

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 1, Issue 1

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

Fall 2016

Welcome Back!



Welcome to **The Tusker Tribune**, the online student newspaper of Somers Middle School.

Each week, our team of intrepid reporters sniff out stories and write about them. Everything from state tests to movie reviews to features--it's all reported on and uploaded to this cool site.

The club is open to anyone who wants their writing published throughout the SMS community! So if you're interested in NOT minding your own business, stop on by Room 305 any time and speak to Mr. Pappas.

If you have a story idea, that's even better! I'll give you a press pass, and off you go!

The Tusker Tribune meets every Thursday from 3-4 in Room 305, which is located on the third floor of the original school building. But you don't have to attend the meetings. All you need to do is propose a story idea, and then go ahead and do it on your own time!

All stories **MUST** be related to Somers Middle School in some way. Let the Power of the Press spread throughout the school! The people **HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW!!!!!!**

—Mr. Pappas
The Tusker Tribune
Advisor

US Open is an Incredible Experience



By Sabrina Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

The U.S. Open Event

The U.S open is a worldwide event that occurs every year at around the end of august beginning of september. The average audience watching the U.S Open is 1,265,000 viewers. The tournament will now offer \$46.3 million in total prizes for this year's competition. Youth who play tennis get 48% better grades, 81% have college aspirations, 73% are better behaved, and 82% are more community minded and well rounded.

Arthur Ashe Stadium

This stadium is located in the Queens borough of New York City, New York, United States of America. it is the largest tennis stadium in the world by with a capacity of 23,771. It is the main stadium of the U.S Open tennis tournament. Arthur Ashe Stadium was named after a pro-



fessional tennis player (obviously named Arthur Ashe) who won a major tournament in the US Open in which professionals could compete.

Continued on page 3

The Alarm Clock, Personified



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Senior Writer

Yawn... That was an amazing stretch. I *really* slept well last night. Today is going to be an awesome—

AAAAAARGH! OW!

Darn it. I shouldn't have let my guard down!
Being hammered on the head

every day at 6 AM isn't exactly how anyone would like their life to go, right?

Well, that's my life.

Oh...that was quite rude. I didn't even get to introduce myself! I am Simon, that staple of life called the alarm clock. We've existed ever since the beginning of time—although humans didn't discover us until *much, much* later. I've lived in this room with light blue walls, lots of dusty books, and the artifacts of growing up (aging stuffed toys in the closet, old books, and other little kid memorabilia) which have accumulated over the years since my owner Nitin was a small child.

Speaking of which, Nitin is a very interesting character. Let me explain my observations over the years. I promptly go off at 6:05 AM, without fail, every morning. Nitin has never bothered to get up at all. It's his mother who has to wake him up. When he finally does roll out of bed, you can hear him lazily brushing his teeth in a hap-hazard manner. He feigns being awake, but as soon as his mother leaves for work, he jumps back into bed and winds up sleeping half an hour more. By the time he is up again, it is already 7:00, and he has to hurry so he doesn't miss the bus. Can't he just take a hint?

But on the days that my alarm does wake him up, I better watch out. As soon as I ring, he punches me on the head to delay my alarm. **Fun fact:** it gets delayed for exactly 9 minutes, which is super annoying because you can't fall asleep in those nine minutes, and you can't stay awake either—alarm clocks have to get sleep, too!

One time, Nitin had unplugged me to plug in his iPhone charger. Soon after, my backup battery went down and I couldn't wake him up. What did this merit? The next day, Nitin got delayed for school, yelled at me, and banged me on the head like it was *my fault* that I was unplugged.

To Nitin: Let me make it very clear that it was not my fault. If I wake you up on time, you get mad at me. If I don't wake you up on time, you still get mad at me. Can you please explain the logic in this?

I actually like it whenever Nitin sleeps through my alarm. But I must make sure that he is *actually* sleeping before I doze off. Here's what I mean: One morning, it seemed like he had slept through the alarm. So, taking that as a sure sign that I could get some rest in those fleeting moments of daylight, I decided to sleep. I had just begun

counting gears (1) when, unexpectedly, **WHAM!** Something had hit me on the head. But this time, it wasn't his hand. It was a broken curtain rod.

The pain was excruciating and made my already swollen snooze button swell up even more. I later found out that he was, surprisingly, already awake, and he was trying to close some curtains in his room. His reasoning for that? Prevent light from streaming through the windows so he could sleep more. Unfortunately, yet again, I had to take the brunt of this sleepyhead's behavior. The rod from which those curtains hung collapsed and fell down on me with a thud. Ugh! Something consistent that happens when doing a crucial and timely job like mine is that you get to have the entire day to yourself. Nitin doesn't spend most of his waking hours in his bedroom on a regular basis. So, I have the entire room to myself day after day. And you were thinking that I could get some peace and quiet? **Wrong.**

On the contrary, things get *quite* irritating. The bed keeps on snoring in my face, the overwhelming heat burns me, the smoke detector keeps on winking at me with its sinister-looking green LED light, and if the electricity goes out, I faint.

At around 3:30 PM every day (I apologize for my impreciseness—I wasn't keeping time like a good clock should), Nitin reenters the room and pulls some papers out of his backpack. He writes something on those papers, puts them back in the bag and disappears. He comes back with a cup full of milk, opens his computer, and starts typing away as he slurps his delicious drink. I really wonder what he does on that computer of his. Homework, probably.

I later asked the computer how it felt about having its keys punched endlessly for hours on end. It rudely replied to me: "None of your business, punk." That insolent jerk!

Then Nitin vanishes for a couple hours. Now is when I *actually* get some peace and quiet. This is the perfect time to also catch some shut-eye as well. So, I sleep.

When Nitin comes back, he turns the fan on, takes his glasses off, and pulls the bedsheets back. Then he takes a running jump into the bed. Can't he comprehend by now that he could get injured doing that? After that dangerous action, he pulls the covers over his head, and sleeps. No kidding! As soon as he hits that bed, he sleeps like a log.

I don't think anyone could remember what Nitin does 24/7/365. It's impossible for me to forget because I see this guy all the time! Even though being an alarm clock is very interesting, I wish I could just get a day of vacation from this life. It really ticks me off. No pun intended.

1. Humans count sheep, sheep count humans, and clocks count gears. But what do gears count? Clocks?



U. S. Open

Continued from page 1

Top players

These specific players are the top three players in the world. Their outstanding playing raises their level each game they play.



1. Novak Djokovic
2. Andy Murray
3. Stan Wawrinka

These players all competed in the U.S open tournament this summer.

These players played an exciting match in which would bring people together to watch.

The final champion of the men finals was Stan Wawrinka. He played a great season beating every person in all the matches he played.

For women top three players, there is:

1. Serena Williams
2. Angelique Kerber
3. Garbine Muguruza

These players also competed this past summer in the tournament. The final winner of the women's tournament was Angelique Kerber.



The U.S Open is a great tournament to watch, which happens every year on live TV. If you are interested in watching it, wait till the fun starts next year!



U.S. Open Trivia

The US Open is the fourth and final Grand Slam tennis tournament. The tournament is played every year in New York beginning in late August and lasting for two weeks. Here are 25 interesting facts about the US Open that you may not know:

The US Open tournament...

1. Was first played in Newport, Rhode Island in August 1881.
2. Was originally played in a garden followed by a clay surface before being transferred in 1978 to the USTA National Tennis Center in New York. The US Open is the only Grand Slam that has been played on three different surfaces.
3. Offers a playoff (tiebreaker) option, which differs from the other three Grand Slam tennis tournaments. In the other tournaments, the players continue to play until there is a difference of two games.
4. Is more profitable than both the Wimbledon Championship and the Roland Garros Open.
5. Offers a total of \$ 16 million in prizes between the victors each year.
6. Was the first Grand Slam to be played at night, starting in 1975.
7. Featured the youngest Men's Doubles champion, Vincent Richards, who won in 1918 at just 15 years old.
8. Featured the youngest Men's Singles champion, Pete Sampras, who won in 1990 at the age of 19.
9. Has had only three players being able to win 5 US Open championships: Roger Federer, Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors.

The complex USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center...

10. Was named for Billie Jean King, the first player to win two consecutive tournaments (1971 and 1972).
11. Is located in Queens, New York, ten minutes from JFK airport.
12. Includes the Arthur Ashe Stadium and the Louis Armstrong Stadium, two of the largest tennis stadiums in the world

The Tusker Tribune is published online and is featured weekly on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students from

Somers Middle School

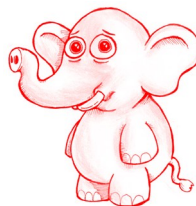
250 Route 202

Somers, NY, USA.

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories.

If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at

DPappas@somersschools.org



**The Tusker
Tribune Staff**

**Nitin Seshadri
Sabrina Cheung
Natalie Maher**

Two Sure-Fire Ways to Sure Cure the Munchies!



By Natalie Maher
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Decadent, rich chocolate cupcakes

Serving size- 20 cupcakes

Total baking time- Around 20 minutes

Skill level- easy

What you will need...

- 1 1/2 cup of all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup cocoa powder (unsweetened)
- 1 Teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine (melted)
- 2 Large eggs
- 1 Cup milk

Baking Instructions

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit

Combine flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt in a small bowl

Beat sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla extract in a larger mixing bowl.

Gradually mix in flour mixture alternatively with the milk. Spoon 1/4

Cup mixture into each cupcake tin

Bake for 18-20 minutes, when done make sure that when you stick a toothpick

Inside the cupcake it comes out clean, if any excess batter comes off put back

Into oven for 3-5 minutes.

!Additional milk chocolate frosting!

What you will need...

- 1 3/4 cup milk chocolate chips
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine (softened)
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 2 1/2 cups sifted powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

To make the frosting, microwave chocolate chips, butter and salt for one minute.

Stir the mixture. If some chips still remain but back in microwave for 10-15

