

# YpsiWrites welcomes 2024 'Writers of Ypsilanti' cohort

**Colae Eason**  
*News Reporter*

YpsiWrites, a non-profit that promotes and supports writers in Ypsilanti, has introduced the 2024 winners of their annual Writers of Ypsilanti program.

“These are individuals who use writing for important purposes,” the Director of Eastern Michigan University’s Office of Campus and Community Writing and Co-Founder of YpsiWrites, Ann Blakeslee said. “To advance community, communicate important ideas, and to share what they are passionate about with the community.”

The winners include Marc Arthur, Crystal Campbell, R.J. Fox, Monica Hickson, Bradley Kraft, Georgia Krieger, Ruth Mella, Emma Rodseth and Ameera Salman.

“It’s an honor to be recognized in your own community for something I spend so much of my passion and free time on,” Ann Arbor high school teacher, Fox said.

“Being a member of the 2024 cohort has encouraged me to stay connected with my writing throughout my busy life,” Ypsilanti resident and employee at Ohio State University Center for Latin American Studies, Rodseth said.

EMU lecturer and Programs and Partnerships Director of YpsiWrites, Kristine Gatchel, said those interested can self-nominate or receive nominations to be selected for the interview process.

“I’m honored to be a part of this group of writers and to even get nominated,” EMU student and Ypsilanti Youth Poet Laureate, Mella said. “It encourages me to go harder as a writer and learn new things,”

Members of the cohort who spoke with The Echo received nominations through social media, partners, and writing group facilitators.

Nominees were asked about the upcoming theme of YpsiWrites, “Sharing our stories,” and how they do



Marc Arthur



Crystal S. Campbell



R.J. Fox



Monica Hickson



Bradley Kraft



Georgia Krieger



Ruth Mella



Emma Rodseth



Ameera Salman

*Courtesy of YpsiWrites*

this in their writing, Gatchel said.

“The theme is a mix of things to me,” Rodseth said. “Personal stories and history, identity, life paths and all of the ways those can be expressed.”

Though the winners’ stories were so different from each other, they shared the same overlap of passion and engagement for their community and writing, Gatchel said.

“I want to use this experience to encourage others to be creative and expressive,” Mella said.

“We really have a very diverse, engaged, fantastic group this year,”

Gatchel said. “From the editor of The Echo to a local teacher, to someone who is newer to the area who started their own writing group.”

Members of the 2024 cohort embody the message of YpsiWrites with their close alignment to the non-profit group’s four pillars: community, advocacy, inclusivity, and support, Gatchel added.

“I want to give people a push to keep pursuing their writing dreams,” Fox said.

YpsiWrites is a community writing resource that provides workshops, resources, programs, events and activities for writers of all genres and ages.

Mella has been able to expand her knowledge about mental health awareness through an YpsiWrites workshop, she said.

“Students can participate in any aspect of our programming,” Blakeslee said.

Many YpsiWrites events are virtual to encourage participation from community members, according to Blakeslee and Gatchel.

“Campus is a part of the community, which means the community is a part of the campus,” Gatchel said.

While YpsiWrites is meant to be encompassing all of Ypsilanti and not just students, it is important to acknowledge the effect that EMU has had on the community, Gatchel said.

“At least four of the cohort are current Eastern students or alum,” she continued.

YpsiWrites will be hosting their campus-based Writer’s Room on Sept. 30.

Blakeslee said the program also allows a space for those who didn’t originally believe that they could write, to feel comfortable and confident as writers.

“Complete strangers come together and they share really personal things because writing is personal for a lot of people. They are affirmed and validated in that,” Blakeslee said.

# Human cases of West Nile Virus reported in neighboring counties

**Olivia Hendry**  
*News Reporter*

25 Michiganders have become infected with the West Nile virus, including residents of nearly all Washtenaw-neighboring counties, including Jackson, Livingston Monroe, Oakland, and Wayne counties.

This information comes nearly a month after the Washtenaw County Health Department alerted residents of the potential increased infection rate over Labor Day weekend. It is unclear if the current human cases occurred during that week, and are presenting

currently.

West Nile is a virus carried by mosquitoes that can cause flu-like symptoms in those infected. According to the Centers for Disease Control, eight out of 10 people infected will not develop any symptoms. For those who do develop symptoms, it may present as fever, vomiting, headaches, or body aches. Those who are immunocompromised and/or the elderly are at higher risk of developing a serious illness.

While no human cases have been identified in Washtenaw County, two new dead bird specimens have been found to carry the West Nile virus, bringing the total to five.

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, the communications and community health promotion advisor for the Washtenaw County Health Department, hopes that the lack of cases in Washtenaw County stays that way.

“The fact that we don’t have any cases reported locally is really good news,” Ringler-Cerniglia said. “We’re still wary that we could see some cases, but relieved so far that we don’t have any.”

In the state of Michigan, there have been 164 mosquito pools tested, and 87 animals testing positive for the West Nile virus. The potential increase is

still hypothesized to be from the hot, dry weather present in the state, and the type of mosquitoes that thrive in those conditions.

“The type of mosquito that carries West Nile tends to favor [hot and dry] conditions, but of course, there’s activity across the state, so is that due to the weather or other factors, it’s hard to say,” Ringler-Cerniglia said.

Ringler-Cerniglia said that precautions still need to be taken to prevent mosquito bites, such as dumping out stagnant water, wearing long sleeves, and making sure any open windows have screens.

“When we get to this time of

year, we’re getting some cooler days, it’s easier to stop thinking about [mosquitoes]. You might only think about them as a summertime thing, we emphasize keeping up with your precautions,” Ringler-Cerniglia said.

She says that mosquitoes will continue to be a hindrance until Washtenaw County gets their first hard frost of the season. Until then, county residents should continue doing their part to deter mosquitoes.

For more information about West Nile and how to prevent infection, please visit the Washtenaw County Health Department’s website.



# The Eastern Echo

The Eastern Echo serves the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti-area communities as an independent student-operated newspaper. Founded in 1881 as The Normal News, The Echo distributes weekly printed editions on campus and throughout the surrounding community during the fall and winter academic semesters; and publishes year-round on the web. Contents are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without prior written consent of the newspaper.

COPYRIGHT © 2024 (The Eastern Echo)  
All rights reserved.

www.EasternEcho.com

## THE ECHO MISSION

The Eastern Echo informs the Eastern Michigan University and Ypsilanti community by highlighting newsworthy content in a fair, accurate and timely manner.

## HOW TO REACH US

The Eastern Echo  
Fall 2024 Editorial Board

**Editor-in-Chief:**  
Ameera Salman  
editor@easternecho.com

**Managing Editor:**  
Emma Owens  
managing@easternecho.com

**Sports Editor:**  
Elena Davis  
sports@easternecho.com

**Podcast Editor:**  
Alex Kreps  
podcast@easternecho.com

**Arts Editor,  
Cellar Roots Editor-in-Chief:**  
Madison Cantrell  
cellarroots@easternecho.com

**Design Chief:**  
Rylee Curley  
design@easternecho.com

**Photo Editor:**  
Max Taylor  
photo@easternecho.com

**Digital Editor:**  
Julez DeShetler  
digital@easternecho.com

**Copy Editors:**  
Noah Cimaroli  
Allie Beecher  
copyeditor@easternecho.com

**Business Manager:**  
Aidan Bonney  
advertising@easternecho.com

**Student Media Advisor:**  
Christine Uthoff  
advisor@easternecho.com

## PICK UP A COPY










Print editions published Tuesdays from late August to early May are available in racks or on tables in all academic buildings on the EMU campus, and at dozens of businesses in the community.

- Among those businesses are:
- Savvy Sliders on Washtenaw Ave.
  - Basil Babes on Cross St.
  - Sweetwaters on Cross St.








## CORRECTIONS

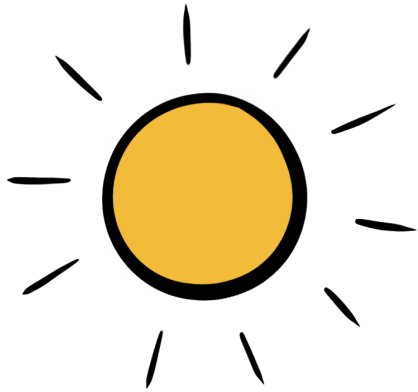
In the Sept. 17 print edition of The Eastern Echo, the program sponsor of "ExploreYpsi" was misprinted. The correct sponsor of this event is the Ypsilanti Downtown Development Authority. This change has also been reflected in the web version of the article which can be found at easternecho.com.

# Weekly Calendar

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1	WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3	FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4	SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6
LGBT RESOURCE CENTER EXHIBIT - CELEBRATING 30 YEARS HALLE LIBRARY 115 ALL DAY 	COLLEGE OF BUSINESS DEIB & J SPEAKER MICHAEL PUGH STUDENT CENTER 310 5:30 - 7 P.M. 	QUEERING THE REVOLUTION: HOMOSEXUALITY & THE TRIALS OF ROBERT NEWBURGH HALLE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM 4 - 5 P.M.  ALICE BY HEART JUDY STURGIS HILL BUILDING - LEGACY THEATRE 7 - 8:45 P.M. 	HIGHLAND CEMETERY EVENING LANTERN TOURS HIGHLAND CEMETERY 7 P.M.  HOLY BONES FESTIVAL YPSILANTI PERFORMANCE SPACE 5 - 9 P.M. 	YOUR ROADMAP TO A PROFESSIONAL CAREER- RESUME AND NETWORKING EVENT SPARK EAST 9:15 A.M. - 1 P.M.  CLEAN UP YPSI & PAINT PUMPKINS RIVERSIDE PARK 3 - 5P.M. 	MICHIGAN PAGAN GATHERING VENDOR EVENT YPSILANTI FREIGHTHOUSE 11 A.M. - 5 P.M. 

# Scoop's Forecast

72°		44°	Tuesday, Oct. 1
64°		45°	Wednesday, Oct. 2
73°		50°	Thursday, Oct. 3
70°		47°	Friday, Oct. 4
71°		48°	Saturday, Oct. 5
74°		51°	Sunday, Oct. 6
76°		45°	Monday, Oct. 7





What's on your ballot: Washtenaw County voter guide

Annabelle Favre  
News Reporter

There is a lot to keep track of as the November election approaches. This guide is designed to give a basic understanding of who will be on your ballot.

Using voter guides can quickly teach about what will be on your ballot, but doing your own research is essential to ensure that your contribution to democracy is serving you and your community in the best way possible.

Washtenaw County County Clerk/ Register of Deeds: four-year term. Serves to record and manage public records.

Lawrence Kestenbaum  
Democratic, has been the county clerk/register of deeds for Washtenaw County since 2004. Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, Juris Doctor from Wayne State University. 69 years old, married, one child.

Top priorities: voting rights, human rights, and marriage equality.

Samantha Strayer  
Republican, running for first term. Writer at Hillsdale College. Bachelor's degree from the University of California- Irvine, master's degree in politics from the Hillsdale College Graduate School of Statesmanship. Top priorities: voter fraud, election integrity, land ownership record keeping.

County Treasurer: Four-year term. Serves to collect revenue, administer tax laws, and safeguard public funds.

Latitia Lamelle-Sharp  
Democratic, running for first term. Graduated from Eastern Michigan University. Currently a Division Administrator with the Washtenaw County Public Defender. Endorsed by retiring Treasurer McClary and Fems for Dems. One child.

Top priorities: foreclosure prevention, community efforts.

Robert F. Zimmerman  
Republican, running for first term. Bachelor's degree in economics and business from Carnegie Mellon University, and MBA in Accounting and Finance from Northwestern University. Married with two children. Top priorities: lowering taxes, carefully watching expenditures.

County Sheriff: Four-year term. Serves to enforce laws, manage jails, tend to court security, and provide training and development for the law enforcement department.

Alyshia M. Dyer  
Democratic, running for re-election. Former Washtenaw County Deputy Sheriff, experience in road and marine control. Bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University, advanced degrees from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan. Licensed social worker. Endorsed by Young Democrats of Michigan. Her Bold Move, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, Rep. Debbie Dingell, Sen. Jeff Irwin, and more.

Top priorities: criminal justice reform, social, racial, gender, LGBTQ+, and labor justice.

County Commissioner District One: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Jason Maciejewski  
Democratic, running for re-election. Bachelor Arts in Political Science and Master's in Public Administration from the University of Michigan- Dearborn. Age 54, married with three children.

Top priorities: preservation of court services, broadband internet services, lower carbon emissions, community mental health services.

Phyllis L. Risdon  
Republican, running for first term. Degree in Industrial Chemistry Technology from Ferris State College. Widowed, two children.

Top priorities: limited government, lowering taxes, Christian beliefs, upholding the Constitution.

County Commissioner District Two: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Crystal Lyte  
Democratic, running for re-election. Bachelor of English Language from Eastern Michigan University. Endorsed by Jerry Clayton, Sue Shink, Jason Morgan, Jimmie Wilson Jr., LiUNA!, Working Families Party, and more. Up for reelection. Married, two children.

Top priorities: mental and physical health, education, expungement services, land conservation, and environmental protection.

P. McNichol  
Republican, running for first term.

County Commissioner District Three: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Shannon Beeman  
Democratic, running for re-election. Has served on the board of commissioners since 2018. Bachelor's in Fine Arts from Kendall College of Art and Design, Master's of Business Administration from Walsh College. Endorsed by Rep. Debbie Dingel, Felicia Brabec, Jason Morgan, Washtenaw County Democratic Party, and more. Married, two children.

Top priorities: tax budgeting, neighborhood and infrastructure, affordable housing.

Ryan L. Baumgart  
Republican, running for first term. Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering from New Mexico State University, Juris Master. Owns and is CEO of a small business. Former teacher in a cross-cultural environment.

Top priorities: security, heritage and community.

County Commissioner District Four: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Caroline L. Sanders  
Democratic, running for third term. Master's from Eastern Michigan University in Legal Administration and Technology. Currently works as Eastern Michigan University's Associate Director of Community Relations and Engagement. Endorsed by UAW.

Top priorities: expanding child health care programs, healthcare, and education.

Alberta A. Borneo  
Republican, running for first term.

County Commissioner District Five: Four-year term. Legislative

body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Justin D. Hodge  
Democratic, running for re-election. Professor of Social Work at the University of Michigan. Married. Endorsed by Jeff Irwin. Sue Shink, Jimmie Wilson Jr., Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan Equality, Michigan Action Network, and more.

Top priorities: equality, healthcare, financial empowerment, mental health.

Brett Birk  
Republican, running for first term. Four children.

Top priorities: limiting taxes, budgeting county funds.

County Commissioner District Six: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Annie Somerville  
Democratic, running for re-election. Currently chief of staff to State Senator Jeff Irwin. Bachelor's degree in political science from Eastern Michigan University. Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, LiUNA!, Florence Roberson, JoAnn McCollum, and more.

Top priorities: human service needs, housing, nutrition programs.

Mike Eller  
Republican, running for first term. Small business owner. Four children. Top priorities: taxes, law enforcement, infrastructure.

County Commissioner District Seven: Four year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Mary Kozonis-Marudas  
Green, running for first term. Master's Degree in Medical and Psychiatric Social Work.

Top priorities: mental health, education.

Andy LaBarre  
Democratic, running for re-election. Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Wittenberg University and Master's degree in Public Administration from Eastern Michigan University. Endorsed by Jerry Clayton, Christopher Taylor, Jeff Irwin, and more. Married with two children.

Top priorities: human services, mental and public health.

County Commissioner District Eight: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Yousef Rabhi  
Democratic, running for re-election. Bachelor's in Environmental Science from the University of Michigan. Previously elected to Michigan's House of Representatives. Served as House Democratic Floor Leader. Endorsed by Michigan AFL-CIO. 36 years old.

Top priorities: affordable housing, climate justice, healthcare and social services.

Leslie Kay Shannon  
Republican, running for first term.

County Commissioner District Nine: Four-year term. Legislative body of Washtenaw County. Each commissioner represents the citizens of their district.

Katie Scott

Democratic, running for re-election. Works as an intensive care unit nurse. Graduated from the George Washington University.

Top priorities: mental health, poverty, affordable housing, income inequality.

Lori A. Miner  
Republican, running for first term.

Judge of Probate Court: Six-year term. Responsible for managing estates, appointing guardians, handling contested wills, and resolving legal matters.

Darlene M. O'Brien  
Nonpartisan, running for re-election. Bachelor's degree from the University of Toledo, Master's from Notre Dame Law School. Previously worked as an attorney, representing clients in criminal and civil matters.

Judge of District Court (14A District): Six-year term. Responsible for managing the court, presiding over trials, appointing magistrate judges, and maintaining order.

Cedric J. Simpson  
Nonpartisan, running for first term. Previously served as Chief Judge for the Institute of Continuing Legal Education. Former chairperson of the Race, Ethnic, and Gender Bias Committee. Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Maryland East Shore, Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland.

Judge of District Court (15 District): Six-year term. Responsible for managing the court, presiding over trials, appointing magistrate judges, and maintaining order.

Tamara Garwood  
Nonpartisan, running for re-election. Previously worked as a local attorney. Received a Bachelor's of Political Science from the University of Michigan and a Juris Doctor from the Detroit College of Law.

S. Kerene Moore  
Nonpartisan, running for first term. Bachelor's and Juris Degree from the University of Michigan. Currently serves as the Director of Conviction Integrity and Expungement at the Washtenaw County Prosecutor's office. Previously served in the Washtenaw County Circuit Court.

County Prosecuting Attorney: Four-year term. Responsible for investigating and prosecuting crimes, representing their county, and advising county officials.

Eli Savit  
Democratic, running for second term. Formerly served as a law clerk to Ruth Bader Ginsburg and as a civil-rights and public-interest attorney. Graduated from Kalamazoo College for Bachelor's and the University of Michigan Law School for Master's. Endorsed by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, Equality Michigan Action Network, and Michigan AFL-CIO.

If you're living in Ypsilanti for the school year but want your vote to count from home, absentee voting is an excellent option that won't interfere with classes.

Students who would like to vote in Ypsilanti have the option to vote at the Honors College building this year. October 21 is the last day to register online, and after the 21, voters will have to register in person.

What's the move? Sept. 30-Oct. 6

Hunter Johnstone  
News Reporter

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

Jim Gerstein: "Making Sense of the Jewish Vote" - Sept. 29

Attend a discussion of Jewish voters' political beliefs and values. The event is LBC credit-approved will occur in the Student Center, Room 300 and will run from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

LGBT Resource Center Exhibit - Celebrating 30 Years - Oct. 1-5

See the growth and impact of the LGBT Resource Center over 30 years in this free all day exhibit located in Halle Library, Room 115.

College of Business DEIB & J Speaker Michael Pugh - Oct. 2

Hear EMU alumni Michael Pugh speak as a part of the College of Business' Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging & Justice speaker series. The speech is open to the public, LBC credit-approved and will take place in the Student Center, Room 310, from 5:30-7 p.m.

Queering the Revolution: Homosexuality & the Trials of Robert Newburgh - Oct. 3

Learn about queer history in the revolutionary war and about the trial of Robert Newburgh. The event is LBC credit-approved and will take place in the Halle Library Auditorium from 4-5 p.m.

Alice by Heart presented by EMU Theatre - Oct. 3-6

See Alice in Wonderland and WWII collide in a musical presented by EMU Theatre in the Judy Sturgis Hill Legacy Theatre. The performance is LBC credit-approved and will go from 7-8:45 p.m. Get your tickets here.

Highland Cemetery Evening Lantern Tours - Oct. 4

Tour and listen to stories of those who once lived in Ypsilanti and now rest in the Highland Cemetery. The event is free and starts at 7 p.m.

Holy Bones Festival - Oct. 4 - Oct. 5

See a weird and wonderful showcase of performers, artists, and events. The tickets are \$10 and the festival will be held at the Ypsilanti Performance Space from 5-9 p.m.

Your Roadmap to a Professional Career- Resume and Networking Event - Oct. 5

Polish your resume and learn networking skills at SPARK East from 9:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Preregister here.

Clean Up Ypsi & Paint Pumpkins - Oct. 5

Help clean a portion of Depot Town and paint pumpkins while eating donuts and drinking cider at Riverside Park. The event runs from 3-5 p.m.

Michigan Pagan Gathering Vendor Event - Oct. 6

Check out a variety of vendors' goods and skills at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. Entrance is free and the event takes place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Cellar Roots is now accepting submissions! Open: Sept. 9th - Nov. 23rd

Looking for:

- 3D and 2D work
- Music
- Writing & Poetry
- Photography
- Animation
- Performance art
- and more!

Submit your work through here:



# The Eastern Echo's guide to spooky season activities

**Gabriella Payeur**  
**News Reporter**

As October approaches, so does spooky season! One of the great things about Ypsilanti is that there is no shortage of fun, frightful Halloween events. Here are some of the upcoming ones.

**Wiard's Night Terrors**  
*Sept. 27 through Oct. 26 on Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30-11 p.m.*  
5565 Merritt Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.  
*Ticket prices vary from \$33 to \$63 with several options and add-ons available.*

This is a haunted house type event featuring five attractions in one place! These attractions are: The Ultimate Haunted Barn, The MindShaft, The Asylum, Hayride of the Lost and Alien Caged Clowns in 3D. This was voted as a top 10 Scream Park in America by Hauntworld magazine. For more information and tickets, you can visit [hauntedhousemichigan.com](http://hauntedhousemichigan.com).

**Movie after Dark: Night of the Living Dead (1968)**  
*Oct. 4, 9 p.m.*  
100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.  
*Free entry.*  
This is a free movie available for

all to come, watch and enjoy! This movie is rated R and about a group of Pennsylvanians running from a horde of flesh-eating ghouls. For more information you can visit [ypsireal.com/ypsioctober](http://ypsireal.com/ypsioctober).

**Halloweekends with EMU Campus Life**  
*Oct. 4, 9:30-12 a.m.*  
*Cedar Point, check website for the campus meeting place.*  
*Tickets are \$30 per person.*

This is an all day event at Cedar Point to celebrate Halloween with their annual Halloweekends event. The ticket includes a round-trip bus ride and park entry. There will be rollercoasters, carnival games, haunted houses and lots of more fun activities. For more information, you can visit the Campus Life social media @emucampuslife or visit their website [emich.edu/campus-life](http://emich.edu/campus-life).

**Holy Bones Festival**  
*Oct. 4, 5-9 p.m.*  
*Oct. 5, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.*  
218 N Adams St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.  
*Tickets are \$6.66 in advance or \$10 at the gate.*

This event features over 80 local artisans, a drag hour with burlesque performances rated PG-13, an 18+ drag and burlesque show after dark, food

and drink vendors, and more. For more information, you can visit their website [slnk.metricool.com/public/smartlink/holybonesfestival](http://slnk.metricool.com/public/smartlink/holybonesfestival).

**Evening Lantern Tours**  
*Oct. 4 and 5, 7 p.m.*  
943 N River St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.  
*Pay at the gate, lanterns are provided.*

This event is located at the Historic Highland Cemetery and offers a tour of the grounds while listening to stories about those who rest in the cemetery with the historian James Mann. This is a family friendly event. For more information, you can visit [ypsireal.com/ypsioctober](http://ypsireal.com/ypsioctober).

**Ypsi Freak Fest**  
*Oct. 4, 2-10 p.m., S. Washington St.*  
*Oct. 5, 12 -10 p.m., Riverside Park*  
*Oct. 6, 3 p.m.-TBD, Wyrd Byrd*  
*Free entry for vendor event, but other parts of the event have varying entry fees.*

This event features vendors, live music, costume contests, and more. For more information, you can visit the event's Facebook page.

**Run Scream Run**  
*Oct. 12, 8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m.*  
5565 Merritt Rd, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.  
*Tickets range \$17-\$45 depending on the package you choose and date you*

*buy the tickets.*  
This event has a one mile, 5k and 10k. It is open to both walkers and runners. The 5k and 10k feature a mile on gravel roads inside the orchard and the rest will be on asphalt roads and a cross country course in Rolling Hills Country Park. At the end you receive a fun custom medal, chip time, official results, award eligibility, orchard discounts and cider and donuts! For more information and registration, you can visit [runscreamrun.com](http://runscreamrun.com).

**It's Alive! A Black Cat B-Movie Parody**  
*Oct. 18-20 and October 24-26*  
13 N Washington St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

*Tickets are not yet on sale.*  
This is an annual event hosted by Neighborhood Theater Group. This parody is written and put on by them as part of their Black Cat Halloween series. It is an enjoyable, Ypsilanti-exclusive production. For more information and to buy tickets, visit their website [ntgypsi.org](http://ntgypsi.org).

**The Brain That Wouldn't Die! (The Musical)**  
*Oct. 25, 26, 31, 7 p.m.*  
*October 26, 27, 2 p.m.*  
*Nov. 1, 2, 7 p.m.*  
*Nov. 2, 2 p.m.*

76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.  
*Tickets range \$10 to \$15 with discounts for seniors, students with ID and bridge card holders.*

This event is put on by the Star Jelly Performance Company. The musical is inspired by the 1962 movie and is similar to "Little Shop of Horrors" and "The Rocky Horror Picture Show." It features dark humor, horror and music inspired by the time period as a scientist works to be the first person to perform a head transplant. This does feature mature themes and is not suitable for young children. For more information and tickets, you can visit their website [brainmusical.com](http://brainmusical.com).

**Halloween: Celestial Origins**  
*Oct. 29, 7:30-8:30 p.m.*  
Mark Jefferson Science Complex, Room 402, Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
*Tickets are \$5 per person.*

This event is hosted by the EMU Planetarium and the speaker is Tom Kasper. At this event you will learn about the history of Halloween and how it is classified as a "cross-quarter day." Additionally, you will learn about what constellations, stars and planets will be out for our Halloween night! For more information and to purchase tickets, you can visit [emich.edu/planetarium](http://emich.edu/planetarium).

# Neighborhood Theater Group brings original musicals to Ypsilanti

**Gabriella Payeur**  
**News Reporter**

Ypsilanti becomes a fun, inverted alternate universe with the Neighborhood Theater Group. As part of what they call the Huron Valley Universe (HVV), Ypsilanti becomes one with Lansing and Ann Arbor to form a local spin on the alternate universe trope.

The Neighborhood Theater Group (NTG) co-founders A.M. Dean and Kristin Danko settled in Ypsilanti in 2013. They met as actors in Chicago and felt they had accomplished everything they could there. Wondering what was next, they moved to Ypsilanti so Kristin could attend EMU and get her degree in arts administration. While here, they fell in love with the city and decided it would be home to their new theater group project.

Every production is entirely original; original scripts, music, choreography, etc.

A.M. Dean, co-founder, writer, and director described NTG as, "A group of artists trying to achieve a goal, trying to really create something."

"NTG is, as far as community theater, probably one of the most professional that I've worked with," said actress, choreographer, and EMU alumni Jen Jakubowski.

Part of this creation has been the HVV, which is where most of NTG's productions take place, including their

yearly Halloween productions, the "Black Cat" series. According to A.M. Dean, this year's production is more of a traditional musical with a complete story, as opposed to previous years where they have been a collection of songs connected by a loose string.

"It's Alive!" is this year's "Black Cat" production and is a B-movie parody. It is presented by Ghouлита Graves, played by Jen Jakubowski.

Dean describes "It's Alive!" as a sci-fi horror parody of 1950s B-movies. It takes place in the wake of the launch of Sputnik and the hysteria surrounding it. Featuring, of course, a mad scientist! Jakubowski described it as, "A Cold War spooky science experiment."

Dean adds that this musical serves as a prequel of sorts to their next production in March, The Hotel Del Gado.

Ghouлита Graves hosts the show and serves as an Elvira-esque character. Jakubowski says she introduces the show and re-enters in a cut scene to say, "Oh! That was really quirky, let's see what happens!"

While Dean says this production is meant to not be too demanding, the draft of the 57-page script took him a little over a month to complete. This is in addition to the music, which guides the scriptwriting process. The music was created with his band, Levona, and there will be four or five two to four-minute songs. The musical will be about an hour.

He describes this musical as being

experimental, toying around with the parody genre and just aiming to make people laugh.

Jakubowski says she is still working on the choreography. She adds that the choreography is more about movement and fun as opposed to structured dances. The movements she includes always revolve around cast abilities and what feels right in the context of the show.

Jen Jakubowski says she loves the feeling of embodying a character and being able to tell a story. She adds that her favorite part of being with NTG is bonding with the cast and recounting silly stories afterwards.

A.M. Dean says that his favorite part of being with NTG as a whole is the opportunity of being able to offer people a space to take an artistic stake in something. To be able to help people reawaken a passion that may have lain dormant or not yet been uncovered.

The cast includes 7 actors, 5-7 designers, 3-4 crew members and a stage manager. The musical will be performed in The Back Office Studio, the small but open cozy coworking space NTG calls its home.

The Neighborhood Theater Group is excited to present Ypsilanti with another fun, silly Halloween production. With a passionate crew of artists, it promises to be entertaining and original. It will be performed on Oct. 18-20 and 24-26. For tickets and more information, you can visit NTG's website [ntgypsi.org](http://ntgypsi.org).



The Back Office Studio is a coworking space home to many Ypsilanti companies. Gabriella Payuer / The Eastern Echo

## THE EASTERN ECHO CLASSIFIEDS

**ROUTE MANAGER**  
The Eastern Echo is seeking help to deliver newspapers once a week. The part-time job involves four to eight hours a week. Available routes include walking on campus, and an off-campus route that requires transportation. Routes are to be run Monday afternoons and during the day Tuesdays. To apply, send a note of interest and a resume to Business Manager Aidan Bonney at [advertising@easternecho.com](mailto:advertising@easternecho.com).

**MAGAZINE STAFF**  
Cellar Roots is seeking content editors and designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The team will produce

and publish the 51st edition of the literary magazine, which includes both visual and literacy arts created by students Responsibilities: Acquire and curate a collection of student-produced works, coordinate with other student media groups, and organize the selection of content and publication of the magazine. To apply: By Oct. 15, 2024, send a resume and cover letter explaining the applicant's interest and ideas for the magazine to [cellarroots@easternecho.com](mailto:cellarroots@easternecho.com).

**PAGE DESIGNER**  
Like creating interesting designs with photos and words? Know how to

use InDesign, or want to learn? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent student-operated news team is seeking page designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to [advisor@EasternEcho.com](mailto:advisor@EasternEcho.com)

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**  
Have an artistic bent? Like flexing those creative muscles? Know how to use Canva or Illustrator? Or want to learn to use graphics tools? Join the team at The Eastern Echo! The independent

student-operated news team is seeking graphic designers for the 2024-25 academic year. The position includes a minimum wage and takes from five to 10 hours a week depending on workload. To apply, send a resume, cover letter and design work examples to [design@EasternEcho.com](mailto:design@EasternEcho.com)

**LOST OR FOUND SOMETHING?** Use The Eastern Echo classifieds to message fellow students about items lost or found. Students using an [emich.edu](http://emich.edu) email to set up a classified account can advertise at no cost during the fall semester. Visit [EasternEcho.com/classifieds](http://EasternEcho.com/classifieds) to create

an account and file your message.

**STAY ON TOP OF CAMPUS NEWS**  
Whether on campus or home for a needed break, stay informed by subscribing to The Eastern Echo newsletter, or just bookmarking the website: [www.EasternEcho.com](http://www.EasternEcho.com). The Echo covers the university and Ypsilanti publishing online year-round and in weekly print editions during the fall and winter. Find more information at [www.EasternEcho.com](http://www.EasternEcho.com) and check out the about page to sign up for the newsletter.

Looking for Housing?

CHECK OUT university.com/classifieds



# Eastern offense explodes in win against Kent State

*Hugh Thorp  
Sports Reporter*

The Eastern Michigan University Football team went on the road to open conference play. It won against the Kent State University Golden Flashes by scoring 52-33 to improve to 4-1 on the season.

Eastern Michigan’s 4-1 record is the first time since the 2016 season that it has started a season 4-1. The victory lifted EMU’s record to 14-35 in its MAC season openers, ending a seven-game losing streak in those matchups.

It took a while for Eastern Michigan’s offense to pull away from Kent State. The game was tied for half of the third quarter, but Eastern notched 31 points after that in contrast to the Golden Flashes having 12.

Exploding for 52 points, the total is the most that Eastern Michigan has scored since Nov. 2, 2021, when they beat Toledo by a score of 52-49.

Cole Snyder (Lakewood, New York) only had 213 yards of passing despite the high-scoring effort, but the Eagles rushed for 277 yards as a team, for a total of almost 500 yards of offense.

Delbert Mimms III (Indianapolis, Indiana) put in an impressive effort rushing the football, tallying 145 yards on two touchdown passes.

The result is also the first time since 2016 that Eastern Michigan has opened MAC play with a win, losing their last seven conference openers.

Temperatures were at around 73 degrees at kickoff. Eastern Michigan started with the football and scored on their first possession with the ball on a drive that was 75 yards and lasted 12 plays.

The Golden Flashes would eventually get the football, and near the end of the quarter, they responded with a touchdown of their own, tying the game up at seven at the end of the first quarter.

Eastern Michigan recorded 123 total yards in the first quarter, which included 106 yards of passing and 17 yards of rushing.

The second quarter had a little more offense than the first quarter. Eastern Michigan started off with the football and eventually drove it down to the Kent State 32-yard line. Soon, the Eagles did not convert on a fourth down, which allowed the Golden Flashes to get the

ball back.

Eastern Michigan also struck first in the second quarter when Mimms rushed for a 27-yard touchdown to give Eastern Michigan the lead of 14-7.

Kent State came right back for the second time in the game, tying the score at 14 with five minutes to play in the quarter.

The Eagles would finally strike one more time before the end of the half after driving 75 yards to have a 21-14 lead heading into the locker. The 21 points were the most the Eagles have scored in the first half in their three road games.

Because the Eagles started with the ball in the first quarter, Kent State got it coming out of halftime only down seven, and they didn’t wait long to score. They tied the game on just their second play with the football to tie the game at 21. The game would remain tied at 21 until just over seven minutes left in the third quarter.

After Eastern Michigan recovered a fumble, they got the ball and scored three plays later to give themselves their fourth seven-point cushion of the day. Forcing another fumble on the next Kent State possession, they would get

a field goal from kicker Jesús Gómez (Puebla, Mexico) to give them their largest lead of the game at the time of 31-21.

Eastern Michigan’s lead grew after that, as they took a 38-21 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Once again, Eastern got the ball to start the fourth quarter, and they scored another touchdown to give themselves a 45-21 lead. A favorite going into this game, the Green and White did not prove that until later in the second half.

The Eagles scored seven more points after that and led by 25 points, 52-27, their largest lead of the game. Kent State scored another touchdown to add to its total, ultimately making the Eagles victorious by 19 points.

**Up Next:**

Eastern Michigan has a rare bye week before the weekly night MACtion. After that, the Eagles will return to Rynearson Stadium to take on the Miami RedHawks. The game’s kickoff time will be set closer to the game as part of the Mid-American Conference 12-day selection process.

## Eagle Tips and Tales: Sept. 30-Oct. 6

*Elena Davis  
Sports Editor*

Eagle Tips and Tales is back with an exciting lineup of Eastern Michigan University athletics events! From volleyball clashes to cross-country competitions, here’s what to look forward to this week.

**Volleyball at Central Michigan**

Kicking off the week, the EMU volleyball team travels to Mount Pleasant on Oct. 1 for a 6 p.m. matchup against Central Michigan. This critical MAC showdown will test the Eagles’ skills as they look to secure a crucial victory on the road.

**Men’s golf: The Indy at Forest Hills**

Oct. 4, the men’s golf team heads to Richmond, Indiana, for The Indy at Forest Hills, an all-day competition. The Eagles are eager to showcase their talent and compete against strong opponents in this prestigious tournament.

**Tennis at Indiana Invitational**

Oct. 4, the tennis team will participate in the Indiana Invitational in Bloomington, with match times yet to be announced. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for the Eagles to gain valuable experience against competitive teams.

**Cross country at Joe Piane Invitational**

Oct. 4, the men’s and women’s cross-country teams will be at the Joe Piane Invitational in South Bend, Indiana. Start times are still to be determined, but the Eagles are ready to test their speed and endurance against regional rivals.

**Volleyball vs. Miami**

Returning to Ypsilanti, the volleyball team will take on Miami at 6 p.m. on Oct. 4. With the home crowd cheering them on, the Eagles will look to build momentum and secure another conference win.

**Women’s Rowing at Head of the Grand**

On Oct. 5, the women’s rowing team heads to East Lansing for the Head of the Grand Regatta, with specific times still to be announced. This event will be an excellent chance for the Eagles to demonstrate teamwork and skill against competitors.

**Tennis at Indiana Invitational**

The tennis team will continue participating in the Indiana Invitational on Oct. 5, competing in Bloomington for another day of matches. It’s a packed weekend that promises to be full of action.

**Lacrosse at Michigan & vs. Central Michigan**

The lacrosse team will also be busy on Oct. 5, facing off against Michigan in Ann Arbor and later hosting Central Michigan. Times are yet to be confirmed, but it’s sure to be a thrilling day of lacrosse action.

**Swimming & Diving vs. Green vs. White Scrimmage**

Wrapping up the week, the swimming and diving team hosts the Green vs. White Scrimmage at 1 p.m. on Oct. 5 in Ypsilanti. This event will allow the Eagles to showcase their talent in front of the home crowd as they gear up for the season.

With so much action this week, EMU athletics has something for everyone. Whether cheering from the stands or following along online, show your support for the Eagles!

# EMU inducts Sow, Ryland into Football Ring of Honor

*Jack Monk  
Sports Reporter*

Two new members were inducted into the Ring of Honor at Rynearson Stadium. The two honorees include Sidy Sow (Bromont, Quebec/J-H Leclerc-Champlain/Lennoxville) and Chad Ryland (Lebanon, Pennsylvania/Cedar Crest).

To be accepted into the Ring of Honor, Eastern Michigan University alumni must have either All-American

honors from any big institution or have played in the NFL.

The Ring of Honor ceremony was presented on Hall of Fame day during EMU’s football game against St. Francis on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, at Rynearson Stadium.

Ryland and Sow join a total of 52 EMU Alumni whose names are placed along the Ring of Honor, with athletic alums dating back to 1930. The Ring of Honor was first introduced at Rynearson Stadium in 2003 and has been a growing tradition among EMU

Athletic Alumni since.

Sidy Sow was selected in the fourth round of last year’s NFL draft and the New England Patriots picked him up. Sow is one of 30 EMU football alumni to be picked up in the NFL. While at EMU, he played in 11 out of 13 games during his first year and during that time he was moved to being a left guard. Sow wildly succeeded at EMU, earning all-MAC honors in 2021 and 2022. Sow had been expected to start for the Patriots in the 2024 season, but an injury has prevented him from doing

so this year.

Chad Ryland was also picked up in the NFL draft by the New England Patriots and was five picks behind Sow. While at EMU, Ryland made 56 field goals. He holds the record for most field goals in EMU’s history and scored 309 points in his career. After graduating from EMU, Ryland transferred to the University of Maryland. While on the Patriots, Ryland attempted 16 goals in his NFL career and made a 56-yarder long field goal.

# Jefferson Adam is right at home at Eastern Michigan University

*Elena Davis  
Sports Editor*

As the autumn leaves fall and the air grows crisp, Jefferson Adam finds himself in a familiar setting, Ypsilanti, Michigan, where his journey began. After transferring to Eastern Michigan University from Iowa State University, Adam has finally returned to the community he calls home.

**A Journey of Perseverance**

Before joining the Eagles, Adam’s path was simple. He was part of the Iowa State team but did not appear in any games. Despite this setback, he earned the Big 12 Commissioner’s Honor Roll recognition, showcasing his dedication to academics and athletics. Adam’s collegiate career took off at Hocking College, where he emerged as one of the top junior college recruits in the nation.

Rated as a three-star edge and the top player from Michigan by 247Sports Composite JUCO, Adam recorded an impressive 17 tackles, including 8.5 sacks in the 2022 season. His remarkable talent garnered attention, with offers from several Power 5 programs, including West Virginia and California. However, the call of home was too strong to resist.

**Home is Where the Heart is**

In a recent interview, Adam reflected on his decision to come to EMU.

“I’d say two years ago, I was coming out of junior college, and Eastern was recruiting me hard,” he shared. “I was in and out of here, practically, I always liked Eastern; it was my dream school because I was down the road. I remember just like, man, I would do anything to play for Eastern, and I finally got that opportunity.”

His time at Iowa State, however, wasn’t fulfilling.

“When I went to Iowa State, it was kind of like I just did not feel, culturally, that I fitted. I did not feel like I fitted in the program. And, you know, my heart was at Eastern,” he said, expressing many athletes’ longing for their roots.

When he entered the transfer portal, the EMU coaching staff quickly reached out.

“I got a FaceTime call from Needham and Creighton, and, you know, here we just like, come home,” he recalled. “I didn’t realize how much of an impact being at home would do, not only for the community, but for me and my family. It’s honestly a blessing. I couldn’t ask for anything more.”

**Under Coach Needham’s Guidance**

The leadership of Coach Ben

Needham has bolstered Adam’s transition back to EMU.

“Coach Needham, he’s one of the best coaches I’ve ever seen,” Adam praised. “The way he gets through to you as a coach is unbelievable. He’s a tough coach. He’ll make sure that he holds you accountable. He’ll make sure that you’re doing your job and your responsibility. But you know it’s out of love, and you know that it comes from a place where not only he knows that you can get better, but he wants you to believe you can get better as well.”

The camaraderie within the defensive unit is palpable, with Adam describing the culture as one of mutual support and accountability.

“We got six guys right now that we rotate, and all of us could start here,” he explained. “We hold each other accountable, and we’re not afraid to hold each other accountable...”

**Aiming for Greatness**

As the season progresses, Adam remains focused on what lies ahead. EMU has a chance to prove doubters wrong and create a new narrative for the program.

“We are here to prove something, and we’re here to prove not only to the people that don’t believe in us wrong but to ourselves,” he stated.

With the Mid-American Conference (MAC) championship in sight, Adam recognizes the importance of staying

grounded.

“Just avoid the noise and clean up little stuff,” he advised. “Just kind of doing everything that I know I could do, but better and just better and better.”

**The Power of Community**

Beyond the field, Adam has noticed a shift in the community’s perception of EMU football.

“When I was growing up, Eastern was not winning,” he reflected. “But obviously, when you win games, you hop on board.”

As he walks through the local stores and hears congratulations from community members, the pride in his hometown resonates deeply.

“Eastern Michigan is slowly but surely getting the respect that it deserves as a program and it’s awesome to see,” Adam concluded with a gleam of hope in his eyes as he embraces this new chapter.

As Jefferson Adam steps onto the field donning the green and white, he not only represents a team, but also embodies the spirit of Ypsilanti, a community that has shaped him and now eagerly supports his journey in return. The echoes of the past blend seamlessly with the promise of the future, as Adam aims to make his mark not only in football but also in the hearts of those he calls family.



# 'Transformers One' blurs battle lines in epic, animated origin story

Frank Remski  
Review Columnist

The Transformers have become entirely animated on the big screen with a prequel film, “Transformers One.” Set entirely on the planet Cybertron, it told the origin story of the robots in disguise, focusing on how Optimus Prime and Megatron became sworn enemies.

The film was directed by Josh Cooley, who also directed “Toy Story 4.” The film starred Chris Hemsworth as Optimus Prime and Bryan Tyree Henry as Megatron. It was the first “Transformers” film since 2023’s “Transformers: Rise of the Beasts.”

Highs

The film expertly knew how to be a prequel, understanding the balance needed between referencing the franchise and being a fresh, standalone story. The film focused on the ideological and world-building reasons behind the conflict between Autobots and Decepticons, breathing complexity into it, and presenting it as less black and white than expected.

This was mainly done by having Optimus and Megatron’s relationship act as the emotional core. They started off alien because of how audiences are familiar with them. Both underdogs, they were lifelines for each other in a monotonous world. As they dealt with the politics of Cybertron, their relationship slowly burned away, lending the film a heavy emotional weight and impactful character arcs.

Benefitting these, the film was

cleverly plotted. Despite being a prequel, the twists managed to be surprising and satisfying. As previously stated, the film’s conflict was not simply heroes vs villains, this played into the plot as well as battle lines were often blurry.

Along with strong conflict, the film was incredibly humorous. The jokes were well placed amongst the action and emotion, lending to a well balanced tone. It tastefully used running gags, using them enough to make them funnier each time, but not so much as to get annoying. Bumblebee was an especially funny character, yapping his way across Cybertron.

All this was done with a beautifully immersive animated world. Truly, the ideal medium to tell a story on Cybertron. It made use of bright, vibrant colors and luminosity to make

each scene eye-catching. And it was realistic enough to be well-textured but stylized enough to be cohesive.

**Lows**

“Transformers One” needed stronger voice acting. Though there were some decent performances, such as Scarlett Johansson as Elita and Keegan-Michael Key as Bumblebee, by and large, the voice cast struggled to match the emotional weight of their characters. In particular, Hemsworth was miscast as Optimus, struggling to keep a consistent accent and coming off as a bit flat.

The film’s action sequences were fast, way too fast. This wasn’t just because of how quickly the characters were moving, but also because of how quickly the camera moved. Arguably, the characters should move fast for

a sense of realism, so that wasn’t necessarily a problem. But had the camera remained more static, it would have made the battles easier to keep up with.

**Verdict**

Vastly superior to Michael Bay’s live-action Transformers films, though that is admittedly a low bar. “Transformers One” was the origin story the Transformers needed, adding lore and context that enriches these characters and this world, while having a strong enough plot and pathos to be enjoyed without prior knowledge of “Transformers.” “Transformers” began as a cartoon, and “Transformers One” proved that the series still thrives in its root medium.

Rating: 8 out of 10

# 'The Substance' is gory and horrifying

Mariam Fakhreddine  
Review Columnist

Coralie Fargeat directed “The Substance,” which was released on September 20. The film starred Demi Moore as Elisabeth, Margaret Qualley as Sue, and Dennis Quaid as Harvey. It is filled with intense and gory elements that can disgust the audience. This movie is for a mature audience only.

This film is about Elisabeth Sparkles, a famous actress who is beautiful but quickly becomes forgotten as she ages. She is struggling with accepting the fact that her age is destroying her career, and her self-esteem quickly deteriorates. All she wants is to become a young beautiful actress again. Elisabeth soon finds out about a drug on the black market. The substance gives her the chance to become young again.

Highs

The film had minimal highs, considering how gory it is. The highs revolved around Demi Moore’s acting; she plays Elisabeth perfectly, showing all her struggles and insecurities. The amount of pain Elisabeth experiences because of her agent Harvey, she feels destroyed by him. This was a vital role for Moore, considering her last movie film was in 2022.

Qualley’s acting was another highlight because she played a perfect “It Girl” who wanted to take over Elisabeth’s life. She shows how selfish

Sue is and will do everything to achieve what she wants.

Another high was the impressive CGI effects, which were graphic and intense. The part that was explicitly graphic was how Elisabeth became young after taking the substance. The backstory of Elisabeth was another high because of how hard she worked to become the most iconic woman on television at the time.

**Lows**

“The Substance” had many lows, considering how disturbing Elisabeth’s transformation



into a young woman was.

The graphics were nauseating and took away from the plot. The experience of becoming young was confusing, especially because of the drugs Elisabeth purchased. She was not paying any money for these drugs; she would just pick them up, which was strange.

Another low was how women were portrayed as objects rather than human beings with feelings. All that mattered to Harvey was if Elisabeth was young and beautiful. This took away from the fact that women are more than just objects. At the same time, Harvey was misogynistic when it came to having hatred towards older women.

The amount of nudity in the film was a low as every single scene depicted nude women. Whether it was Elisabeth judging herself as an older woman with features of wrinkles or when Sue was praised for being naked since she was young and beautiful.

The plot is confusing as it surrounds a woman wanting to become young again. But throughout the film, Elisabeth soon realizes that this is not reality and that she is beautiful. However, she realizes this too late when things become out of her hands.

The film’s ending was horrible because it showed Elisabeth as this horrifying creature, which became unrealistic. There was no happy ending; it became an obsession with being beautiful. If the film included a happy ending, it would have been worth the watch.

**Verdict**

“The Substance” is not worth the watch due to the explicit content, goriness, and how disturbing it is. The sexism in this film was not needed. It was missing multiple aspects from the plot and took away from the true meaning behind the film.

Rating: 2 out of 10

# 5 magical, queer must-read books for LGBT History Month

Frank Remski  
Review Columnist

Between Halloween’s focus on magic, LGBT History Month, and National Coming Out Day, October is a perfect time to read queer fantasy books! As a genre, fantasy is a safe space for many queer people. With its roots in imagination, how could it not? So of course, publishing has no shortage of queer fantasy!

Below is a list of five fantasy novel recommendations that star queer protagonists and casts, many of them also discussing queer themes or showcasing fantasy through a uniquely queer lens. All the books came from major publishers, and as such can be found in most bookstores and libraries.

The “Between Earth and Sky” trilogy by Rebecca Roanhorse

A sprawling series set in a world inspired by Indigenous cultures from the Americas, it followed a proxy war between gods. It starred three

protagonists, Serapio, who has been crafted by a cult to be the avatar of their crow god; Xiala, a rugged sailor with a magical power; and Naranpa, a Sun Priest seeking answers.

Xiala was bisexual and multiple characters used xe/xir neopronouns. The series was perfect for those looking for something twisty and bingeable with a lovable cast and vibrant world building.

The trilogy began with “Black Sun.” The trilogy was completed earlier this year.

“Light From Uncommon Stars” by Ryka Aoki

A touching, bizarre story, “Light From Uncommon Stars” followed an unlikely found family. Shizuka, a violin teacher who convinced students to trade their souls for success; Katrina, a transgender runaway who made violin covers of video games; and Lan, mother and donut shop owner who was also an alien space captain. While taking on Katrina as a new prodigy, Shizuka and Lan fell in love.

A masterpiece about what it means to belong and find love. Its emphasis on

building one’s own support systems and defying their past was extremely queer. It was delightfully weird, combining violin with the supernatural and alien.

The “Wayward Children” series by Seanan McGuire

An anthology novella series about the multiverse, it followed the misadventures of those at Eleanor West’s Home for Wayward Children. The home was dedicated to helping teens who went to magical worlds and came back, teaching them to cope or helping them find their doorways back.

Multiple of the characters were queer. For example, the first book’s protagonist was asexual and the second book’s was a lesbian. The series had a fascinating, darkly quirky multiverse, many of the books exploring specific worlds. Plus, the short lengths made them breezy reads.

The series began with “Every Heart a Doorway.” There have been nine novellas and the series has yet to be completed.

“Cemetery Boys” by Aiden Thomas

A young adult fantasy with romance,

ghosts, and romance with a ghost. “Cemetery Boys” followed Yadriel, a transgender teenager trying to prove he was a brujo, a male practitioner of magic. But a spell went haywire and he accidentally summoned the ghost of his school’s bad boy, Julian. Together, they investigated Julian’s death and fell in love.

This was a perfect read for both Halloween with its focus on ghostly magic. It was a subversive rivals-to-lovers romance that questioned what acceptance looks like, both through Yadriel’s transition and Julian’s reputation.

The “The Locked Tomb” series by Tamsyn Muir

Another great read for Halloween, “The Locked Tomb” was set in a solar system ruled by necromancers. The first novel followed Gideon, a swordswoman who protected the necromancer (and her perpetual annoyance) Harrow, uncovering strange mysteries along the way.

By default, all the characters were lesbians unless stated otherwise. The series had a unique tone, combining

internet memes and necromantic horror. It may come off as confusing, but that’s because of how brilliantly the books were plotted.

The series began with “Gideon the Ninth.” There have been three books so far with a fourth on the way.

Conclusion

This was a difficult list to curate given how many great queer fantasy novels there are today. Some honorable mentions include the lesbian dragon epic “Priory of the Orange Tree” by Samantha Shannon, the sapphic enemies-to-lovers revolution story “The Jasmine Throne” by Tasha Suri, and the genderqueer Mulan reimaging “She Who Became the Sun” by Shelley Parker-Chan.

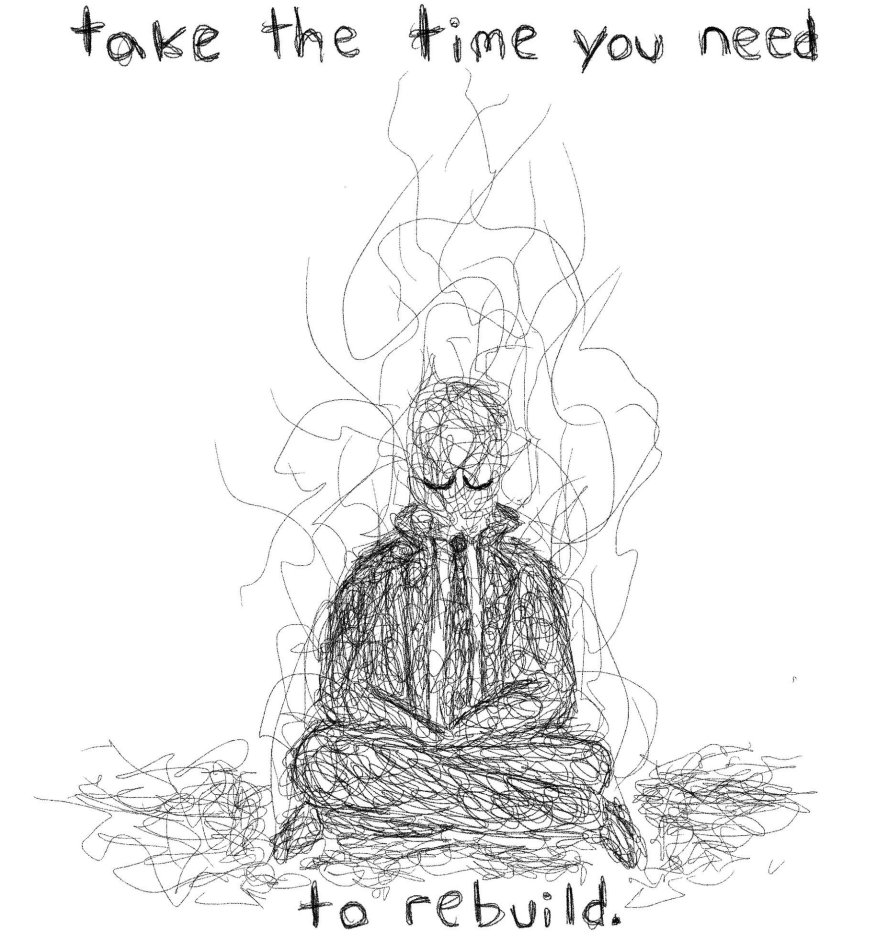
Fantasy has unique opportunities in regards to queer storytelling as it allows writers to imagine worlds where homophobia and transphobia don’t exist or can be challenged with magic. This provides not just escapism, but also inspiration for how the world could be. Though dragons may never be real, a future where all are free to live as themselves could be, and it’s worth fighting for!



*Burnout: Truck Delivery*  
FunkyL0af  
Comics Artist

*Rebuilding  
Gideon the Ghost*  
Comic Artist

*Burnout: Spider*  
FunkyL0af  
Comics Artist



*Dining [REVISIT]*  
Rylee Curley  
Design Chief



Help Scoop deliver  
the papers!



Want more comics?

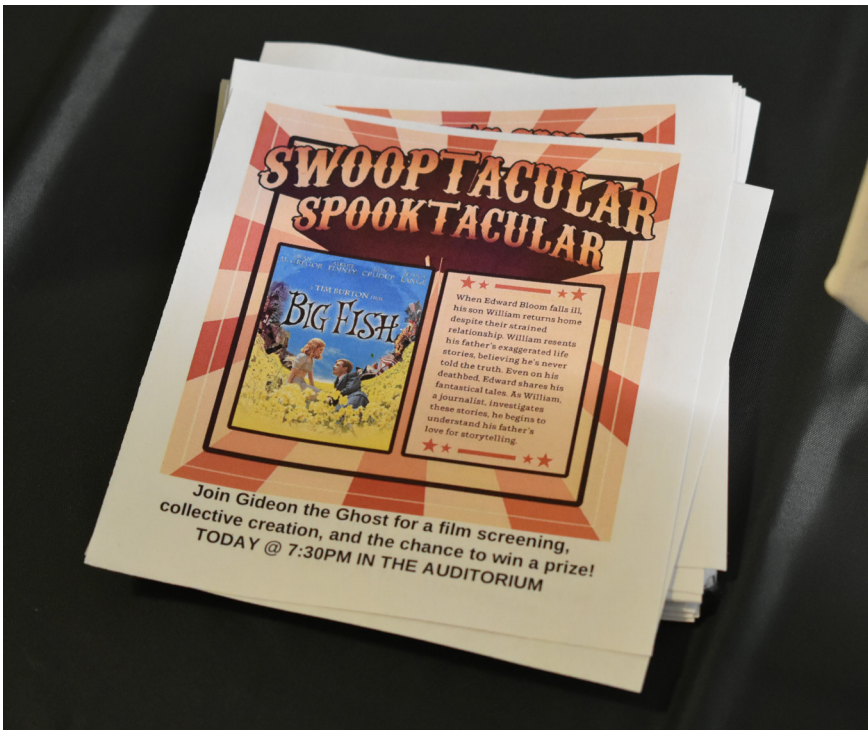


Subscribe to The Eastern  
Echo Newsletter!





# Swooptacular Spooktacular!



ABOVE: Mini flyers for Gideon the Ghost's screening of Tim Burton's "Big Fish" that took place in the Student Center auditorium during Swooptacular Spooktacular on Thursday, September 26th. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo

BELOW: Students posing for the camera with spooky photobooth accessories at Swooptacular Spooktacular in the Student Center. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



ABOVE: All the students who attended Gideon the Ghost's interactive screening of "Big Fish" in the Student Center auditorium as a part of Swooptacular Spooktacular! Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



ABOVE: Many students lined up to get their tarot read by professional tarot readers at Swooptacular Spooktacular on September 26th in the Student Center. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



A student getting her face painted by one of the artists at Swooptacular Spooktacular in the Student Center on Thursday, September 26th. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



A student carefully holding one of the many reptiles in the reptile exhibit at Swooptacular Spooktacular on Thursday, September 26th in the Student Center. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



ABOVE: Students Emma and Elliott taking turns holding one of the many snakes at Swooptacular Spooktacular. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



AT RIGHT: A performer from the Detroit Circus showing off her impressive balancing skills at Swooptacular Spooktacular on Thursday, September 26th in the Student Center. Max Taylor / The Eastern Echo



Find more photos  
on our website!