



New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts

# MINOTAUR TIMES



Volume: 1 Issue: 1

Wednesday October 1, 2025



## Student government kicks off a new year!

By Scott Gose

Albuquerque, N.M. — Are you interested in picking your prom theme? Perhaps there's something you'd like to change about the school? If you crave to have a voice, and to stand up for your fellow students, you can join the student governance association!

Elections are coming this November. Sign up sheets are available starting September 11th in Ms. Reyes's room. We're in need of a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, as well as individual class representatives.

In order to be eligible for SGA you must be in good academic standing, have no disciplinary infractions, and have a good attendance record.

SGA meetings take place in Ms. Reyes's room every Thursday during lunch. Any student is welcome to contribute and view the meetings.

If you choose to join SGA you will be able to participate in activities including: meetings with administration to fix identified issues, giving classmates a voice in their education, planning events like prom and fundraisers, and supporting communication between students and staff.

The student body president will be able to plan events and have open conversations with staff, while the vice president may assist the president in their duties. The secretary will record information presented

See Student government on page 2



NMAMA students pose together after marching in the State Fair Parade Saturday, September 6. Photo courtesy of Meagan Reyes.

## New executive director looks forward to a new year with new ideas

By Yeshua Fernandez

Albuquerque, N.M. — Chris Jones joined the New Mexico Academy for the Media Arts this year as the new Executive Director. Jones said he is motivated by an abiding respect for the mission, heritage, and scholastic standards—particularly in reading, math, and in the field of media arts—of this noteworthy school.

Growing up in the neighborhood near Nob Hill, Mr. Jones also has strong personal affinities in this area, and thus, being based in this location at the Academy is

See Jones on page 6

## Student government,

continued from page 1

in meetings, and the treasurer will be in charge of managing SGA funds.

In a September 12th interview, candidate for vice president, 11th grader Johnny Robbins said, "We have more access to opportunities and more access to the school board, if people want it then we'll see what we could do. It doesn't matter who wins, there will be change in this school, and that's what we need."

Asked about what he would bring to the table, Robbins said "My main goal is to amplify student voices."

Vice presidential candidate and 10th grader Solomon Walton, explained, "I want to get students' voices out there so they can make more changes to the school, so they can get what they want to see. Instead of the principal deciding changes for the school, it would be students."

Walton also spoke about student needs, "A couple students have been saying they want a spice rack for lunch, and the broken water fountains to be fixed, so I plan on trying to get those things working, and to make the school a place people would want to see."

The student government asks any candidates to ask themselves before applying, "What can you do for the school?" and, "What can the school do for you?"

While speaking to some students about issues that concern them, one said, "I want to see the water fountains being fixed."

Another student remarked "I want to see more field trips, it doesn't matter where we go, at least we're going somewhere."

Opinion

## Exchange student reflects on school culture

By Giovanni Vergnaghi

My name is Giovanni, I'm 17 and in grade 11. As some of you might know, I am an exchange student from Italy. I decided to come here to experience a new culture and improve my language skills. I haven't been here long, but I can tell you that America and Italy are completely different from each other.



Giovanni Vergnaghi

When I think about the differences between attending an Italian high school and an American high school, many aspects come to my mind. First of all, the schedule is very different. In Italy, we usually have school in the morning, from about 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 or 2:00 p.m., six days a week. In the United States, instead, we go from 9:15 to 4:00, Monday to Friday. The longer day means that there is more time for different subjects and also for extracurricular activities.

Another big difference is the variety of classes. In Italy, once you choose your type of high school—like scientifico, classico, or tecnico—you follow almost the same subjects for five years. In America, students have some required courses, but they can also choose electives, such as art, marketing and journalism. This gives more freedom to do what you like the most.

The relationship between students and teachers is also very different. In Italy, teachers usually stay in the same classroom and students remain seated, here in the U.S. it is the complete opposite and the relationship between students and teachers is much more friendly and "healthy."

The discipline and rules in the U.S. are much more flexible, like the dress code, the breaks between the lessons and the amount of work that needs to be done, in Italy you get two 10 minutes breaks per day and you don't have lunch at school, you get lunch when the school day finishes, and you need to get it on your own.

The differences between an American high school and an Italian high school are very big. Some of them are, in my opinion, better compared to what I'm used to in Italy.

## SGA-sponsored events for October

**October 24:** Movie showing,  
12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

**October 27-31,**

Spirit Dress-Up Days

**October 31:** Fall event  
2:55 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

**Spirit Dress-Up Days**

**Monday:** Renaissance Day: Dress in medieval or renaissance-inspired clothing.

**Tuesday:** Character Day: Dress as a favorite book, movie, or TV character.

**Wednesday:** Dress Like a Teacher/ Student Day – Teachers and students swap roles.

**Thursday:** Pajamas Day

**Friday:** Wear your costume!



< Anthony, Giovanni and Solomon having fun outside of the portable with Zabri, Mr. Willis, Isaiah, Johnny, Thomas, Eddie and Jetahna in the background. Photo by Leron Saunders.

Giovanni, Blu, Carmen, Henry and Lars hanging out during a class break. Photo by Leron Saunders. v



< Sunflowers grow outside of the portable. Photo by Leron Saunders.



Johnny, Giovanni, Michael and Ian working in Journalism class. Photo by Leron Saunders. >



## Strike a pose for “Fancy Friday”

By Scott Gose

On Friday, September 26th, students took to the halls in their fanciest clothes. “Fancy Friday,” originally coined by juniors Johnny Robbins and Keerah Bishop, encourages students to dress in their “fancy” or out of the norm clothes.

All photos by Scott Gose.



Eddie is showing Thomas how to tie a necktie.



Jax smiles for the camera.



<This group photo shows Scott, Keerah, Thomas, Ren, Bee, Aaliya, Ana Sophia, Genevieve, Eddie, Axel and Johnny posing together.

Scott, Johnny and Henry pose for the camera.



# Book Review: Draper's "Out of My Mind" invites readers to peer inside the mind of a disabled child

By Johnny Robbins

"Out of My Mind" is a beautiful story about perseverance, hardship, and the bonds you create with the people around you. Sharon M. Draper has created a realistic fiction novel about a girl named Melody Brooks who has cerebral palsy. The book received a 4.4 rating on Goodreads, and the movie adaptation got 100% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Cerebral palsy is a physical disability that affects mobility and communication abilities. The main character, Melody Brooks, can't speak at all, and she has nearly zero controllable movement of her body.

Through the book, we meet amazing characters in the story that help Melody through her journey, we often see them challenge her and advocate for her. Some of my favorite characters in the book include Melody's parents, Chuck and Diane Brooks, and their neighbor, Ms V, who is Melody's main advocate. We also meet Mr Dimmings, Melody's teacher, who challenges her learning skills and pushes her to achieve more communication and movement.

This book focuses on Melody Brooks' life with

her disability. We see Melody have this utterly brilliant mind stuffed full of so much knowledge, but is trapped inside her own body. We see her persevere through medical discrimination and general isolation because of her inability to communicate. We see her face a lot of social prejudices due to her disability.

The story begins slowly when she talks about her childhood and early memories, but later, the story gets more intense as she enters school and becomes more ambitious.

The plot twists in a way that leaves you heart-broken and frustrated, but always pulls you back to learn more and more. It is written beautifully and sheds light on the injustices disabled people face even in modern times.

This book left a lasting impression on me. I would recommend this book for teens and young adults due to the complex themes that are described within the story. It's also good if you're interested in learning about disabilities. Just seeing inside Melody's brilliant mind and feeling her perspective on everything, seeing her work so hard to achieve what might seem like an everyday thing, is just so fascinating.

---

## Movie Review: Original "Beetlejuice" worth watching over and over again

By Amir Palomeres-Ontiveros

Beetlejuice, a 1988 movie by Tim Burton, is a classic. It's one of those movies you watch once a year during the spooky season.

The movie starts off with Barbara and Adam Maitland living in a small town. They had a little accident. After they died the real estate agent sold their house to the Deetz family. The Maitlands are forced to remain in the house for 125 years, they can't leave the house. So, they try to scare the new owners of the house, but fail miserably. So they call Beetlejuice to get the job done.

This was Burton's first big hit. He used to be an ordinary director, failing terribly. Most movies he made before 1988 were flops. This was his first big break. If it wasn't for this movie he could have given up on directing as a whole.

The setting was gritty and

dark, which fits the tone of the movie. The effects are fantastic from the miniature scene, his cartoonish features, and the snake scene.

The movie does a really good job at setting the mood. Primarily, the "mortals" working on the movie know how to stop and set the mood with laughs, horror, suspense, etc.

Something I love about this movie is that they use a combination of special effects and stop motion. Since they were very limited at the time. Movies these days are just full of CGI and green screens. It ruins the magic. The 2000s were when CGI was at its prime. Now, it's just cheap quality on a big silver screen that people call masterpieces or flops. The Stop motion allowed to show his vision. It also gave him an advantage to be ahead of everyone else.

This movie was amazing. I

love Beetlejuice's wacky and kooky personality. Michael Keaton really put his heart and soul into this role. It feels like he is not acting. Sometimes you can't tell if that is Keaton under the makeup. It really looks like Warner Brothers found a demon and put it into this movie to keep the magic alive. I also found it hilarious that the Deetz family didn't find any of the unusual things scary; they just treated The Maitlands like a joke.

The only weakness of this movie was that the movie is called Beetlejuice. You would assume that he is the main character, but he barely shows up in this movie. He only has ten minutes of screen time. If you want to have a spectacular time with your family I would definitely recommend watching this movie together.

*Disclaimer: This movie does contain exorcism, involvement of death, an F bomb, and tobacco use.*

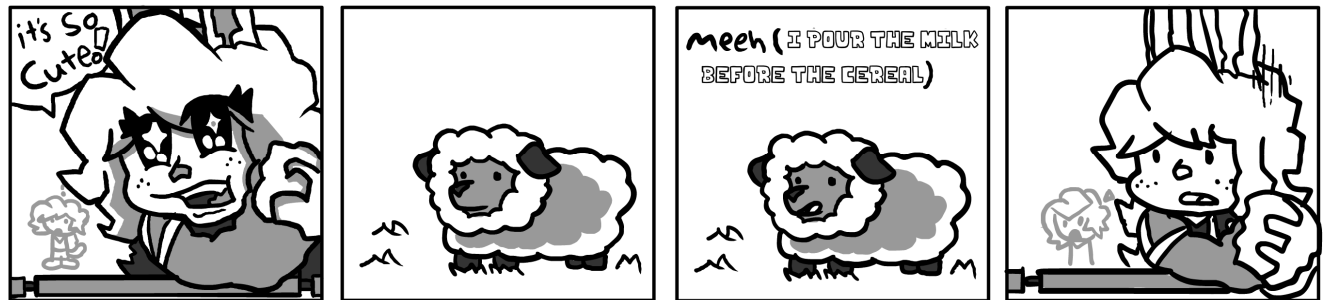


# Original Comics by NMAMA students

Everyone Loves Glep  
by Solomon Walton



Goober Tales  
by Michael Ochoa



Hood Life by Carmen Chavez



## Jones, continued from page 1

particularly significant for him. The potential to join an iconic team and to effect positive transformation was an exhilarating and organic career prospect.

Jones plans to create a student Goal Setting Initiative called "Know Your Number." It is a student goal-setting and accountability initiative intended to increase student attendance and advance proficiency in reading and math.

Jones explained that students will set their own S.M.A.R.T. goals, check in once a week, and return during the October parent-teacher conferences. If 85% of

NMAMA students attain their goals, there will be a celebration of achievement through hallway visual displays and other events within the school.

A S.M.A.R.T. goal is a goal that is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. By following these criteria, you can turn vague aspirations into clear, attainable, and meaningful objectives that increase your chances of success.

While there is no umbrella after-school program at NMAMA, Jones explained that there are after-school programs sponsored by the

school including student clubs, which students can join by reaching out to club sponsors.

For future school events, he said it will be wonderful to have student creativity as part of project exposition nights. He wants students to rejoice in events such as prom and graduation, and he is looking forward to witnessing traditions such as the Fall Festival and Know Your Number parties to take place in the community.

Jones said the new year has the potential for great experiences and memories that can last an entire lifetime.