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# The Eastern Echo

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SERVING EMU AND YPSILANTI SINCE 1881

## Board of Regents ratifies latest EMUFT contract

AMEERA SALMAN  
CELLAR ROOTS EIC

After months of negotiating, the Eastern Michigan University Federation of Teachers has a contract in place.

The contract, voted on by the union with a 96% approval rating on Oct. 13, covers the next five years for full and part-time lecturers at EMU.

The EMU Board of Regents ratified the contract at their Oct. 19 meeting.

"[I feel] relieved," EMUFT Grievance Officer Jeremy Proulx said. "It was a very long process."

Despite the lengthy negotiations, both sides have expressed excitement and satisfaction at the contract's completion.

"I for one am looking forward to working with the administration on implementing this contract," Anke Wolbert, EMUFT's newly-appointed president, said.

EMU representatives are in agreement. In a statement, Vice President of Communications Walter Kraft said, "We're pleased to have finalized the new five-year agreement with the full and part-time lecturers bargaining unit. These were not simple negotiations."

Lecturers saw a significant increase in compensation with this contract, 12.5% over the next five years for full-time lecturers and 16.4% for part-time lecturers, established in yearly increments. The contract also includes changes to healthcare plans and other benefits.

Lecturers have made strong efforts to make their voices heard, holding rallies, attending Board of Regents meetings, and keeping the public informed. Now, with a contract in place, many of their demands were successfully met. But not all of them.

At the board meeting where the contract was approved, Wolbert spoke during public commentary, highlighting the success

of the negotiations, but also calling for improvements to be made.

"We are not part of the Faculty Senate [and] we don't have any committee in front of the Board of Regents, which is why I called for the lecturers affairs committee today... because right now we are relegated to public commentaries," Wolbert said.

Another sticking point for the union was the fight for promotional pay for part-time lecturers. Currently, part-time lecturers are the only campus employees, besides student workers, that do not have a tiered pay system.

"There is absolutely no pay differentiation as we move through the ranks," Wolbert said.

"A person can start as a PTL 1, become a 2, a 3, and they still make the same pay as a person who is hired off the street today."

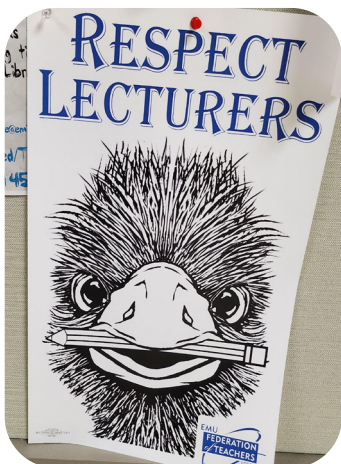
"[Not] getting promotional pay... was a loss I have trouble facing people with," said Proulx. "Nevertheless, that's motivation to fight another day."

EMUFT and the university proved resilient in the over six-month-long negotiation process for a new contract. In the end, both sides kept students' interests in mind and were able to avoid a work stoppage.

"This is a positive outcome for everyone involved," Kraft said.



**NEWS:**  
EMU Board Meeting ends with re-sounding approval from regents



**PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE**  
RESPECT LECTURERS SIGN HANGS ON A BULLETIN BOARD ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF PRAY-HARROLD.



**PHOTO CREDIT: AARON HUGHES**  
BOARD OF REGENTS MET FOR THEIR REGULAR BOARD MEETING AT WELCH HALL ON THURSDAY OCT. 19 2023.

## The new Ypsilanti District Library has met \$2M Next Chapter Goal

NAJAT HACHEMI  
NEWS REPORTER

A \$6,500 donation from the Friends of Ypsilanti District Library has closed out the Next Chapter Capital Campaign. This campaign helped fund the Ypsilanti District Library's new Superior Library branch.

"It is thrilling that the goal has been reached and we delight in providing this pledge for our Superior Library," Friends of YDL President Marcy Kinsey, said in a written statement. "Thank you to everyone for supporting YDL libraries."

The Friends are a volunteer organization that works to stimulate community interest in the library and help fund library programs, services, and facility work.

This capped a multi-year \$2M fundraising effort for the new library building. This, in turn, had an instant impact on the community since it opened in November 2022.

Since its November 2022 opening, the library has had on average more than 2,800

visitors, 70 new library cards issued, around 4,000 items circulated, more than 300 people attending programs, over 100 people using the meeting rooms, and 250 people using the computers and 590 people accessing the wi-fi. In addition, the library served 1,170 lunches served from June 27 to August 4 during the summer's Lunch, Listen & Learn program.

"At the prior, 1100 square foot space... there were no meeting rooms, we were unable to hold the summer lunch programs, and we could only do small programs inside or large ones outside when the weather cooperated," Superior Branch Manager Mary Garboden said in a written statement. "The new space has opened up so many more possibilities for community gathering, learning, and inspiration."

The Next Chapter Capital Campaign began the "quiet" phase of fundraising in 2019. The Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation, the Young Family Foundation, the James W. and Marla J. Gousseff Fund, and Superior Township were among those

who helped raise an initial \$1.5M during that phase. In July 2021, following a COVID delay, the YDL began a crowdfunding campaign to raise \$500,000 to reach the \$2M fundraising goal. Since then, more than 473 donors contributed to the campaign, with over 40% giving more than once.

"I'm continually touched by the sheer number of people who contributed to make this library a reality," Garboden said. "The donor screen [in the lobby] is full of names of long-time library users, friends, neighbors, and family. It's like a virtual pat on the back every time I see [them]!"

Along with a strong showing of support from longtime YDL supporters, the campaign successfully welcomed 300 new donors.

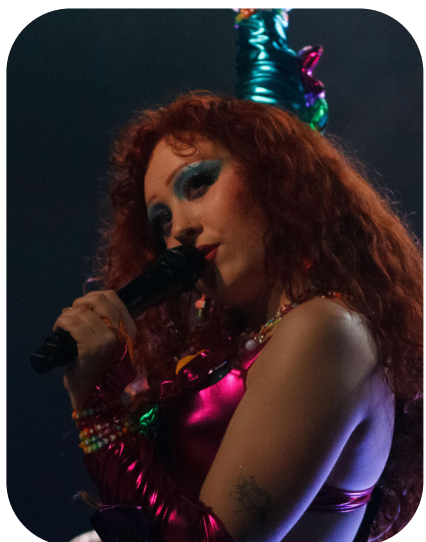
"The need for a new library and community space in Superior was recognized by a broad group of individuals and organizations who not only understood the need for services in this area of Washtenaw County, but were ready to act and make the much-needed space a reality," Library Director Lisa Hoenig said

in a written statement.

When COVID-19 hit, the need was only heightened, and the community rose to the occasion to bring resources together to enact positive change.

YDL had dreamed of opening a new branch in Superior Township for more than a decade. Plans began in earnest in 2018 with voters passing a new YDL operating millage. Groundbreaking took place in April 2021, for the new 7,800 square foot space on Harris Road to replace the tiny facility on MacArthur Boulevard that had served as the library's "temporary" space since 2007.

Since its Grand Opening in November 2022, the new branch has become a central hub of activity for nearby residents. Patrons have embraced the services and programs that the library offers, including meeting spaces, storytimes, and 24/7 wi-fi access. As hoped, it has become a point of pride for the neighborhood, and is building community through shared activities and programs.



**OPINION:**  
Chappell Roan takes the tiara as Midwest Princess



**REVIEWS:**  
"Something to Give Each Other" gives major good vibes



## DMCJ department looks to bolster security after attempted theft in computer lab

AARON HUGHES  
MANAGING EDITOR

At approximately 12:30 p.m. on Sept. 12, Eastern Michigan University professor, Matthew Hanson, was taking a few of his students to the computer lab in Judy-Sturgis Hill. However, he noticed the door leading to the lab was closed off, which was unusual as the lab was typically open for student use from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As Hanson and his class entered the lab, two individuals exited the area. In their place, they left the monitor for the computer ajar, a torchlight on the desk, and a missing security bar for the M1 Mac Mini.

"I'm obviously upset. I'm perhaps more upset this time because I saw the perpetrators. I was upset last time, too, but this time now I have a face to go with with it," Hanson said.

Although unsuccessful this is now the second attempted theft in the Judy-Sturgis lab in the past year. Which now has raised concerns in the Digital Media, Cinema Studies, and Journalism department (DMCJ). "They weren't successful this time

around, but because they got away with it the first time, you kind of think that it's the same. Oh, we got away with it once so we'll get away with it a second time," Keith Damron a media professor said. "So clearly it has us thinking we're going to need to beef up security."

Unlike other areas and labs in the DMCJ department, the Judy Sturgis computer lab does not have the funds to have a teacher assistant to monitor the lab. The lack of monitors present in addition to being in an isolated space with no cameras has put a target on the lab. However, there have been attempts to improve security.

After last year's theft of a \$1,567 M1 Mac Mini, Steve Martin, the radio and TV engineer, manufactured security bars that appeared to be enough protection. However, the individuals this time used a lighter to heat and bend the metal. Now they look for new ways to enhance security.

"So first thing I did was analyze the attack factor that was used and how they actually got the locking bar off and made new locking bars. I went to Alro Steel, got some 8 inch plate steel and made new locking bars

that would not be vulnerable to the same methods. And so that was the only thing I could do immediately," Martin said. "We also have a current request for departmentally funded project to get a security camera in. That has been approved and signed by our school director, and it's been sent on to administration for final approval. How long that will take, I could not tell you. In the meantime, we're greatly reducing the hours that we leave it open because we don't have any budget for a proctor to watch."

While the professors are worried about the funding of the security they are most worried about how the actions of the two individuals will affect their students.

"I wish we could provide our students with more access, but, you know, we don't have a budget for personnel and monitoring in the space all the time or to just replace equipment because the equipment is expensive," Hanson said.

"My concern is that it takes away resources from our students and it's not like that equipment can just be replaced because we all work on tight budgets for the most part. I want my students to have the resources

that we have available to them. And when someone tries to steal it, it's really upsetting," Damron said. "That's just the bottom line. Just take good care of your equipment because even at the level of just misuse or abuse when something breaks or disappears, everybody suffers. And as I said before, for the most part, our students are conscientious, but few bad apples. They can spoil a whole bunch."



**PHOTO CREDIT: KASEY DESCHLER**  
OUTSIDE THE LEGACY-SPONBERG THEATRE ATTACHED TO JUDY STURGIS HILL WHERE THE DMCJ LAB IS.



Whats the move?  
Oct. 23-29

AMEERA SALMAN  
CELLAR ROOTS EIC

Fall is well under way here at Eastern Michigan University, with Halloween fast approaching. Look no further for all of the best campus events happening this week.

**Welcome Home Furniture Fair - Oct. 24 - 25**

For those interested in the potential furnishings of the in-progress Lakeview and Westview apartments, part of the Welcome Home 2025 plan, head to the Student Center Ballroom Tuesday, Oct. 24 and Wednesday, Oct. 25 for the Welcome Home Furniture Fair. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., students will have the opportunity to view and test out pieces for the new on-campus apartments. Participants will be able to vote for their favorites via QR code and will be entered to win one of 20 \$25 Visa gift cards.

**EMU Jazz Ensemble - Oct. 24**

Made up of about 20 members, EMU's Jazz Ensemble will perform in Pease Auditorium from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 24. This performance will feature a variety of new and old pieces, is free for attendees, and eligible for LBC credit.

**Soup with Substance: Allyship - Oct. 25**

Join the EMU LGBT Resource Center and its new coordinator, Emma Wuetrich, for a roundtable discussion over free lunch. Participants will be invited to discuss what it means to be an ally to queer students in and out of the classroom. This event will be in Halle Library 109B from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Philosophy Speaker Series: "All You Need Is Love (For Full Moral Status)" - Oct. 25**

In the first event for the Philosophy Speaker Series, students are invited to hear from Ohio State Associate Professor of Bioethics Abraham Graber in Halle Library 300 from 5-6:30 p.m. This event is free, open to the public, and LBC credit eligible. A reception will follow for attendees.

**Holman Success Center Professional Development Workshop - Oct. 25**

For those on the hunt for an internship or job and looking to improve their chances, check out this workshop which will cover resume-building and LinkedIn profile skills for success. This event is free and LBC credit approved. Interested students should register beforehand. The workshop will be held in Halle Library G09 from 6-7:30 p.m.

**Costumes and Consent - Oct. 25**

Planned Parenthood Generation Action will hold its annual Halloween party on Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet different student organizations, play games, win prizes, and get free food and safe sex materials. The event will be in Student Center 310A.

**Queer Stories LIVE - Oct. 26**

A collaboration between the EMU LGBT Resource Center and Forensics team, participants can enjoy a warm drink while hearing stories told live. Stay after the performance to learn about telling your own story. This event will be from 5-7 p.m. in Student Center 300.

**Dia De Los Muertos - Oct. 26**

An annual collaboration between Campus Life and the Latinx Student Association, Dia De Los Muertos celebrates and honors lost loved ones. Enjoy authentic Hispanic food, music, and celebrate The Day of the Dead in the McKenny ballroom from 7-9 p.m.

**Student Development Conference - Oct. 27**

Join the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) for their student development conference in Student Center 310A from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Q&A panelists will be featured from the UACDC, UofM School of Public Health, Bosch, Ilitch Sports Entertainment, and more. This event is free and LBC credit approved.

**Family Weekend - Oct. 27-29**

EMU families are invited to campus for the weekend to see what it's like to be an eagle. Tickets can be purchased online.



EMU Board Meeting ends with resounding approval

JOSH CORDONERO  
NEWS REPORTER

About every third Thursday of each calendar month, the Board of Regents meets with committees, students, and faculty to meet the needs of the university. These regents are appointed by the governor to eight-year terms.

The State Constitution lists the responsibilities of the board as, "general supervision of the institution and the control and direction of all expenditures from the institution's funds."

Eastern Michigan University's current board consists of Chair Eunice Jeffries, Vice Chair Michael Hawks, Nathan Ford, Dr. Jessie Kimbrough Marshall, Chad Newton, Anupam Chugh Sidhu, Alexander Simpson, and Marques Thomey.

This month's board meeting marked the sixth meeting of this fiscal year. Notable moments from the board meeting included the recognition of Student Body President Syed Wasiuddin and Student Body Vice President Ameera Salaman.

Other notable moments included board policy updates, the Fiscal Year 2025 Five-Year Capital Outlay Plan, and the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Eastern Michigan University and the EMU Federation of Teachers Full-Time and Part-Time Lecturers Unit (EMUFT).

First, the Halle Library presented at 10 a.m. during the Educational Policies Committee in 205 Welch Hall. The library stated it wants to meet the strategic goals set by the university by moving Bruce. T Halle into the future.

"The [library] is meeting opportunities to promote students success and engagement, deliver high performing academic programs and quality research, and engage in certain EMU and regional communities."

The presentation also showcased information on research and writing services, and furthermore, how they apply

to the Faculty Development Center and collaborative partnerships. Such partnerships include the Center for Jewish Studies and Civil Rights and Social Justice Centers.

Speakers for the EMU Oral History Program, full-time lecturer and program coordinator Matt Jones and student Kat Hacanyan were also present and spoke on the University Archives goals.



PHOTO CREDIT: AARON HUGHES  
THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE MET IN 205 WELCH HALL ON OCT. 19, 2023.

"It's a support service to faculty engaged with oral history methodologies in their classes and individual research," Jones said. "And it's a vital component of the archives reach and presence in the surrounding southeast Michigan community."

"Being a part of the EMU Archives Oral History Program has given me the opportunity to pursue things that I couldn't have otherwise," Hacanyan said.

Halle Library renovations were made possible by a \$2 million grant from the Halle Family Foundation. Renovations are set to begin in 2024.

Next on the agenda was the Student Affairs Committee at 10:45 a.m. in 201 Welch Hall. The meeting began with Student Body President Wasiuddin and Student Body Vice President Salaman presenting the Student Government update.

The student leaders detailed their plans to increase engagement by bringing more

commuters back to the campus post-pandemic, and growth initiatives through adding resource phone numbers to EID cards. Inclusivity initiatives were also listed as a goal by providing halal, kosher, gluten-free and vegan meal options and using more gender-inclusive language.

The team was commended by regents Ford and Sidhu for their leadership and the

of Regents voted to approve the recently negotiated collective bargaining agreement between Eastern Michigan University and the EMUFT. This five-year contract began when ratified by the union on Oct. 13, but also required the approval of the Board of Regents. It details extended health care a 2-3% increase each year up to an hourly rate of \$39.62 by 2027/2028, and covers approximately 550 full-time and part-time lecturers. The contract ends on Aug. 31, 2028.

It was after the final speakers on the floor sat down that the president of the university, James Smith, gave his report. To briefly summarize his statements, he made mention of the \$53.6 million financial aid fund and the 9% increase in financial aid scholarships in support of EMU students, with support for more than 60% of the total student population and 90% of first-year students.

Recognizing the challenging environment students now face, he brought to everyone attention that EMU tied for first place among all Michigan universities in the annual Social Mobility Ranking by US News and World Report.

Also of noteworthy mention, the EMU Engineering Program ranked 69th in the nation, moving up from 87th place last year. He was incredibly proud to boast the university's academic excellence.

Ending his report, President Smith announced next fall's launch of the Master of Science in Management and Innovation and Strategy approved earlier in the meeting. This program will be based on large and small businesses, and will focus on creative tools and strategic plans that will allow leaders to communicate and function in strategic ways.

The meeting ended just after 3 p.m. and adjourned with all 19 recommended sections being unanimously approved by the Board of Regents. All motions were carried.

Tune in on Thursday, Dec. 7, for the next Board of Regents Meeting coverage.

Read the full report on our webstie

EMU theater department kicks off dream season with "Sweet Charity"

JA-NAE LEHMAN  
NEWS REPORTER

Independent but innocent, kind but determined, Charity Valentine is breaking the mold. She is the lead character in EMU Theater's musical production "Sweet Charity," which headlines the 2023-2024 theatrical season.

Musical theater professor Phil Simmons, the show's director, said Charity is a woman of the 1960s who is working but also wants to meet her prince charming and settle down with a family. She wants it all.

"An innocent, very kind, young lady who just wants to find love," Simmons said of Charity.

Charity's not the only one breaking roles. In EMU's production, Charity is portrayed by freshman theater student Isabella McQuigg.

McQuigg is one of several freshmen taking on lead character roles for EMU theater this season, which is unusual. In past productions, lead roles were often filled by upperclassmen.

Another change from tradition in this year's season is that department professors chose their individual favorite works to fill the performance lineup. Despite that independent decision-making, a similar theme spreads through the shows chosen.

"This season bursts with themes of dreams, believing in oneself, examining the past, and hoping for a better future," department leaders said in the introduction of the shows on the theater department website.



PHOTO CREDIT: KAIA TOLU  
ON STAGE DURING A REHEARSAL, PERFORMERS IN THE EMU THEATRE LEAN TOWARD THE MAIN CHARACTER IN A SCENE.

Then, quoting from one of the shows' characters, Cyrano de Bergerac, the website states: "This season is filled with characters who strive 'to sing, to laugh, to dream. To walk in [their] own way, free ...'"

The season lineup kicked off Thursday with the production of "Sweet Charity." Performances that ran Friday through Sunday, Oct. 20-22. The Tony-nominated musical was written by Neil Simon. On Broadway,

the show was directed and choreographed by Bob Fosse. The musical was adapted for the screen in 1969 with Shirley MacLaine as Charity and John McMartin recreating his Broadway role as Oscar Lindquist.

**"Hare and the Tortoise"**

EMU Theatre's next show, "Hare and the Tortoise," will be on stage Nov. 10-11.

Directed by theater lecturer Emily Levickas, the story is an adaptation of the Aesop's fable, "The Tortoise and the Hare." The show presents a tale about friendship, opposites, and time. The actors use music, color and stage movement to share the story.

"Hare and the Tortoise" was written by Brendan Murray.

**"A Wrinkle in Time"**

From Nov. 20 to Dec. 3, the department presents "A Wrinkle in Time." The department also scheduled school matinee performances for Dec. 5-6. Theater lecturer



BASED ON AN AWARD-WINNING BOOK, THE STAGE PRODUCTION OF "WRINKLE IN TIME," APPEARS ON EMU'S LEGACY THEATRE STAGE NOV. 20, 2023.

Jennifer Felts is the director.

In this show, young heroine Meg Murry teams up with Mrs. Whatsit, Charles Wallace, Calvin O'Keefe and more. Meg battles through evil forces, trying to rescue her father. While doing so, she also battles her struggles, trying to figure out who she is and determine her purpose in life.

"A Wrinkle in Time" was written by American novelist Madeleine L'Engle and adapted for the stage by Tracy Young. The novel, first published in 1962, won the Newbery Medal, the Sequoyah Book Award, the Lewis Carroll Shelf Award.

**"Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea"**

Directed by theater professor Wallace Bridges, "Dontrell, Who Kissed The Sea" hits the stage Feb. 15-18, 2024.

The story focuses on 18-year-old Dontrell Jones, who decides to journey into the Atlantic Ocean. Jones wants to find an ancestor who was lost during the Middle Passage. As Jones searches, he encounters struggles between him and his father. Jones' family worries their son will be lost on the ocean and in a dark, mysterious past.

Even with all the dark, the show is full of light, featuring humor, and rhythmic music in the background, while Jones tries to correct the bad side of history.

The show was written by Nathan Alan Davis.

**"Cyrano de Bergerac"**

Theater lecturer John Seibert is directing "Cyrano de Bergerac" for this year's lineup. The show appears on stage April 11-14.

Written in 1987 by French dramatist and poet Edmond Rostand, this show has hit stages around the world for decades. The play was written in verse, in rhyming couplets of 12 syllables in each line. It is the story of a man who is talented and intelligent but considers himself ugly, due to a big nose, and therefore unable to court the love of his life.

This production, however, is based on a newer adaptation written by Martin Crimp.

In the Crimp show, the main character helps another man find is one true love, by using talents of raps and rhymes, along with other creative skills and linguistic brilliance.

**"The Prince of Saffron"**

The Price of Saffron" is an adventure tale about guidance told through stories, generational differences, and the heroic strength that comes from knowing oneself.

This show was commissioned in partnership with Ann Arbor's Spinning Dot Theatre, as part of a nationwide BIPOC Superhero Project. BIPOC is an acronym for Black, Indigenous and People of Color. The superhero project was launched to give playwrights of color more access to mainstream and regional youth theater audiences.

The EMU production is a staged reading scheduled for May 17-19, 2024.

**New territory**

"Charity" director Simmons, who's been a part of the theater department for 18 years, said audience members will be able to connect with the characters in the musical.

"You get to identify with several of them," Simmons said, adding that this is a reason EMU students should see the show.

Based in the 1960s, the story focuses on Charity, who has met several different types of men in her life. Throughout those times, she learned that within herself she can do anything she puts her mind to, and she can determine what she wants and needs.

Simmons said it's a powerful show and the production includes many firsts for the theater department.

Those first include the lengths of some of the musical numbers. In the show, two are six minutes long. There's also one that's five, and one that's four minutes long. Simmons said it takes a lot of heart and skill to be on the

stage for that long, especially when you have to dance and recite both lines and lyrics.

One reason Simmons said he likes the show is the choreography by Fosse.

Fosse's skill is in using dance as a form of expression and emotion, Simmons said. "He has an amazing style of dance that nobody else has, which I love because it plays to an actor's character."



THE EMU THEATRE 2023-24 SEASON KICKED OFF WITH THE MUSICAL "SWEET CHARITY," IN LATE OCTOBER.

Eastern dance majors are leading the show, and new faces are being added to the cast mix this season, Simmons said. Both leads in "Charity" are freshmen and some other leads are new members of the theater program.

Media studies and journalism major Matt McFarlin plays Daddy Brubeck, the character played by Sammy Davis Jr. in the film version. Daddy Brubeck is a hippie cult leader.

McFarlin, and most cast members, also plays art of the ensemble. McFarlin's first show with EMU theater was this time last year, meaning he is somewhat of a newbie in the department.

"The cast, the ensemble, and how supportive everybody is of each other," is the best part about being a part of "Sweet Charity," McFarlin said.

"I think Eastern students should come out to see any of our shows we do because we put a lot of hours of practice into it and we're putting on a very entertaining show that I think anyone would enjoy," McFarlin said.

Freshman Bella McQuigg, who plays Charity, is a musical theatre major. Like Simmons and McFarlin, McQuigg said she is ecstatic about "Sweet Charity's" showcase. Being both a freshman and the lead of the show, McQuigg said, creates a lot of pressure but that's to be expected.

"This process has been amazing," McQuigg said. "Everyone is so kind and supportive. It's a perfect environment. I cannot imagine better people to go through this process with."



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# Chappell Roan takes the tiara as The Midwest Princess

MARIE WHITE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Chappell Roan is an American singer songwriter who released their debut album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" on Sept. 22 and began a fall tour of the same name three days later.

Roan's album and tour has been met with rave reviews from media outlets like Pitchfork, Variety, and Vogue, deeming her a pop sensation. Seeing the tour live and listening to the album on repeat, I can wholeheartedly agree with these outlets' rave reviews.

#### Tour

Chappell Roan began her fall tour on Sept. 25 in California. Roan made a stop at Saint Andrew's Hall in Detroit on Oct. 10, this was her ninth stop on The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess Tour. Roan made several outfit themes for all her shows asking everyone to participate on Instagram and creating mood boards for them, the theme for Detroit was rainbow.

"I thought about the themes years ago and I was like it would be so fun to do this one day," Roan said. "I think it's created a space where people can really express themselves freely and without judgment and I think that's the most important part of the themes."

Every stop of her tour, Roan finds local drag queens to bring out as her openers. The artists in Detroit were ANTI, Perry Dox, and Aphrodite. Aphrodite performed a rendition of "Venus" by Lady Gaga, Perry

Dox did a burlesque number, and ANTI did the worm dance move. These queens brought an amazing uniqueness to the concert and made it stand out from any other concert experience I've been to.

"We have 41 shows, so we have a lot of queens, three queens for every show and they're all local," Roan said. "I look for drag artists in general who can just really bring it."

Being able to support the queer community is something Roan loves to do and is the backbone of her tour with supporting the local queer communities she visits. Another big proponent of her support is some of the proceeds from her ticket sales for the tour goes to "For The Gwolds", a charity to help Black trans people pay for their rent and gender-affirming surgeries.

"It's been so fulfilling to uplift the queens and the kings in a way that's just so pure," Roan said. "It's a great way to shine a light on another part of the community, there's a lot of joy in drag."

Chappell Roan put on one of the best concert experiences I've ever been to. The entire room was shaking from the first song, with the energy in the room being at an all time high throughout the entire show, you could feel everyone's happiness shouting the lyrics with her. Half-way through her set, before performing her song "HOT TO GO!", she stopped to teach the audience the HOT TO GO dance were audience participation was mandatory. I can't wait to see a Chappell Roan show again because it was one of the best I've ever been to, from her audience interactions to her energetic performance.

#### Album

Chappell Roan released "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" on Sept. 22. which includes 14 songs with a 49 minute run time. This is Roan's debut album. It took Roan four years to finish the album entirely. She also released a plethora of singles leading up to the album's release with music videos for each of the singles.

In her previous works, Roan described herself as dark pop with ballad undertones, but with this debut album she has completely shifted her style into a happier upbeat pop.

"Slumberparty pop is what I am now," Roan said. "It's similar to slumber parties where you have fun girly time, then at night there's a girl who tells her deepest secret and everyone starts crying, I think that's exactly what my music is."

#### Album Highs

The lyricism is superb throughout the entire album. The album is filled with one liners and emotion, that just makes you think in so many different ways. You start the album with the song "Feminiomenon" with lyrics like "Hit it like rom-pom-pom-pom, get it hot like Papa John," which are just fun lyrics with an amazing beat. Then a few songs in with the song "Coffee" you get heart clenching lyrics like "I'll meet you for coffee 'cause if we have wine you'll say that you want me, I know that's a lie." This album has fun quips with the same songs that are emotionally wrecking you.

This album is filled with queer joy and you can tell. Chappell is being exactly herself and it's clear she put her everything into it.

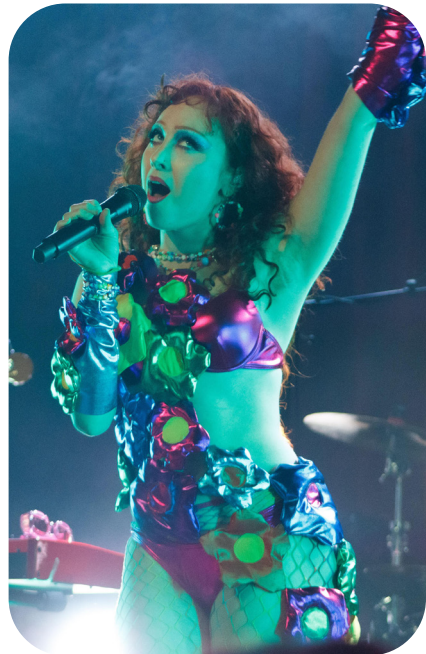


PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE  
CHAPPELL ROAN PERFORMING AT SAINT ANDREW'S HALL ON OCT. 10, 2023 TO A SOLD OUT CROWD.

## Review: "Something to Give Each Other" gives major good vibes

MARIE WHITE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Something to Give Each Other" is the third studio album by Troye Sivan, an Australian singer/songwriter, that was released on Oct. 13. This upbeat dance album has 10 tracks that comes in at 33 minutes listening time. Each song gives a different sound while still being cohesive as an album.

"The world can be a scary, dark, sad place. I really hope this music brings you even the tiniest bit of joy this week, and into the future," Sivan said in an Instagram post.

#### Album Highs

This album is filled with serotonin. No matter if you're listening to a slower song or a hyper speed one, you can not help but dance. Each song has a different vibe, from slow electronic synth to hyper speed club music, but each one makes you want to tap your feet. "In My Room" features Spanish singer Guitarricadelafuente, even without understanding the lyrics throughout the song, the beat somehow makes you understand them.

Another highlight is the singles of the album. Two singles were released before the album's release, "Rush" and "Got Me Started", both having similar production styles, are hyper dance beats, and were an

amazing choice to release as singles. The song "One Of Your Girls" was treated as a release single airing with a music video when the album launched. The music video was absolutely stunning and featured singer Ross Lynch, and fully set this song up to be a hit. The visuals work so well with the lyrics. You can see the thought behind the song coming to life.



#### Album Lows

Production of the song sometimes takes away from the song as a whole. Each of the songs either have a really similar production style or the complete opposite, with the lyrics

being the only thing holding them together. "What's The Time Where You Are?" into "One of Your Girls" is a perfect example of this, going from an upbeat electronic pulse into a slow rhythmic beat. It's jarring at first listen to go from a high energy dance song to a slower more sensual song, and this trend continues throughout the album.

Some of the production is completely distracting to the songs. "Got Me Started" features a sampled track "Shooting Stars" and takes over the song completely at points. This feels like almost having that track as the star on the song, but the lyrics end up taking over after a few listens, and at first can be completely jarring. Even starting the album with "Rush," which has a nightclub type of production, you're almost setting the album up to keep the same feeling, but it somehow works very well as a unit.

Overall, I thought the album was cohesive. I thought the production could have been sharper in places to not overwhelm the listener.

#### Verdict

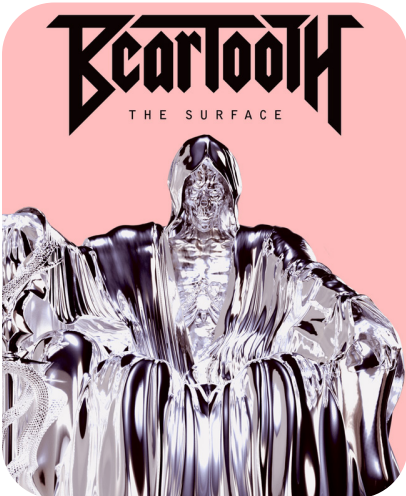
I think this is one of the top pop albums of the year for how distinct and fun it is. Though some songs production are distracting, the lyrics and Sivan's voice keeps it all together, and keeps the album on repeat.

**I give "Something to Give Each Other" a 9 out of 10 rating.**

## Review: Beartooth's 'The Surface' is an album of self-love

KASPER MIELKE  
COLUMNIST

Love is an overarching theme throughout most music. The phenomenon of love has been covered over and over again, romantic love being in the center of it all. Though, sometimes, a track or a whole LP focuses on a completely different type of love.



#### Background

Beartooth has been slowly building up the release of this record since "Riptide" since 2022. Other singles include "Sunshine!," "Might Love Myself," "Doubt Me," and "The Better Me." The time has come for the long awaited LP...does it live up to the high standards it bestows upon itself?

#### Album Highs

Caleb Shomo, the lead vocalist, had his work cut out for him in this record. Overall, Shomo's vocal range is impressive with each track, and it is especially evident in the final track "I Was Alive." He holds out these notes that put an emphasis onto the already lyrically inspiring song, which makes the words mean more than just face value. The song itself is about having no regrets when it comes to being on one's deathbed since they knew that they did a lot more than just survive in their life.

Speaking of lyrics, the focus of the record is, no doubt, about the process of loving one's self and living life to the fullest. In "What's Killing You," there is a lyric that reads, "Try to suppress the feeling, put the void inside my mind, hopelessly pretending I'll always

have more time." What this references is the mindset that most people have, which is the idea that they are always guaranteed the next day. This song is the counter to that mindset, saying that no one is guaranteed more time to live.

#### Album Lows

This record is strong in a lot of ways, but towards the end it loses some momentum. For example, the song "My New Reality." This song is meant to be an homage to the success of the band, and how things that were once thought impossible were the new reality for them. The message is clear, and it fits in with the self-love theme, but it is the weakest in terms of lyricism. It could be that this song is meant to be more personal than relatable, but this is also why it makes it not as strong as its predecessors. There is another song that fits in with this reason ("What Are You Waiting For"), and it could have been left off the record entirely with no further damage done.

**This record is an 8 out of 10.**

*Kasper Mielke has been a music reviewer at The Eastern Echo for over a year.*

MARIE WHITE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

boygenius surprised fans on Sept. 25 with the announcement of an upcoming EP titled 'the rest' on Oct. 13, not long after releasing their debut album earlier this year.

boygenius is a supergroup made of singers Julien Baker, Phoebe Bridgers, and Lucy Dacus. Their debut album 'the record' was met with critical acclaim across the board and has a 98% approval rating on Google.

The band, who is currently touring, started playing the songs off the EP at their concerts, until finally the EP came out and all the sounds were released for all to hear. The band simply released the EP without much fanfare saying "the rest is out" on their Instagram account.

#### Highs

The lyrics are soul-crushingly beautiful. This EP feels almost more intimate than their other work because it's all acoustic type production, the listener can hear their thoughts so clearly it's captivating.

"How we're stuck in entropy How it hurts to hope - hurts to hope for more - Oh, it hurts to hope the future will be better than before" is a line in "Afraid of Heights" that truly pulls the listener's mind into the song, it's the sorrow of hoping, but you know you have to try.

This EP feels so different from previous boygenius simply in the production style but the lyrics and emotion still hold true to what you know from them, and that's what pulls

you in and makes the EP so enjoyable.

#### Lows

This EP is so short. This EP has 4 songs and is 12 min and 6 sec long, one of the shortest I've ever listened to. You need to think of this as an extension of "the record", but instead of a deluxe edition, the band chose to make an EP. I think making a 4 song EP was an interesting choice and it makes sense for them as a band, but I'm not sure as a listener how to feel. The songs themselves are great, but the ultimate looping of the album makes it hard to digest.

#### Verdict

Just like this EP, this review is short, but if you're a boygenius fan you'll want to add these songs into your sad vibe rotation, or if you like acoustic songs with sad lyrics then you may also like this EP. Beware it is super short and you will have played it fully 20 times before realizing it.

**I give "the rest" a 8 out of 10.**







BLAKE MCQUEARY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Former EMU basketball coach to be honored at Legacy Day

Get set to honor a legend on Nov. 18, when EMU celebrates Legacy Day by naming the basketball court after legendary basketball coach, Ben Braun.

The dedication is scheduled for just before tipoff at the Eagles' second home game of the season, 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, when EMU Athletics officials unveil the etching of Braun's name on the basketball court inside the George Gervin GameAbove Center.

Braun, EMU men's basketball coach with the most wins in program history, with an accumulated 185 victories, three Mid-American Conference regular season championships, three MAC Tournament titles, three NCAA Tournament selections, three MAC Coach of the Year trophies, and a 106-35 home record in 11 seasons.

EMU Volleyball's Basham surpasses 1,000 career kills

Speaking of power on the court, EMU volleyball's Samantha Basham is killing it.

Basham notched her 1,000th career kill on Saturday, Oct. 21, as the Eagles took on Western Michigan University.

Although EMU lost the match 3-0, senior Basham's career record kills now stands at 1,001. Basham is from Granville, Ohio.

EMU Hall of Famer Rachel Laquaniello (2009-12) holds the record with 1,949 career kills.

Rowing opens up its fall schedule

Ready for some lake-based action? The EMU women's rowing team is set to host a race on Saturday, Oct. 28, at Ford Lake. It's the second season in a row and the second time since 2009 that the team has hosted a home event, called The Ford Lake Shore Race.

In addition to hosting, the rowers will be working to improve on their fall schedule opener performance on Oct. 21, where they placed 14th out of a field of 40 at the Head of the Charles Regatta on the Charles River in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Eagles' women's club eight squad finished with a time of 17:09.437, the squad's fastest finish.

EMU Women's Basketball Theme and Promotional Schedule Announced

Is it tipoff time yet? In just a couple of weeks, the basketball season begins.

The EMU Department of Athletics on Thursday, Oct. 19, released the theme and promotional schedule for the women's team. The season is set to start on Monday, Nov. 6, at 7 p.m. as the Eagles host the University of Detroit Mercy for the home opener and debut night when fans can walk the runway. Other themes for the women's game include Holiday Hoops & Knittin' in the Mitten Day on Dec. 29, and Swoop's Birthday Party on Jan. 6.

The women will play 13 home games at the George Gervin GameAbove Center, including joining the men's team in the spotlight on Nov. 18, for Legacy Night when the court will be dedicated to Ben Braun.

# Daniella Bruce shares her journey with EMU's sports writing class

BLAKE MCQUEARY  
SPORTS EDITOR

It's not every day that a TV personality walks the halls at Eastern Michigan University.

For the Eagles, on Thursday, Oct. 5, it was Detroit Tigers and Red Wings reporter Daniella Bruce who made her appearance in Ypsilanti, Michigan, to talk to the EMU sports writing class students.

Bruce is a New Baltimore, Michigan native who attended Michigan State University and studied broadcasting.

After multiple internship opportunities during her time in East Lansing, including networks like HomTV, Fox 2, and even ESPN, the Anchor Bay high school grad would take her talents back home after college and join State Champs! Network, a media outlet that covers high school sports throughout Michigan.

"I didn't even have a job lined up right out of college, a lot of my friends took the local news station route," Bruce said. "That just wasn't for me."

After her experience with State Champs! Network, Bruce told the class that she auditioned for a gig with the Detroit Red Wings but didn't get the job she sought.

"It's always one of the biggest stories I tell. They told me they wanted to keep me

around and to stick with them so that they could create something for me," Bruce said. "At that point, it's a professional sports team in my hometown. Of course, I was going to stick this one out."

The team came up with a short pre-game and intermission show that ran at Little Caesars Arena.

Bruce said she ran with it, leading her into a role as a color analyst on the radio show, marking her as the first woman to ever do so.

"I started working with Ken Kal and one day he decided he needed a radio color analyst, and his first thought was me," Bruce told the class. "It's something I'm super proud of, especially being the first woman to do so."

Bruce has also found a way with her interviewing style by just being herself and keeping it conversational. That way, she's able to connect with athletes and find unique answers out of them.

Sometimes it is a challenge for both Bruce and the athlete, as balancing everything that comes with both professions can cause draining days on occasions, she shared with the class.

"You just have to be yourself in interviews...don't let a bad interview cause you to think you're the problem," Bruce said.

One of Bruce's most prolific interviews came recently with Detroit Tigers legend

Miguel Cabrera, as he was getting ready to hang up the cleats and explore retirement.

In that interview Bruce talked with Cabrera about his baseball journey. She shared with the class that she also aged him a little bit as she told him she was a freshman in college when he secured his prized triple crown award. The moment was just so surreal for Bruce.

"He actually doesn't always love the camera or love to do media," Bruce said of Cabrera. "But when you sit down with him one-on-one, it's incredible just the things he knows and his experiences he's had, just talking baseball with him is something special."

Bruce now serves as the reporter for the Tigers broadcast on the radio, which she just finished her first season, and will now do the same with the Red Wings for the upcoming 2023-24 season.

Some advice and words of wisdom Bruce left with the class were her touching on networking in college, as well as being



PHOTO CREDIT: BLAKE MCQUEARY  
DANIELLA BRUCE SPEAKING TO EMU'S SPORTS WRITING CLASS ON THURSDAY, OCT. 5 2023.

focused on the class curriculum.

"I made some great connections within the industry by just sending connection requests with a message on LinkedIn," Bruce shared. "I also wish I knew how impactful the classes I was taking [in college] would be on my career...that can put you a step ahead," she added.

## Eastern Michigan falls to Northern Illinois in final minutes for third consecutive loss against Huskies

HUGH THORP  
SPORTS WRITER

The Eastern Michigan University Football team traveled to North Central, Illinois to take on the Northern Illinois University Huskies, losing by a score of 20-13 and the Eagles fell to 4-4 (2-2) on the season.

Overview

For more than 17 minutes, EMU held the lead against the Huskies, but two fourth-quarter scores for Northern Illinois which included a field goal at the beginning of the quarter and a touchdown with just over a minute to play was enough for Northern Illinois to defeat the Eagles for the third year in a row.

The Eagles have not beaten the Huskies since Dec. 12, 2020, which was during the Covid-shortened season. The score of 20-13 is the fewest points the Eagles have allowed on the road this season. In 2022, the Eagles only allowed fewer than 20 points on the road once, in a win at Ball State.

Starting the first four MAC games at the 2-2 mark, it is the third consecutive season in which the Eagles have started conference play winning two of their first four conference games.

Dominant Defense

The defense of both teams is the story of the game. The quarter where the most points were scored came in the first, as each team scored seven points to combine 14 in the opening quarter. Outside of the first, the most points scored in any quarter the whole game was in the fourth, where NIU scored 10 points.

Despite the dominance of the defense for NIU, Eastern Michigan was only forced to

punt four times the entire game, one of which included a 68-yard punt for junior punter Mitchell Tomasek (Columbus, Ohio), which came at the 7:58 mark in the fourth quarter to keep the game tied at 13.

Individual Players

Eastern Michigan's only touchdown of the game came from running back Samson Evans (Crystal Lake, Ill.). Evans now has 34 rushing touchdowns in his Eastern Michigan career, extending his school record by one more score.

In addition on special teams, Jesus

Gomez (Puebla, Mexico) would go on to make two field goals in the game, with his longest coming from 37 yards. Gomez has now made multiple field goals in three different games this season but also hasn't done it since the second week at Minnesota.

On defense, Kempton Shine (Chicago, Illinois) led the Eagles in tackles with nine, and all of them were solo tackles. The total of tackles is five off of his career-high of 14 done against Central Michigan on Nov. 27, 2020, but the total is tied for the second-high in his career also having nine against Western

Michigan on Nov. 16, 2021.

Austin Smith (Ellenwood, Georgia) was not able to get things going for Eastern in the loss against Northern Illinois as he only threw for 151 yards and also threw two interceptions. His long pass of the day was 37 yards, and he was only able to complete 53.8% of his passes that were thrown against the Huskies. Struggling to find his targets, the Eagles' leading receiver was Hamze El-Zayat (Dearborn, Michigan), who had just 74 yards for the Green and White.

How The Game Ended

Having a 13-10 lead going into the fourth quarter, the Eagles had a tough time making stops late in the game. The Huskies' last drive of the fourth quarter was 15 plays for 80 yards which included getting four first downs as well.

The game-changing moment came on a 2nd down and 10 and only at the EMU 36, the Huskies found some running room on the right side to get a first down inside the five-yard line, and Northern Illinois scored three plays later, and they forced Eastern Michigan to burn two timeouts during the process.

After Northern Illinois scored, the Eagles were able to get the ball back with 1:06 to go in the game. The Eagles were able to pick up a first down and get to NIU territory, but snapping it with 30 seconds left, Smith threw a pass that was tipped and intercepted to end the game, sealing a victory for Northern Illinois over Eastern Michigan for a third straight year.

Up Next

Eastern Michigan comes back home next weekend to take on the Broncos of Western Michigan University for what will be the final Saturday game before weekly night MACtion comes.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARIE WHITE  
LINEBACKER JOE SPARACIO WARMING UP BEFORE HOMECOMING GAME ON OCT. 7, 2023

Cellar Roots is accepting submissions from EMU students and alumni for our 50th edition.



SUBMISSIONS OPEN:  
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