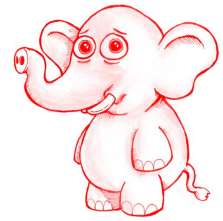


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Winter 2017

Kwanzaa Promotes Cultural Unity



By Robert Gaudio
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Kwanzaa is a Afro-centric holiday celebrated worldwide. But it hasn't always been that way.

In 1966, the Chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Dr. Maulana Karenga, created the holiday to unite black communities during a time of racial and social unrest in the United States. Kwanzaa is celebrated over seven days starting on December 26th through January 1st. There are seven principals celebrated, called *Nguzo Saba*, and they are represented by seven candles (a *Kinora*) of three different colors.

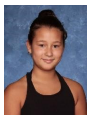


The *Nguzo Saba* are Unity, symbolized by a black candle in the middle of the *Kinora*. On one side are three red candles: Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility and Cooperative Economics. On the other side are three green candles to represent Purpose, Creativity and Faith.

Another tradition of Kwanzaa is the passing of the Unity Cup. The Unity Cup is passed around to family and friends and sipped from to honor past ancestors.

Although Kwanzaa has a short history, its founder is hoping one day Kwanzaa will be celebrated worldwide by all races as a celebration of African Culture.

A Very Strange Jump to the Future



By Sabrina Cheung
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

I run up the stairs to an old dirty apartment, waiting for my father to open the door.

He finally swings it open looking for an explanation of why I was in such a rush. I grab my stereo and rush back out. I push open the car door and jump in. Turning the key in the machine, I start up the heater. For some reason, the car kept shutting

off. *Whatever, I'll just get a good exercise walking*, I thought.

I jump back out of the car and slam the door. I start walking across the street until I hear a scratching noise against the ground. I look left, and then I blacked out in pain.

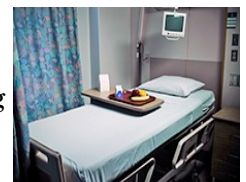
My eyes slowly open and I sat up rubbing my head. My dad and friends were sitting right

next to me. They looked down and pulled the radio up to show me. They press on the "play" button and then I black out once again, but not before hearing my dad's scream. My favorite Twenty One Pilots song came on and I awaken. But this time, nobody is sitting next to me. I am still lying in the hospital bed, though.

I get up and unhook the wires. I glance out the window. The world is now covered with ugly beings.

"Hello?" I say confused. I pick up a newspaper lying on a table to see if I am still dreaming. But this isn't 2017. It's 2412. It's been 395 years since the last time I THOUGHT I was alive. My head starts pounding I fall on the ground, seeing my hands wrinkle and my hair turning gray.

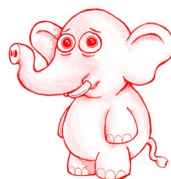
"Bye world....." are the very last words I say before I disintegrate.



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“Uranium” (Chapter 4)

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. Chapter 4 of his novel, “Uranium”, appears today.

NOTE TO READER: Chapter Four starts at the beginning, but from Andrew's perspective. After Chapter Six, the perspective will switch back to Derek, and it will stay that way for the rest of the story. (P.S. Can you guess how old Andrew is?)

The next morning, Andrew woke up on the 5,592nd day of his mundane, lifeless existence. It was a normal day, complete with his twin sister, Andrea, taking more than an hour in the bathroom to take a hot shower, fix her jet-black hair and braid it the way she wanted it to be.

Andrew had to shower in ice-cold water that would freeze a polar bear into an ice cube. Andrew shoved some clothes on, taking care to make sure that his shirt wasn't inside-out (Andrea made him the laughingstock in school one day when he hadn't realized that it was inside-out). Andrew shoveled down his breakfast, threw on his backpack, and rushed to the bus stop. He noticed

that it was an unusually hot morning for a New York summer. It felt as if someone had turned on a furnace.

He caught sight of something flying in the sky. It was bright yellow and red and there were bits of rock flying off of its sides. One piece of material narrowly missed Derek's roof. Another rock had hit a neighbor's roof and the roof was on fire. The man who lived in the house was frantically trying to put out the fire with his garden hose, but to no avail.

Andrew grabbed Derek by his shoulder. After all, he was the right guy to identify this. He had made an app that identified objects in space and he had gotten a recognition from NASA because he made it. *Lucky him*, Andrew had thought when he had heard the news two weeks ago.

"Dude, look up! There's a huge fiery object in the sky! It looks dangerous!" Andrew exclaimed. *Obviously.*

Derek held the phone up to the sky and nodded his head. *Of course, that object is on a collision course with Earth*, Andrew thought. Derek reached over to tell him something, probably about the object in the sky. But by then, it was way too late. Everyone in the bus stop was screaming and yelling in fear. Andrew was scared for his life. He began to run away, and then... *Boom.*



Check Out Myluckybooks!

By Sara Vala
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Do you ever get tired of not being able to find a good book?

Do you ever look through Netflix but you don't know what to watch? Do you ever need a laugh, but just can't seem to find one? Well, there is a way. Introducing a website, a very cool website, called myluckybooks!

Myluckybooks is a blog for people to read book reviews/summaries, movie reviews or read some comics.



Some book genres are fantasy, science fiction, realistic fiction, and many more. The movies there are only rated PG or PG-13. This blog is updated every time the author wants to review a book for people to read. One of the author's favorite series is the Lorian Legacies.

So, if you ever need something to read, check out this link

www.myluckybooks.wordpress.com

Check it out and I guarantee, you'll always have the greatest book in school.



SPORTS UPDATE



By Eli Yates
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

This past Monday, the 2017 the national college football finals happened with the Clemson Tigers versing Alabama Crimson Tide. Alabama was favored by 6 points which is 1 touchdown.

Continued on P. 3

It's Divisional Round Time!!!!



By Jesse Heller
Tusker Tribune
Staff Writer

Week 1 of the 2016-2017 playoffs is over and there are eight teams left standing. In the Wild card round, each of the home team came away with easy victories. Jesse's pick last week went 4 for 4.

Some key players from last Week's games were Seahawks wide receiver Paul Richardson, who had two one-handed catches. Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell and wide receiver Antonio Brown just made plays each and every time either one got the ball. Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers connected with Davante Adams and Randall Cobb for a combined 13 receptions, 241 yards, and 4 touchdowns.

The first game of the divisional round starts at 4:35 this Saturday afternoon when the 3rd seeded Seattle Seahawks visit the 2nd seeded Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons had the second best offense throughout the regular season controlled by quarterback Matt Ryan, who is among the top candidates for MVP this season. However, the Seahawks have a good defense led by league leading tackler Bobby Wagner and when the two teams played in Seattle in the regular season, Seattle won 26-24. Although I have a lot of respect for Russell Wilson and I want to Hawks to win, the Falcons are home and have an incredible offense. **Jesse's Pick: Falcons**

The second game is on Saturday night at 8:15 when the 4th seeded Houston Texans battle in New England against the 1st seeded Patriots. It will not really be much of a battle as the Patriots are well rested and are just a better team. The Patriots beat the Texans earlier in the regular season when the Patriots starting quarterback Tom Brady was suspended, backup quarter Jimmy Garoppolo had an injured finger, and third

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14TH		DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS	
4:35 PM FOX	SEAHAWKS	AT	FALCONS
8:15 PM	TEXANS	AT	PATRIOTS
SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH		DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS	
1:05 PM NBC	STEELERS	AT	CHIEFS
4:40 PM FOX	PACKERS	AT	COWBOYS

string rookie Jacoby Brissett was playing for his first NFL start and they still won 27-0. I don't think this game will be much different from when they played in week three. **Jesse's Pick: Patriots**

The third game starts at 1:05 on Sunday afternoon when the 3rd seeded Pittsburgh Steelers travel to Kansas City to face off against the 2nd seeded Chiefs. The Steelers are led by three of the top players at their position in quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, running back Le'Veon Bell, and wide receiver Antonio Brown. The Chiefs, though, have a good defense with some explosive offensive players such as rookie Tyreek Hill, who is one of the most fun players to watch in the NFL. I think it will be an excellent game but in the end, the Steelers offense will be too powerful for the Chiefs to keep up with. **Jesse's Pick: Steelers**

The fourth and final game of the Divisional round begins at 4:40 on Sunday when the 1st seeded Dallas Cowboys host the 4th seeded Green Bay Packers. When the Cowboys and Packers played in the regular season in Green Bay, the Cowboys won 30-16. That means nothing though. The Packers are a completely new team from what they were with red hot Aaron Rodgers. The Packers, however, might not have leading receiver Jordy Nelson and running back Ty Montgomery as they both got injured in last week's game against the Giants. The Cowboys, I'm sure, will try to run the ball a lot with league leading rusher Ezekiel Elliott to try to keep Green Bay's offense off the field as much as possible. The Packers don't have an effective run game and Cowboys cornerback Morris Claiborne is returning from a nine-week absence. This is going to be a high scoring game with two great offenses on both sides but I think the game being in Dallas gives the Cowboys an edge. **Jesse's Pick: Cowboys**

Sports Update *Continued from P. 2*

These 2 teams also played last year in the finals and Alabama won 45-0. This is the first time these two teams have met for a rematch of a Division I College Football Championship. The score of this game was 35-32 with a last second touchdown to Hunter Renfrow, giving Clemson the upset win!



Also on this Monday, LeBron James collected another milestone of 10,000 field goals. LeBron and the Cavs played at 10:30 PM against the Trail Blazers and they lost 102-86. They also play tomorrow at 10:30 PM against the Kings who are 16-22. The Cavs are 17-23.

