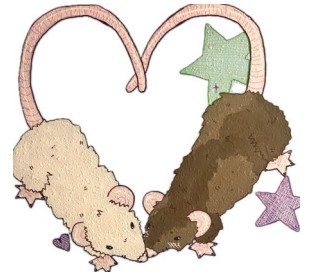




Minotaur TIMES



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Psychedelic Art and Secret Slides: Media Arts Students Visit



Zabri Schotte, Sam Mascarenas, Micheal Ochoa, Isaiah Cambridge, Giovanni Vergnaghi, Johnny Palmer and Axel Ruiz In the mini van

By Axel Ruiz

Tons of NMAMA students went to Meow-Wolf Santa Fe this last week to check out the interactive museum, including many students who had never been there before. I interviewed some of these students including Johnny Palmer and our Italian foreign exchange student Giovanni Vergnaghi.

MeowWolf is an arts company that creates large and immersive art installations designed for exploration and even has a story behind all the art. The art installation in Santa Fe is called "The House of Eternal Return," and opened in 2016 and is a 20,000 square foot facility that features a bizarre walkthrough experience with psychedelic art and secret doors.

More Than a Diploma: Alumni Credit Small-School Environment for Lifelong Collaborations

By Ana Sofia Rodriguez

What do students from our school do after graduation? I wrote to three NMAMA alumni about their experience at our school and how what they learned here influenced their careers. The animation teacher, Mr. Schuh, was my first respondent. After attending the school for three years, Schuh attended the University of Southern California to study film production. By then he had already worked on a film set and interned in the media industry. Post college, he worked as an animator, art teacher and tutor. Even though he is a teacher now, he gained something that can't be graded, "NMAMA students became friends for life and frequent artistic collaborators," he said.

Cecilia Mastropolito attended our school at the same time that Schuh did. In contrast to his film focus, Mastropolito took classes related to illustration. In addition to pursuing visual art, Mastropolito was a violinist. "I have always felt drawn to teaching, and while attending NMAMA and playing violin with the Albuquerque Youth Symphony, I found that teaching music felt more true to me than art," she said. Still, NMAMA offered her a leg up, "In high school, I took advantage of the internship program to work with the Youth

MeowWolf

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Visitors will first walk through a strange house where they will find many different secret doors such as a fridge and fireplace. MeowWolf Santa Fe was created by using over 100 artists from the Santa Fe based arts and entertainment collective. Behind all the art and strange photos and sculptures, there is actually a story that has to do with a vanished family that you can figure out as you go through the rooms. When I interviewed Johnny Palmer he said, "Meow Wolf was great. With trippy visuals and amazing actors, it felt like I couldn't possibly see every inch of the place".

There were also actors at MeowWolf that played along with the story and provided amazing entertainment for the guests. When I asked both Giovanni and Johnny what their favorite room was, they both gave me great answers. "The room made out of bottle caps" Giovanni said, while Johnny answered with "You might call me basic, but I really enjoyed the main house. I really enjoyed the old school vibe mixed with the fantasticalness that MeowWolf is known for, especially the washing machine slide."

I also asked Johnny and Giovanni if they had any issues or inconveniences at MeowWolf because I personally had some trouble with moving around and getting around the rooms because of the crowding, and I felt somewhat stuffy and hot at some points. Giovanni said "No, not really."

Whereas when I asked Johnny he told me he had gotten sick right after Meow Wolf. "The only issue I had was the night after Meow Wolf, I got HORRIBLY sick. I assume this is because of how packed it is and the high amount of younger kids. That's not MeowWolf's fault, just a common issue." Johnny said.

Overall me and all my friends had an amazing time and MeowWolf and I would definitely go back again. Johnny's last remarks were, "Even though I got sick after, I still had a really good time, and it's now a personal goal to go to all the MeowWolf's in America."

Alumni

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Symphony and the Young Musicians Initiative, an afterschool program which provided me with my first instrumental teaching experience." Mastrolito went on to study music education with a minor in studio art at Oklahoma City University. Today, she works as a music teacher at a school in the South Valley where she is still able to use her art skills. "I still make visual art and I love collaborating on projects with the art teacher here at my school," Mastrolito said.

Not all NMAMA grads become teachers. Gus Tafoya, who graduated high school in 2019, works at KUNM radio station. "While this role wasn't specific to my interest in film, I was able to succeed because I had education in invaluable tools like the Adobe Suite and familiarity with key concepts of design, media production, and storytelling," he said about the job. At our school, he was exposed to a range of media skills through TV production, film production, film editing, photography and digital art classes. Tafoya knew that a school like NMAMA would be a better fit for him than a typical public school. "I started two weeks late into my freshman year after attending my local public high school and decided I needed something smaller and more fitting to my interests," he said. He continued studying film at the University of New Mexico with a degree in fine art in film. Out of college, Tafoya worked as a production assistant. He credits his success professionally to NMAMA. "I knew I had an interest in film and in storytelling when I began high school, but without the educational and professional opportunities the school provided, I wouldn't have done anything about it!" he said.

All three alumni have different stories and careers, but all three had something positive to say about the small school environment and specialized internship opportunities. What do you want to do when you graduate?



Eduardo Dorado, Keerah Bishop, Micheal Ochoa, Johnny Palmer, and Sam Mascarenas sitting at a table.



Upcoming Mural by Serenity Lujan



Upcoming Mural by Ava Grubbs

Calendar of Events

**April 3-6: Vernal Holiday
(no school)**

April 25: NMAMA Prom

April 29: Spring Expo



Mural by Giovanni

Exchange Student Leaves Permanent Legacy

By Johnny Palmer

Giovanni Vergnaghi is a foreign exchange student from Italy who, in his last months in America, is working on his mural to have a lasting mark on this school.

Giovanni transferred here at the beginning of this year to New Mexico to learn from our school. During his time here, he lived at the Cuccia house with Anthony Cuccia and AJ Cuccia. Giovanni also made several friends within the eleventh grade

and made many bonds with his teachers.

"I'm not gonna be here forever, and I think it's a good way to leave a mark in the school," Giovanni said when asked why he wanted to make the mural.

The mural will be on the North wall of the CTE building, **Updated:** He has almost completed his mural as the paper goes to print.

Gio Mural Continued Page 4

Gio Mural

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"I think it's awesome that he will leave a mark on the school, forever. I think the mural is inspirational, but I personally don't want to make the mural." Anthony Cuccia said when he was asked about how he feels about the mural and if it inspires him to make a mural.

Among the staff members, he's made an impact, especially with his art teacher Mr Lopez, who helped him and encouraged him to pursue the mural. "Giovanni isn't just talented—he's remarkably driven.

Giovanni has been a very focused and creative art student in my class. He has a very disciplined work ethic that shows in the quality of his work. It's this blend of imagination and nose-to-the-grindstone effort that has allowed him to tackle a project as massive as a school mural."

The process of getting his mural approved can be a bit difficult. Making your design, getting people to help, approval, and the general work. "I presented to Lopez the idea of the Mural. I asked a couple of friends for help and had Lopez look at it again. After like four trials, I was approved. I tapped the wall without asking cuz Lopez wasn't

here." Even though the process of getting approved and creating the idea of the mural took a few months, he used his determination to get it done.

"God bless America. I thank my team, my father, my mama, my neighbors, my community, my political party, and my favorite burger. I want to also thank Logan (Downing)," A silly but sweet final statement from Giovanni. Giovanni wasn't here very long, and his time is coming to an end, but his time here with our community was amazing, and everyone who got to know Giovanni will dearly miss him but wish him luck with his next steps back in Italy.

A Five-Year Winning Streak: Media Arts Super-Computing Team Eyes Another Victory

By Zaaliyah Thomas

SuperComputing is a statewide coding-based competition that middle schoolers and high schoolers can join. Our school has been an active participant of this challenge for years now. For the past five years our team has always consisted of two members, Eduardo Dorado and Ana Sofia Rodriguez. We have had other members as well but not as long as them. In the past five years we have won an award for nearly every year.

This year's challenge is my second year of doing SuperComputing. For my first year, we did a continuation of their project from 2023-2024, which was proving that mycorrhizal fungi can assist in the growing of native prairie plants and that invasive species take more resources than our native plants.

This year we are doing a project on the Rio Grande River and how when it dries out it can affect not only our state but others as well, such as countries like Mexico.

Since the beginning of the year our Super-Computing team has been working hard on finishing our presentation and model for the upcoming evaluation that was set on Feb. 7.

This year we decided to try something new. We have previously been using NetLogo for our coding model but now we are trying Python which has proven to be difficult. The month was full of trial and error, leaving us with only a week to practice the presentation. When the evaluation finally came, our team locked in and gave one of the best presentations the judges heard that day.



Mural by
Bee Gonzales

Managing Editor: Donna Wickerd
Contact: dwickerd@nmmediaarts.org
Page Designer: Lars Billey

Welcome to Good Burger: Why This 90s Nickelodeon Classic Still Delivers the Laughs

By Amir Palomares-Ontiveros

Watching Good Burger is the perfect way to kick off the summer break. Good Burger is a struggling fictional fast food chain. They are doing alright. They're still open because that is the only option for most people. Many of the customers get very frustrated by their questionable staff like Ed the cashier and Spatch the chef. The restaurant across the street "Mondo Burger" had been developing for months, so there is a possibility that "Good Burger" could go out of business.

Now we follow a typical teenager ready for summer break named Dexter Reid. He is having the time of his life or at least he was driving out with his friend until a guy with "roller blades" made him go out of control and merged with his teacher's car. His teacher was very frustrated with what story Dexter gave him. The teacher said that Dexter would have to pay for the "damage" he caused. So, he had to ruin his summer vacation and get a summer job. He first worked for pre developing Mondo Burger.

Dexter makes a mess making the burgers and he annoys the owner Kurt, who lets it slide though. They have a business meeting, Dexter whispers something to one of his co workers "Kurt" the boss heard that he was talking when he was talking he fires Dexter for "being disrespectful." After a long day he goes across the street to Good Burger. Ed approaches Dexter and offers him a job. He accepted the job, Mondo Burger had its grand opening and they said that Good Burger wouldn't be open in a week.

That's exactly what happened until Dexter realizes that Ed had a sauce that he made and surprisingly "that's kinda good." Mondo Burger is losing customers, they try to convince Ed to work for them; but that backfires on them which is pretty funny because Ed is completely clueless of the situation. The two employees go out to investigate how Mondo Burger makes their burgers so big, Dexter realizes that Mondo Burger uses illegal food substances. Eventually they get caught. Then, they send them to a mental asylum so Dexter and Ed keep their mouths shut.

Kurt breaks into Good Burger and adds a substance that can make the customer "very sick." Dexter and Ed get out of the asylum they

Class Warfare on the Streets: How 'The Outsiders' Defined a Generation's Divide

By Draegan Reza

When I first read "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton, I thought it was another generic overlooked book, but the overall story is a tragedy about two delinquent groups, the Greasers and the Socs. These two groups often fight each other due to the Socs thinking of themselves better than the Greasers, causing Ponyboy to get jumped and a Soc named Bob Sheldon to be shot to death by Johnny Cade, Ponyboy's best friend.

The timing and place of the book really shows the struggle and hardship people went through during the 60's, also showing how different that time was socially. The "gangs" themselves are symbolic, as they represent economic and social classes opposing each other throughout the 20th century; a frequent and common problem happening to this day.

The conflict is brought up to Dallas Winston who then tells them to hide in an abandoned church up in Jay Mountain, a real place in New York. After days of eating bologna, playing poker, smoking cigarettes, and masking their identity they went to a Dairy Queen for lunch with Dally. Johnny started to speak about turning himself in, feeling bad for Ponyboy being away and thinking he would have a good chance to plead self defense and be "let off easy".

As they are driving back to the church to get their things, they find that the church is on fire with school children inside. Johnny is critically injured and succumbs to his wounds, leaving Ponyboy and Dally grieving. Dally becomes depressed after Johnny's passing and decides to attempt suicide by police

Good Burger

Continued from page 5

get warned about what Kurt did so they try to rush to get back to Good Burger before innocent people get poisoned. They barely make it back in time before a customer eats the burger, the other employees had a misunderstanding about the whole situation. Now, they understand, the two employees go back to Mondo Burger to get "proff." Dexter distracts Kurt so it would buy Ed some time to steal one of the bottles and take it to the police station. He accidentally drops some on the container that makes the burger meat. Usually they just put a drop of it on a normal burger. "Ed, you stole an empty can?" Dexter said.

"It wasn't empty when I found it," said Ed. Turns out that Ed had everything figured out, sends Kurt to jail,

makes Mondo get out, and what happens separately is Dexter's teacher's car becomes even more of a wreck. Lastly, they celebrate.

In conclusion, it is a very good movie for its time, sure some of it is outdated, but if you just want to get a laugh out after a bad day, believe me this movie will knock your socks out. I think that this movie is the funniest live action PG Movie I've watched, it just works perfect for a 90s Nickelodeon movie when they were at the top of their game.

Home Movies the Perfect TV Show For Aspiring Film-Makers

By Lars Billey

Disclaimer: This TV show is suitable for ages 13+. After my first time finishing the Adult Swim series Home Movies by Loren Bouchard, I felt a little sad wanting more from it. Home Movies is an animated sitcom on Adult Swim, you can currently stream it on HBO Max. Home Movies follows Brendon Small, an orange haired kid who makes movies with his friends, Melissa and Jason. The series doesn't only follow them making movies, but also getting into some grounded situations with life. The series does not follow one long continuous story. Just little episodic adventures that occasionally affect the series.

Home Movies continued page 6

The Outsiders

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after robbing a grocery store from his anger and sadness. Ponyboy is left to himself and wrote a novel of what is now "The Outsiders" to cope with his PTSD. The book reflects how unfortunate people can be with the cards they are dealt through adolescent life, and how it could end in tragedy.

More Than a Fight: The Underdog Triumph of "The Karate Kid"

By Ian Rodas

As an action-packed classic, "The Karate Kid" offers the struggles of high school bullying and confronting it. After watching this movie, I was left wanting more, wanting to know what happened to Daniel LaRusso and Mr. Miyagi. This movie was worth watching as there were some awesome fight scenes.

The main character of the film was Daniel LaRusso, who had just moved to Reseda, California, from Newark, New Jersey with his mom. My immediate thoughts after watching this movie were relief that Daniel Larusso won the All Valley Tournament against his bully, Johnny Lawrence. I felt good because Johnny always bullied Daniel, the new kid, just for talking to his girlfriend.

The key characters are Daniel Larusso, Mr. Miyagi, Johnny Lawrence, and Ali Mills. Daniel Larusso is the scrawny new kid from New Jersey. Mr. Miyagi is Daniel's sensei, who teaches him karate to defend himself. Johnny Lawrence is the bully of Daniel LaRusso and knows karate. Ali Mills is the girlfriend of Johnny, but she also develops feelings for Daniel.

The setting is in California, keeping the setting sunny and bright, symbolizing a typical American day.

What I liked the most about the movie was the tension of the All Valley Karate Tournament. Seeing Johnny's full dojo against Daniel, a solo fighter was crazy.



Home Movies Continued from page 6



The key characters of Home Movies are Brendon, Melissa, Jason, Coach McGuirk, and Paula Small. Brendon being the main character who we follow. Melissa and Jason being Brendon's friends and crew members. Coach McGuirk being sort of a father figure for Brendon, but giving terrible advice. And Paula Small being the newly divorced mother of Brendon. I connect with these characters, despite being eight-years old, he is actually mature. Brendon has a good relationship with his mother, makes mistakes, and gets into all kinds of realistic and character-building situations. The show takes place in a suburb, in Brendon's house, at school, or at special locations for certain episodes.

The pacing of Home Movies feels slow at first,

but once you get to know the characters more, you get to have fun with them. Not much happens throughout the series, but if you feel you get to see the characters grow by the end of the series.

The theme of Home Movies seems to be that we all have the desire to make films when we are younger, but overtime we may develop more realistic or fitting goals in life. Can we handle criticisms? Can we handle meeting deadlines? Will we be able to look back at our previous works? It's completely okay to move forward to search or want to pursue something more fitting or greater. That's just what I took away from many rewatches, but I feel that's what the creators may have been trying to convey.

Earth Day Word Search By Zaaliyah Thomas

Y	W	X	I	S	U	E	Y	W	D	A	E	H	A	C	A	T	U	R	X	WORD SEARCH	
N	E	V	E	S	L	B	R	A	I	N	K	R	O	W	J	P	G	A	Y	EARTH DAY	
R	U	C	Y	C	O	E	R	O	T	A	D	D	A	O	R	M	D	T	P	CARE	
A	R	I	E	O	V	A	C	H	P	N	R	E	U	S	E	A	I	H	O	APPRECIATION	
G	G	N	N	M	Z	T	H	I	A	J	A	C	G	N	C	I	G	E	M	APRIL	
A	A	D	S	M	B	L	P	E	S	M	I	U	A	O	Y	N	I	A	N	TWENTY SECOND	
T	Y	E	I	U	L	U	L	N	E	X	Q	D	Y	I	C	E	T	M	I	CLEAN	
H	Y	R	D	N	O	C	E	S	Y	T	N	E	W	T	L	C	A	A	E	COMMUNITY	
A	A	E	E	I	G	N	I	Q	L	E	T	R	D	A	E	O	L	Z	G	POLLUTION	
D	G	L	F	T	O	Y	A	D	H	T	R	A	E	I	C	O	C	I	N	DEFORESTATION	
H	E	L	O	Y	E	I	W	O	E	O	P	S	U	C	H	N	I	N	A	CLIMATE CHANGE	
A	M	R	R	M	U	V	Z	W	E	R	C	T	P	E	O	K	R	G	H	ENDANGERED	
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U	U	B	T	J	N	N	O	I	T	U	L	L	O	P	E	Y	S	G	T	REUSE	
M	V	O	A	B	N	A	N	I	M	A	L	S	L	A	D	N	X	R	A	RECYCLE	
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