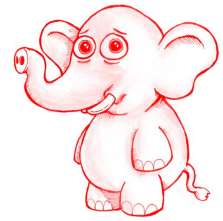


The Tusker Tribune

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A Perfect Hanukkah



By Sabrina Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

"Mommy! Daddy, look!"

Sienna screams in her bedroom. She grabs her sister's arm and ran her into the room.

"Look! The mensch on the bench moved!"

Her sister glanced over at the doll. She opened her mouth in awe as she told Sienna to be a good girl or else she won't get good presents for Hanukkah.

Sienna listened carefully, making sure she would do everything she could to get that one gooey, chocolatey, kinder egg! For people who don't know what that is, it is basically a chocolate in a shape of an egg that has a toy inside of it. Sienna wanted this present all year, and she knew to be extra careful over the holidays so she could get it.



Days passed as the mensch moved around.

From the dining room, to a bedroom shelf, to the living room, and so on. Sienna got more and more excited to get her Hanukkah presents.

One day, Sienna was walking into her bedroom as she saw the mensch move. She knew she had to tell her family but she couldn't talk after what she just

saw. The mensch started to talk to her. "Sienna! I have been watching you since the day you brought me home! I love how much of a good girl you have been so I got you only the best present possible for Hanukkah!"

He finally turned into a doll again and gave one finally wink as Sienna was picked up by her mom and carried into the living room. Hanukkah was here, and sienna did get the best present possible. A kinder egg!

Let the New Year's Festivities Commence!!!



By Robert Gaudio
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

As I continue my quest to discover the origins of modern day holidays, I come across the holiday of New Years.

New Year's Celebrations have been occurring for thousands of years all throughout the world. The earliest New Year festivities dates back 4000 years to ancient Babylon. Their new year started when the first new moon, following the vernal equinox, rose. The vernal equinox, by the way, is the day usually in late March when the daylight time is equal to the amount of darkness. For us, it occurs December 21.

Other cultures around the world followed different New Year beginnings. One example is the Chinese New Year, which was the second new moon after the winter solstice.

When the Roman Empire began to rule the world, Romulus, the founder of Rome, set a daily calendar. Over time, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun and seasons. It wasn't until 46 B.C. that this was solved when the Roman Emperor Julius Caesar took control and met with great astronomers and mathematicians of his time to come up with a modern day calendar. Julius Caesar named the calendar after himself, The Julian Calendar. A second calendar, however, called the Gregorian Calendar, was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII because the Julian Calendar assumes a full year is 365.25 days. The Gregorian Calendar assumes a 365-day year and is now used by most countries.

The Gregorian Calendar used in today's world makes January 1st the start of the new year. This is why many countries celebrate The New Year together with fireworks and parities.

Happy
New Year!

My Hope For Your Holiday



By Sabrina
Cheung
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer



Good times with family;
laughter and joy.
Memory with friends;
the latest new toy.

A blog that you love;
you will post every day;
there are comments and read-
ers,
who say what they may.

Joy and fulfillment,
in all that you do;
passionate journeys,
and success just for you.

A season of love,
brings joy and delight.
Dreams will come true;
with each word you write :)

Bring some spirit into this
world, I hope these ideas may
be just the start to your holi-
day! Merry Christmas, and
Happy Hanukkah
everyone!



“Uranium” (Chapter 2)

A NaNoWriMo Story



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Editor's Note: Somers Middle School Eighth Graders have been writing novels during the school year for the NaNoWriMo program. The name is short for National Novel Writing Month. Nitin Seshadri, a Tusker Tribune Staffer, will be presenting his NaNoWriMo entry chapter by chapter in the Tusker Tribune. The prologue to his novel, “Uranium”, appears today.

Derek woke up the next morning to the sound of rumbling. It seemed to be distant, yet near at the same time. He cracked open his eyes to the dark room.

After following the rumbling, he saw that his phone was ringing. *The nurses must have returned it overnight*, Derek thought. *Why would they give me back the phone if the Internet didn't work? Am I getting a call?*

Derek picked up the phone and saw that it was from an unknown number. He rejected the call and put the phone down. By then Andrew had woken up due to the phone making noise.

"Who was that?" Andrew asked groggily.

"Just my phone. Some unknown number was calling me. Probably a prank call," replied Derek.

"No, it couldn't have been. Not with this asteroid or anything."

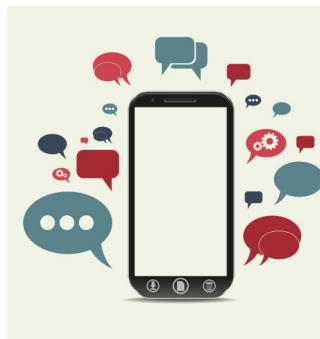
Just then, the lights suddenly turned on. Derek heard

creaking noises as Andrea, thinking that she was at home, dragged herself out of bed...and walked into a wall.

"Ouchies!" she cried in pain. "MY HEAD!"

"That's what you get for walking into a wall," teased Andrew.

Derek watched as this conversation evolved into a sibling fight, complete with punching, tackling, and yelling. Derek unfortunately didn't have any sisters or brothers, so this was a treat to watch. It was something Derek had never watched, much less experienced, in his entire life.



The nurse had just walked in, and she stood there in the doorway with a look of surprise, her mouth wide open.

"Just yesterday, you woke up to find you lost practically everything; you're living underground, an

asteroid has wiped out the entire human population, and now you too are fighting like it's your house? You Earthlings are very interesting beings, I tell you..." she droned.

Derek wondered why she would refer to him, Andrew, and Andrea as "earthlings". *Wasn't she a human too? She must be a geek or something.*

The nurse served breakfast and left, Derek still thinking about her peculiar statement. Just then, the phone rang again. Derek picked it up. "Hello?" he said.

Continued on page 3



SPORTS UPDATE by Eli Yates



This week the New York Giants play the Philadelphia Eagles tonight at 8:30. If the New York Giants win, they clinch the wild card. But if they lose this week and then win, they still make the wild card. Also, if they win the rest of their games and the Cowboys lose the rest of their games, then the Giants win their division and get home field for the playoffs.



If the Cleveland Browns lose the rest of their



games, then Joe Haden will break his promise that the Browns can win a game. At 0-14, the Browns are already defeated and they are terrible. The Browns play the Bears this weekend.



Uranium Chapter 2

From page 2

The line immediately cut off. Whoever was on the other side had hung up. *Why would they hang up?* Derek thought. By then Andrew and Andrea had settled down and were shoveling down a particularly acceptable breakfast of scrambled eggs and broccoli.

"Yes," Andrew said to Derek as he chomped down the food like it was the best thing in the world. "I know this stuff is disgusting—like, who would give us *broccoli* for breakfast?—but if that's all these crazy idiots are going to give to us, then we got to eat it."

Derek began to eat his breakfast slow-



ly. As soon as Derek picked up his phone, a text message appeared from the same phone number.

"All electronic devices are to be shut off. Do not reply to this text message. Unlocking your phone will cause radiation damage."

The phone hadn't affected him. Why would it? It was already on, so by this time, he should have gotten severely damaged by the cell phone radiation. So what was the basis for this text? It really was a little too much. *Weird*, Derek thought. Why would someone go out of their way to get to his cell phone when an asteroid had hit the earth, leveled all the cell towers, and then hang up as soon as he answered? Moreover, why would they send a text message saying to shut off the device?



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Giants On an Upward Trajectory



By Jack Silverman
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

After a confusing of season, the New York Giants have bounced back and are now in a great spot to get a wild card spot in the playoffs.

A wild card is for teams with good records but are not in the top placement in their division, which is the NFC East for the Giants. This division is held in first place right now by an 11 and 1 Dallas Cowboys. The Giants are in second place at 8 and 4, which is still a very good record.



to beat them. This puts the giants against a tough team that wants to win.

The Eagles, on the other hand, may be a easy win, with a rookie quarterback (Carson Wentz). Landon Collins, the Giants safety, is going to have a phenomenal week.

The one major obstacle in the Giants' way are the Cowboys this week. This 11-1 team is coming

to New York to get an earlier loss back from the Giants. Early in the season, in week one, the Giants defeated the Cowboys for their only loss of the season, and in my opinion it will happen again.

Giants Eli Manning and Odell Beckham are coming for Dallas' Rookie team of Dak Prescott and Ezekiel Elliot. It will be a clash tonight at 8:30, I would not want to miss it if I were you!!!!



With a loss this week against the Pittsburgh Steelers, it lowers the Giants' chance at a wild card spot very minimally. The only problem is the Giants' next few games are against very tough teams like the Cowboys, Eagles and Lions. The Lions are coming off a very good week against the Saints who were favored

Happy
Holidays!