due to the recent primary changes and this major increase in young

voters.

However, for Barbour and organizations like The Campus Vote Project, these changes are cause for concern. Barbour advocates that "Michigan law should require early voting on public colleges and university campuses so that students can cast their ballot in advance of elections that will take place during a break." This change would allow all students no matter their home state to have their voice heard.

"Unless we want to be the change, we really have to be the voice of speaking up," Barbour said. "We can't be asking ourselves why this problem keeps happening, and yet none of us are speaking on it."

The most important thing for students to grasp about the political system is that it doesn't have a chance of changing from within, Barbour said, and unity and open conversation is needed to create change.

Barbour is a member of the Michigan Department of State's Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force a "first-of-its-kind nonpartisan Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force" aiming to increase young voter engagement, according to their webpage.

As a member of the task force, Barbour is a representative of Eastern Michigan and an advocate for all student voters. As a result of the changes laid out in State Senate Bill 13, many students may have great trouble voting in the 2024 primary. This is due to the proposed election date coinciding with spring break on many college campuses.

According to a letter sent to senate majority leader Winnie Brinks, "nearly 60 percent of Michigan's college and university student population are scheduled to be on spring break between February 26 and March 1, 2024."

Students already struggle to get out and vote due to the enormity of their class work, Barbour said, and changing the election day to during spring break will only exacerbate the problem of low student voter turnout. This fact in tandem with the largest increase of student voters in Michigan means the seemingly innocuous change may lead to record levels of voter suppression.

Barbour is a voice for change, but she said that her voice alone can never be loud enough, which is why she feels so strongly about increasing student voter rights and engaging the student body to get out and engage in the democratic process.

"We can't be asking ourselves why this problem keeps happening, and yet none of us are speaking on it," Barbour said. "None of us are running for political office. None of us are advocating for the opposition that we wanna see. And so I think now is more of an important time than ever that we need students and advocates for change in these positions of power that are advocating for the voting revolution that our students need, our campus needs, our state needs, and you know, of course that the country needs."



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What's the move at EMU? April 3-7

VICTORIA SMITH
COPY EDITOR

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

Springtime Nature Hike - April 3
The Botany Club will be hosting a nature hike to appreciate the springtime. Running from 5-7 p.m. at LeFurge Woods, bringing mud boots and wearing weather appropriate clothing is recommended.

Walk A Mile In Her Shoes: March Against Sexual Assault - April 4

Join the Women's Resource Center walking in heels to bring awareness to sexual assault. A resource fair, an awareness program, and giveaways will also occur with food being available. The event will take place from 3-5 p.m. at Big Bob's LakeHouse. Registration will begin at 2:30 p.m. the day of or can be completed earlier @emuwomenscenter on Instagram. The entirety of donations made will go toward benefiting Safehouse Center.

Self Massage Demo - April 4
Campus Life will be hosting a self massage demo in which a massage therapist will teach massage techniques. It will run from 3-6 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Center.

2023 Summer & Part-time Job Hiring Fair - April 5

The University Advising and Career Development Center is hosting its 2023 Summer & Part-time Job Fair from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. The registration link can be accessed @emuadvisingandcareer on Instagram.

Start By Believing Table - April 5
The Women's Resource Center and the Department of Public Safety will be running a Start By Believing Table in which one can learn how to support survivors of sexual assault. Free personal safety items will also be available, and the event will run from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Center.

Taste of Africa - April 5
Join the African Student Association in eating authentic flavors from Africa,

such as meatpies, suya, plantain and more. Taking place from 4-6 p.m. at Big Bob's Lakehouse, tickets can be purchased @emuasa on Instagram.

Interviewing Workshop - April 5
The Women's Resource Center and the University Advising and Career Development Center will be partnering up to host an interviewing workshop from 6-7 p.m. in room 301 of the Student Center. The link to register can be accessed through @emuwomenscenter on Instagram.

End of Year Celebration - April 6
Amplifying the Arts and the EMU Arts Management Program will be hosting a celebration for the end of the school year. With music, food, crafts, karaoke and more, the celebration will take place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the King Hall Lounge.

Annual Quinceañera - April 6
Join the Latinx Student Association for a traditional quinceañera involving dancing, food, a DJ and more. Running from 6:30-10 p.m., it will take place in the McKenny Hall Ballroom.

Cellar Roots Magazine Launch Reception - April 6

Join Cellar Roots as they launch two volumes of their student literary art magazine at the Student Center Intermedia Gallery Group Art Gallery. The reception will be held on April 6 at 8 p.m. and will feature Cellar Roots student art, entertainment and refreshments. The gallery will also be open to the public on April 5-6 to showcase the student art. Cellar Roots magazines are currently available for preorder.

Spa Night - April 6
Join Campus Life for a night of DIY spa activities, such aromatherapy and bath bombs. The event will take place from 8-10 p.m. at The Commons.

Poets for Abolition - April 7
Poets4 will be hosting Poets for Abolition at the Bridge Community Café. Art and vendors will be available throughout the night. Doors will open at 6 p.m., and the poetry reading will begin at 7 p.m. A \$10 donation is suggested, and all donations will support the Michigan Prison Doulas Initiative.

The Eastern Echo hosts EMU Student Media Gala

LAYLA MCMURTRIE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Eastern Echo, Eastern Michigan University's independent student-run newspaper, is hosting a Student Media Gala at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse on April 13 at 6:30 p.m.

As a way to help fundraise for student media at the university, the Echo hopes to inform the community about the newspaper's growth and plans for the coming years. Cellar Roots, EMU's literary magazine, will also be present at the event. The event is run by student media staff in hopes to raise money for the future of student media.

The event is a gala with formal attire with a taco bar and dessert table, awards for staff and alumni, as well as a silent auction for guests to participate in. The auction will include gift baskets including donations

from EMU athletics, Eastern's bookstore, Campus Life, Bridge Community Cafe, World of Rocks, and more.

Kevin Allen, an EMU graduate and former Echo editor, will be speaking at the banquet, discussing his career at USA Today and other publications.

Echo Editor-in-Chief Layla McMurtrie will host the gala, speak about her time at the Echo, and announce who will be filling her position after she graduates on April 30. A video will be shown, made by Podcast Editor Jordan Boyd, to showcase the work and staff of the newspaper this semester and the goals that the organization wishes to reach.

Tickets can be purchased through EMU's ticketing website for \$35 a person. A table price is also available for \$220 using code "TABLE" at checkout with eight tickets, reducing the ticket price to \$27.50 per person.

HIRING

The Echo is looking for

NEWS REPORTERS



Interested?

Email: managing@easternecho.com

Opinions

Honey Revenge's 'Airhead' is a force to be reckoned with

KASPER MIELKE
COLUMNIST

In recent years, there has been a resurgence of the pop-rock genre in popular media. With artists such as Machine Gun Kelly and Suelo making it to the charts, this new era of pop-rock is hard to ignore and sometimes meshes together. Because of this, some of the lesser known artists get outshined, one of those bands being the band Honey Revenge.



Honey Revenge is a pop-rock duo from Los Angeles, that does not currently have any studio albums. They do however have one that is set to release on June 23 of this year entitled "Retrovision," according to their official TikTok account. Thus far, they have come out with a few singles to hype it up, their most recent being the song "Airhead."

Lyrical Overview - 7/10

From further analysis, the song seems to be about having ADHD and the feelings that accompany having it. An example of this would be in the first verse, saying "I don't think, I'm just acting impulsively. Running too fast, but with two left feet. Tell me wait it out, I don't know what that means."

Having ADHD is something that a lot of people can relate to, and this song hits the nail on the head, albeit a very frustrating feeling sometimes. It is important to have songs that people can connect with on a personal level, and Honey Revenge does a great job of doing so.

While the lyrics are personable, they do tend to get rather repetitive throughout the song's runtime, which is not always the best thing.

Musical Overview - 8/10
This song is upbeat in nature, which is ironic considering the singer in this is putting herself down. Having an upbeat backing track paired with some melancholy lyrics is par for the course when it comes to a lot of the rock genre, and Honey Revenge does not stray too far. While the backing track is energetic, the vocals seem to be giving a different feeling.

The frustration can be heard in the singer's voice, and that is what puts a spin on the quintessential pop-rock trend. For that, it makes this track quite special.

Overview
"Airhead" is a song that a lot of people can get behind in regards to the general content of the lyrics as well as the substance of the music. I look forward to hearing their debut come June 23.

I would give this record a 7.5/10

Melanie Martinez tells a story through 'PORTALS'

MARIE WHITE
CONTENT EDITOR

"PORTALS" is the third studio album by artist Melaine Martinez, released on March. 31. This is her first album back after a two-year hiatus from music. This album is for people who love to be taken on a journey with their music.

Background
Melanie Martinez is an American singer and songwriter known for there musical and visual talents. They always tell a story through their lyrics and visuals for whatever they produce and this album is no different.

Her debut album "Cry Baby" in 2015, brought forth the character Cry Baby who was seen throughout her next albums and works (eps, short films, etc) in this era. "PORTALS" is the death of Cry Baby and the rebirth of herself.

Album Highs
The lyrics in this album are unprecedented. Going from song to song it gives this full amazing story, that captivates you entirely. The song titles like "DEATH" and "WOMB" being at the beginning and end bring you a full circle of this story of rebirth.

Most of the songs have this light airy feeling that put you into this fairy forest. While the album feels like a storytelling masterpiece, it still gives you so much emotion that you can relate to. Especially with songs like "BATTLE OF THE LARYNX" give you these strong emotions of hurt and the things you're trying not to say.

Overall, the biggest highlight of the album is the ability Martinez has to not only give a full story through a record but to make you feel it.

Album Lows



I liked this album simply from a fan and storytelling standpoint, while the production of some of the songs pulled me in the wrong direction. There are electronic echoed voices throughout a lot of the songs, that pull me away from the lyric in the song.

Another thing that is great about the album from a storytelling perspective, but not a listening perspective is the introduction to most of the songs. There are little whispers and sounds that begin most songs that are great for a video, but not for something to listen to daily. I love the lyrics in this album, but the production definitely takes some getting used to.

Verdict
The more I listen to this record I think I will enjoy it even more, but from the outside standpoint of a non-fan, this album isn't for everyone. I love Melanie's style and artistry and that's simply why I enjoy this album and the visuals and story that comes throughout it.

I give "PORTALS" a 7.5 out of 10.
Top Songs
"EVIL," "WOMB," and "DEATH" are some of my favorite songs to check out for the average listener. Some songs that I also enjoy that are more story based are "FAERIE SOIRÉE" and "SPIDER WEB."

'John Wick: Chapter 4' is action-packed, until it isn't

SYDNEY BROWN
COLUMNIST

"John Wick: Chapter 4" has made millions at the box office already. There isn't a definitive streaming date yet, so head to the theatre if you want to see it.

Synopsis

"John Wick: Chapter 4" sees John challenging The High Table directly in order to achieve his freedom. This film brings exhilarating action scenes while we follow John on his journey for vengeance and liberation.

Highs

Everyone loves Keanu Reeves-- the internet and all of its meme compilations of him will prove that. This is also the first project released with the late Lance Reddick after his death.

Aside from these two notable actors, Bill Skarsgård plays the Marquis of The High Table. I felt that casting was done well, even though it was already set up during prior installments in the franchise; with re-casting being more common nowadays, it's worth mentioning that keeping the prior cast members was a good decision.



The action scenes felt very immersive and the sets appeared to be beautiful as well. The aerial shots were used in a useful way and put the audience in the world of John Wick.

Lows

During some points in the film, it felt like all that I was doing was watching characters walk. At first, this seemed to be a helpful decision; suspense was built. However, after the first time, this felt to be monotonous, a waste, and even filler. The shots of the various settings throughout the film also felt this way. These parts of scenes felt boring and removed me from the "what's going to happen?" state of mind and took me off of the edge of my seat.

I must be honest that I was displeased with the ending, even though I can see how it was fitting for the theme.

Overall

While there were moments of high suspense and the action was entertaining, the fact that I felt moments of boredom during the latest installment of such an anticipated release in a highly regarded franchise did not sit well with me. I could see myself re-watching the movie in theatres with a friend or family member, but I would not be tempted to go and re-watch it again by myself at theatres or wherever it drops for streaming.

"John Wick: Chapter 4" has earned a 7 out of 10 rating from me.

‘the record’ by boygenius gives a passionate range of emotions

MARIE WHITE
CONTENT EDITOR

“the record” is boygenius’s debut studio record that released on March 31. I was lucky enough to go to a global listening party for the album, and was able to fall in love with it before it was even released to the public. This record is for anyone who loves a mix of genres through heartbreaking emotions.

Background

boygenius is a super group made up of artists Julian Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus. The trio made a self-titled EP in 2018, which was the first time the group collaborated (and formed).

Their music range is American indie rock, and all of those genres combine on the new album.

boygenius called the formation of the group an accident after all just becoming friends then writing music together. The band had a co-headlining tour in 2018, and wanted to write one song together for them all to sing and instead made an EP.

The band name came together from the idea that men have been called geniuses since they were born, and to turn it on its head, to make this female supergroup.

Album Highs

The three artists’ voices beautifully blend together to make a fantastic record. Listeners get acapella, three-part harmonies and more, that just make an overall



masterpiece.

“\$20” was a song that got an early release, and I just had it on replay. It’s the instrumentals and rock vibes that make this song so catchy. The overall lyrics are simple yet so in depth that’ll make you listen to it a hundred times over to get the full effect. The end of the song features overlapping vocals and screams that make your leg tap and head bob.

On a different level from "\$20" is "We're In Love," which is a slower, beautiful song that features Dacus on main vocals. This song is accompanied by a piano and orchestra in the background, which makes it soul shattering.

“Isn’t it enough that we stripped down to our skin? Cold and porcelain,” is one of the many lyrics that make this song stand out. Dacus' voice is soft and deep that echoes through your speakers and through

you.

The overall genre mixing and lyricism makes this album captivating and soul shattering at the same time. The production of the album as well makes it enjoyable with the transitions between songs meshing perfectly, especially in the last two songs with no gaps between them.

Album Lows

This album is perfect to me; the only thing that may be considered a low to some is the frequent genre changes. Now if you didn’t know that this was a supergroup with different genres coming into it, these frequent changes may throw you off. In my opinion (and because I love each of them), it’s more like an emotional roller coaster to me, but to others it may be confusing.

You will go from a rock and roll screaming anthem to a heartbreaking indie song about loss in .2 seconds. It took me from crying one moment to rocking out the next, which I simply adored. This album feels cohesive in the way of the heartbreak and queer angst, which makes it enjoyable, but not entirely in the way of genre melding.

Verdict

I absolutely love this record. The genre mixing, lyricism, and production make this album so relatable and enjoyable. The amount of queer rage and heartbreaking loss just fills you up to the brim and will have you scream crying with pure joy.

I give ‘the record’ a 10 out of 10.

6LACK rises from the depths with his new album 'Since I Have A Lover'

AARON HUGHES
MANAGING EDITOR

A lot has happened since Atlanta artist 6LACK released his last album “East Atlanta Love Letter.” Now, five years later, the R&B artist releases his third album “Since I have A Lover.”

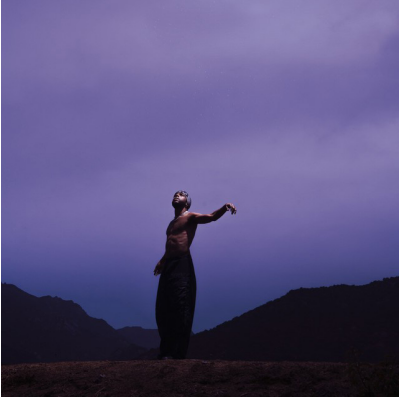
With a more joyful sound, the singer plans to continue to build his already admired discography.

Album Highs

The smooth and easygoing style of 6LACK has been missing for a while. Thankfully, 6LACK continues this on “Since I Have A Lover,” partially due to the production of FWDLSLXSH, who has worked with him in the past.

All the songs have a similar theme that fits his style, but none sound the same. “Since I Have A Lover” constantly crosses between rap and R&B, and from somber to uptempo.

In addition, he has taken a new direction in his songwriting, focusing more on the romantic and joyful sides of relationships. Though he still talks about the hardships



of dating like in “playin house” or “Tit for Tat,” most songs have a more pleasant view of relationships, which is a stark difference from the past.

His selectiveness in collaboration is a double-edged sword as this does not overcrowd his LP like other artists tend to do. However, it does make me wish to see him have more features. The only official collabs are Don Toliver and QUIN, but there are hidden features such as Wale and Yebba.

Finally, the pacing of the album was done just right, as it just strays away from being too slow or monotonous. Once the album hit the halfway point it began to pick up with songs like the afrobeat-inspired “Decatur” or the bass-heavy “Talk.”

Album Lows

It’s hard to justify a 19-song album, but paying attention to the pacing and timing helps. As stated before, it was nice to see him be selective with his features, but songs like “chasing feeling” could have improved with the addition of another vocalist.

While “Since I Have A Lover” is solid from start to finish, there is no star of the show. This does not make the album poor, but this might hurt its replay value.

Summary

6LACK’s ability to switch between rapper and singer makes any song interesting. The atmospheric sound of many songs like “Temporary” make it easy to lose yourself in the music.

Though it is earlier in the year, I do worry if “Since I Have A Lover” will still be talked about near the end of 2023.

A great follow-up to “East Atlanta Love Letter,” this album is an 8 out of 10.

The Kid LAROI makes strong first impression at EMU's George Gervin GameAbove Center

AARON HUGHES
MANAGING EDITOR

Grammy-nominated artist, The Kid LAROI has been making noise in the industry since the start of the decade. With multiple hit songs, the Australian artist has been making a name for himself for his fusion of pop and rap, generating millions of followers.

Before the release of his debut album "The First Time," LAROI decided to go on a college tour titled "Bleed For You," making one of his stops in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Concert Highs

Before LAROI took the stage, his opener Jeremy Zucker came to warm the crowd up. The singer-songwriter came out with a small supporting band and soft energy. It took a minute for the crowd to truly open up to him, but by the end of his performance, he got them prepared for the main act.

The Kid LAROI came out with a loud, vibrant set of flashing lights, platforms, and three giant dogs. Once he came out, the energy shifted as the crowd was full of excitement as he played multiple high-energy songs. There was hardly any time when the crowd was not entertained as he was constantly interacting with the group in some way; from sing-alongs, getting into the crowd himself and even getting a guest appearance from Swoop the Eagle himself. He performed many of his hit songs like “Diva,” “STAY,” “SO DONE,” and “SELFISH.”

The best thing about the performance was how in-tune LAROI was with his fanbase and the venue. The crowd was so in love with his performance that they even chanted for an encore which LAROI gladly gifted.

Concert Lows

Having Jeremy Zucker as the opener is a strange combination. Though both artists focus on pop music, and their fans spawned due to their popularity on TikTok, they are not the same performance-wise. Zucker has a great soothing voice and is great with guitar, but his performance is more family-friendly and perhaps too calm when compared to LAROI.

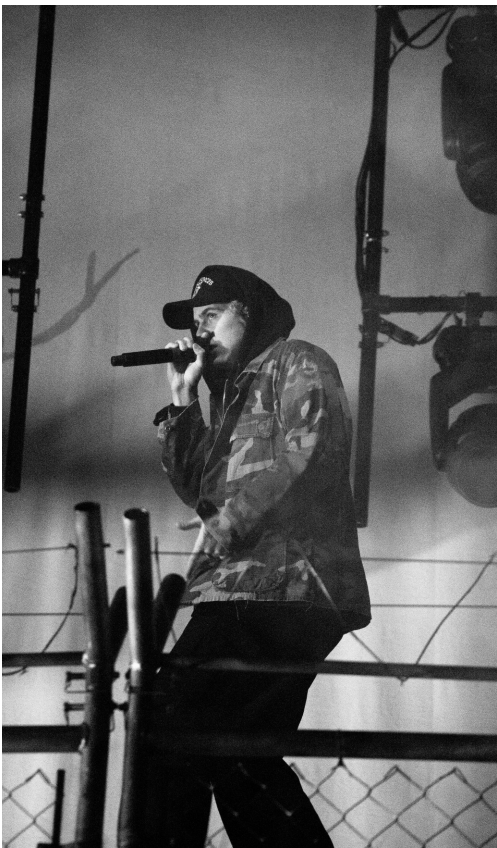


PHOTO CREDIT: JAYLA FORD

Then in terms of LAROI, he seemed to have only pandered to his pop-centered songs. While it makes sense when looking at the crowd, rap songs like “Hate The Other Side,” “NOT SOBER,” or “DON’T LEAVE ME” were missing from the setlist.

The concert itself seemed to go by fast as it started after 7 p.m. and was over before 9:30 p.m.

Finally, the stage was set up nicely, but the lights were too overpowering at times to get a good look at the artist.

Overall, the stage itself could have been put together better as it was less than impressive and did not match the artists’ aesthetics.

Summary

Both artists gave great performances and pleased the crowd. The ability to draw a crowd of that size on a school night and keep them entertained deserves some flowers. Both artists have room to improve but showed flashes of great potential. They undoubtedly made plenty of new fans that night.

This concert was a 7 out of 10.

Merengue is making its way to America

GERLIZ HERRERA
COLUMNIST

Merengue is a music genre that has its roots in the Caribbean; more specifically, the Dominican Republic. Its origin can be traced back to the mid-19th century, when it was considered a music genre for the lower classes in the country. Today, however, it is one of the most popular music genres in the Dominican Republic, representing the cultural identity of the country. Recently, merengue has started to gain popularity in the United States, with artists like Dahian el Apechao playing a significant role in its integration.

Dahian el Apechao is a Dominican composer, singer, and musician who was born and raised in the Dominican Republic. He is known for his contributions to various music genres, including merengue, bachata, and Latin trap. A talented artist, he has worked with many other musicians, including Puerto Rican artist Bad Bunny, with whom he has played the piano and composed music.

One of Dahian el Apechao’s most notable achievements was performing at the American Grammys with Bad Bunny in 2023. The duo performed the song “Despues De La Playa,” which Dahian el Apechao had composed. This performance marked the first time a Dominican musician had performed at the American Grammys, bringing merengue to the attention of a

broadier audience. Many celebrities were seen dancing to the song, including Taylor Swift, who shared her excitement about the performance on social media.

Dahian el Apechao’s work with Bad Bunny has been critical in integrating merengue into American culture. The duo’s summer tour in 2022 included “Despues De La Playa” as their final song, which was received positively by audiences worldwide. His work with Bad Bunny and other artists also earned him the Merengue of the Street award at the 2023 Premios Soberano in the Dominican Republic.

Thanks to the success of Dahian el Apechao and other artists, merengue is slowly gaining recognition in the United States. Other artists have been inspired to work in the genre, including American DJ Marshmello, who recently released a merengue song called “El Merengue” with Colombian artist Manuel Turizo. The song was received positively by fans of both artists and introduced merengue to a broader audience in the United States.

Merengue’s increasing popularity in the United States is a positive sign of the integration of Latino culture into American society. Dahian el Apechao’s work has been instrumental in this integration, providing a platform for merengue and other music genres from the Caribbean in the United States. This platform has aided in the creation of a more inclusive and vibrant society.

Matt Kirk leads MAC with 13 doubles after home-opening series at Oestrike Stadium

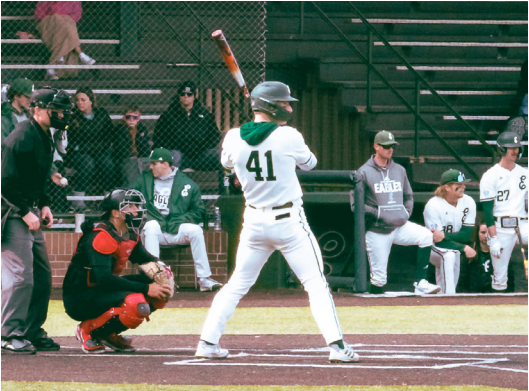
CODY ALMASY
SPORTS REPORTER

Sheets of freezing rain periodically plummeted the baseball diamond, and gusts of wind reaching 25 miles per hour took ball caps off of players' heads flying all over Oestrike Stadium on Saturday, March 25, when the Eastern Michigan University baseball team played their second home game of the year.

The inclement weather, however, could not slow down Matt Kirk (Milford, Ohio) who had a perfect day at the plate, hitting for an extra base in all three at-bats highlighted by blasting his fifth home run of the season.

Despite Kirk's big day on Saturday, the Eastern Michigan University baseball team had a tough home-opening series in Ypsilanti, Michigan, over the weekend of March 24-26, as visiting Ball State University was victorious in all three games and became the first team to sweep the Eagles (10-10, 4-5 MAC) this year. EMU falls to sixth place in the Mid-American Conference following the series, while the Cardinals (17-6, 8-1 MAC) move into first.

Kirk looked comfortable in his home jersey while the Eagles made their return to Oestrike Stadium for the first time in 2023, and he led the offense throughout the weekend with a batting average of .583. The Ohio native also tallied three hits in back-to-back games for the first time in his career throughout Saturday and Sunday.



The series began with a different tone, however, on Friday as hits would be hard to come by for both teams, and it would be pitching rather than hitting that would be showcased. The game was tied 1-1 when the ninth inning began, and both ball clubs had only produced five hits each. Ball State scored an unearned run in the top of the frame that EMU failed to match, and the Eagles subsequently dropped the game, 2-1.

Thomas House (Ross, Ohio) struck out eight Cardinals over six innings pitched and only allowed one run to be scored while walking four. The eight strikeouts match a previous season high for House and match Nick Chittum (Grosse Ile, Michigan) and Luke Russo (Howell, Michigan) for most strikeouts in a game for an Eagles pitcher this year. Russo made considerable contributions from the mound in this game as well, dealing two strikeouts

and giving up two hits over 2.1 innings pitched. Regardless of the run being unearned, the game-winning run was scored against Russo, so the Howell, Michigan native acquired his first loss of the season (3-1).

Saturday's game surpassed the scoring total of the day prior in the first inning as the Eagles jumped out to a 3-2 lead thanks to an RBI double from Kirk and a two-RBI single from Ryan Lux (Shelby Township, Michigan) in the bottom of the frame. The Cardinals answered

with nine runs between the second and sixth innings, giving Ball State an 11-3 lead. EMU would add two more scores throughout the remainder of the game highlighted by Kirk's solo-shot home run in the seventh, but would ultimately lose the game, 16-5.

Kirk's fifth home run of the season gives him sole possession of most home runs on the team this season and ranks sixth in the MAC.

The series finale on Sunday was a back-and-forth affair that saw the Eagles leading 3-2 as the game progressed into the eighth inning. Unfortunately, EMU would allow five runs on six hits over the final two frames and fall to Ball State, 7-3. The setback marks not only the first time the Eagles have been swept by a team this season but also the fourth straight loss for the team.

Russo got the nod to start in Sunday's game and carried over the momentum from his stellar appearance in Friday's game. Russo matched the team and season high of eight strikeouts, which seems to be the magic number for the Eagles' pitchers this year in six innings of work where he allowed one run to be scored on five hits. The eight-strikeout mark has been reached five times total between Russo, House both hitting the mark twice and Chittum doing so once.

Offensively, Kirk solidified his position as the most consistent batter in the Eagles lineup when he led the way for EMU going three for five on the day while producing a double and an RBI. Kirk's double that came in the first inning of the game marked lucky number 13, which puts him on top of the MAC for the most doubles so far in 2023. Glenn Miller (Pentwater, Michigan) also made his presence felt at the plate when he hit the first home run of his EMU career in the seventh inning. Miller went two for five and produced a double and an RBI in addition to his home run.

After the three-game series this past weekend, the Eagles and Cardinals have now met 79 times on the baseball diamond with Ball State in control of the record, 49-30.

Looking to get back in the win column, the Eagles will make a short trip to Rochester, Michigan, on Tuesday, March 28, for an in-state non-conference matchup with the Golden Grizzlies of Oakland University at 2:30 pm.

EMU baseball's Taylor Hopkins goes 3-for-4 in 7-5 victory against Oakland

DESTINY JENKINS-JONES
SPORTS REPORTER

The Eastern Michigan University baseball team took home a 7-5 non-conference win over the Oakland University Golden Grizzlies Tuesday, March 28.

Taylor Hopkins of Ohio hit two home runs in the game during the fourth and sixth inning for the third time in his career, followed by a walk and a pair of RBIs. The senior is currently leading the Eagles with 12 career games with more than three hits or greater.

Left-handed pitcher Trevor House (2-1) had 1.2 shutout innings, giving up one hit, allowing no walks and striking out three.

California native Kyle Schroedle went 2-for-4 with three RBIs and first home run of his EMU career, finishing the game with two hits, the first since EMU's game against Butler, March 21.

Josh Kross added to the scoreboard with two hits in five trips to the plate with an additional RBI. The RBI makes Kross the first EMU batter to record 25 in the 2023 regular season. Kross' two hits tallied his 10th multi-hit game of the season, recording the most of any Eagle in the 2023 season.

The Eagles were first to score in the fourth inning as Hopkins hit a home run. The Golden Grizzlies were still not on the board as the Eagles stretched their lead 2-0, in the sixth inning.

Oakland took advantage during the eighth inning by expanding the score 5-2, but the Eagles fought back with three home runs which tied the score at five. The Eagles were able to break the tie in the final inning, finishing with a victory of 7-5 as Josh Kross' run-scoring single brought in one run in a two-run output.

EMU tallied three home runs during the game, recording the second time this season the Eagles hit three or more home runs as they did so in the game against Akron, March 18. Wednesday's game marked the 47th all-time contest between EMU and Oakland.

Mackenzie Blackwell leads lacrosse team in goals



CHANDLER DONCKERS
SPORTS REPORTER

On Friday, March 24, the Eastern Michigan University women's lacrosse team (1-7, 0-0 MAC) kicked off their first of two weekend matches, hosting the Marquette University Golden Eagles (9-1, 0-0 BIG EAST) at Scicluna Field. After falling 5-18, the team traveled to Indianapolis on Sunday, March 26 to visit the Butler University Bulldogs (3-5, 0-0 Big East) and came just one goal short, 13-14, of grabbing their second program win.

Against Marquette, freshman Mackenzie Blackwell (North Branch, Maryland) led the team with two goals, one of which was assisted by freshman Amber Alderman (Lusby, Maryland). Alderman's sister, Abby Alderman, (Lusby, Maryland) also registered one goal over the match.

The Eagles' second match against Butler remained close until the very end. The first period ended tied between the two teams, 5-5.

Graduate student Sydney Lawrence (Wylie, Texas) led the team in this match for scoring, as she netted a school-record five goals. Just one behind her, Blackwell added four to tally up six total on the weekend and was first in the team for goals scored (15).

EMU track & field competes in three meets across weekend

MACKENZIE THOMPSON
SPORTS REPORTER

The Eastern Michigan University men's and women's track and field team competed at the Texas Relays on March 29-Apr. 1, the Bobcat Invitational on March 30-Apr. 1, and the Spartan Invitational on March 31-Apr. 1.

At the Texas Relays, four Eagles posted top 10 finishes, with three coming from athletes on the men's roster and one from the women's.

Yvan Lopes Riberio (Nice, France) ran a 13.77 in the 110m hurdles, the fourth-fastest time in school history earning him

first place in the event.

On the women's side, Angel Gazaway (Cincinnati, Ohio) recorded a top finish in the 100m hurdles with a time of 13.58, which ranks sixth all-time in EMU history.

At the Bobcat Invitational four women and three men recorded top finishes with Miranda Cadwell's (Plainfield, Ill.) third place finish in the shot put event being the highest finish of the meet from the Eagles.

Greece native Noriyah Johnson (54.77) and Serbia native Tijana Japundzic (58.68) also recorded personal best times in the 400m dash at the meet.

To conclude the trio of meets 13 men and 10 women representing the block

E earned top 10 finishes at the Spartan Invitational.

Linus Vennemann's (Osnabrück, Lower Saxony, Germany) 9:20.62 run earned him a first place finish in the 3,000m steeplechase and teammate Eddie Zuercher 9:21.65 (Rocky River, Ohio) followed to finish in second.

Newlyn Stephenson (Gary, Ind.) improved his standing to third all-time in program history with a throw of 65.90m earning him first place in the hammer throw at the meet.

Next, the Eagles will travel to Oakland University to compete at the Golden Grizzlies Invite April 8.

HIRING

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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.

New episodes weekly! Check it out using the QR code!

COMICS

DOMINO'S | RYLEE CURLEY



NOM FEAST | RYLEE CURLEY



STR8TS

No. 641 Medium

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

Previous solution - Tough

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

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.

You can find more help, tips and hints at www.str8ts.com

SUDOKU

No. 641 Medium

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

Previous solution - Easy

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

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

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

The solutions will be published here in the next issue.

EMU Student Media Gala

Buy tickets here:



Support the future of student media with The Eastern Echo and Cellar Roots on April 13, 2023.

GALLERY



THE KID LAROI AND JEREMY ZUCKER VISIT THE GEORGE GERVIN GAME ABOVE CENTER ON MARCH 29, 2023 AS PART OF THE ARTISTS' COLLEGE TOUR.

PHOTO CREDIT: JAYLA FORD

