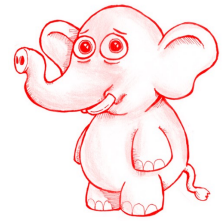


The Tusker Tribune

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Our Proud Inauguration Tradition



By Robert Gaudio
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Inauguration Day is January 20th, the date the United States swears in the newly elected president, but it wasn't always that day.

The first Inauguration Day, with the first President, George Washington, was held in New York on April 30th, 1789. It was moved to January 20th, after the ratification of the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, stat-



ing that the president and vice president would no longer start their terms on March 4th, but on January 20th. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first president to be sworn in on January 20th in 1937.

Although Inauguration Day is not an official federal holiday, if you are a government employee in Washington D.C. and surrounding counties, then you can take the day off, as it is a holiday for you.

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A Cacti's Story



By Joseph Burgio
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Once upon a time, there was a big cactus. His name was Billy. Billy was sad because all the other cacti were smaller than him. He wanted a friend to keep him company.

But then...there was a giant that came down from his castle in the sky! He said "I'm gonna put you in my castle. You won't be lonely anymore, friend."

"YAY!" Billy said. He always wanted a friend. The giant picked him up and brought him to his castle. The giant put him in a special pot. The pot was clay and it looked like it was made by hand. It was painted like a rainbow and had clouds on it.

The giant asked Billy if he wanted to be small. Billy asked the giant why. The Giant said that he was watching the desert for a while now, and he looked like he needed some friends to talk to. Billy said that he *did* need some friends; he wasn't sure if he'd like it. He asked the giant if he could give him a quick try to see if he'd like it.

The giant agreed, and took him out of his colorful pot. "I'm going to plant you now. Come back soon, OK?"

"OK."



So then Billy was planted in the ground next to the other cacti. They didn't recognize him. They said "Where's Billy? I miss him...I miss him too." They were all bunched up together but no one noticed him. Billy didn't like being small. Billy liked to be big, but he was lonely. But Billy had an idea.

Billy yelled up into the sky and the giant came down. He said "Ready to come back? Already? It's only been..." He looked at his watch. It was a very unusual watch. It had planets, stars, months, years, galaxies, and the universe! "A month. I thought you would like being small, but I guess I was wrong. All right, you can come back to my place. I'll get--"

"Wait! I have an idea! Why can't we all be *around* the same size, instead of a dramatic difference? I want to be big, but I want my friends to be pretty big too."

"I can do it."

Billy noticed something about the giant. He had a big white beard and a white robe.

"God?" The giant turned around. He showed Billy a note. 'You don't need to know'

So then Bob made the cacti equal. They all lived happily ever after.



“Uranium” (Chapter 6)

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 6 of his novel, “Uranium”, appears today.

Andrew woke up the next morning to the sound of rumbling. It seemed to be distant, yet near. *Was there an earthquake?* He cracked open his eyes to the dark room. After following the rumbling, he saw that Derek's phone was ringing. Derek had already picked up the phone.

"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," Andrew said.

Just then, the lights suddenly turned on. Andrew snickered as he watched Andrea slowly drag herself out of bed and slam herself face-first into the wall.

"Ouch!" she cried in pain. "MY HEAD!" Andrea had definitely woken up by then.

"That's what you get for walking into a

wall," teased Andrew.

"Stop it!" she said, annoyed. She punched Andrew lightly in the arm. Andrew punched her back. Soon, the two were rolling over each other on the ground as if they wanted to kill each other. The nurse walked in, saw this, and her mouth popped open like her jaw joint was loose.

"Just yesterday, you woke up to find you lost practically everything, and now you too are fighting like it's your house? You Earthlings are very interesting beings, I tell you..." she droned.

The nurse quickly served breakfast and left, not wanting to be involved in the fight.

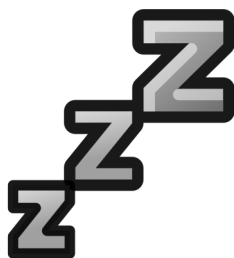
"Yes," Andrew said to Derek. "I know this stuff is disgusting, but if that's all these crazy people are going to give to us, then we got to eat it."

Derek, looking a bit disgusted, began to eat his breakfast slowly. Andrew, however, sensing that they would not—no, could not give them better food, shoveled the meal down just for its nutritional value.

A few minutes later, Andrew felt very, very sleepy. He wanted to take a nap. "I'm feeling a bit tired right now. Can I go to sleep for a while?" he said to no one in particular.

"Okay, go to sleep," Derek replied. "No one told you you couldn't."

Andrew pulled himself onto the bed and pulled over the covers. He fell asleep within the minute.



Critic's Corner: Apple Watch



By Xander Pedersen
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

I bought an Apple Watch a few months ago. It is a stainless steel 42mm Series II version. So far I have used it more as a watch than a replacement for my phone. I like being able to see my messages on my wrist.

Unfortunately, the most important part of messages (sending messages) is not really that easy for long or complicated texts. The scribble keyboard is not the



worst thing ever, but the biggest problem is it does not have autocorrect. Just because I am texting from a watch does not mean automatically that I am the best speller ever. Siri works fine for me but my mom has trouble with it every day.

Also, I'm still not sure it's socially acceptable to talk to your wrist. The controls are not bad, but if you have bad eyesight, this is not a product for you.

The text is incredibly small due to having a small screen.

Continued on page 3



By Natalie Maher
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Ingredients:

FOR THE BROWNIES

10 tablespoons of unsalted butter
1 1/4 cups white sugar
3/4 cup cocoa powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons vanilla extract
2 large eggs
1/2 cup flour.

FOR THE OREO LAYER

One full pack of Oreos (regular, double stuffed or thins)

FOR THE COOKIE DOUGH LAYER

1/2 cup unsalted butter (room temp)
1/4 cup brown sugar
3/4 cup white sugar
1 egg
1 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/4 cups flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips



Instructions:

BROWNIE LAYER

In a medium sauce pan melt butter over medium high heat. Add sugar and cocoa powder once butter is melted. Whisk to combine and remove from heat. Add the salt, vanilla, and eggs continuously. Whisk until eggs are combined. Add flour. Once mixed together set batter aside.

COOKIE LAYER

Cream together butter and sugar in a mixture. Add eggs and vanilla, making sure to scrape Down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour, Salt, baking soda and baking powder, mix until Everything is combined. Fold in chocolate chips. Set batter aside.

Assembly:

Pre-heat oven to 350*f. Line the bottom of a 9x9 baking pan with tinfoil, and then spray tinfoil with baking spray. Layer the cookie dough on the bottom of the pan. Press down to form something like a crust. Layer as many Oreos on top of the cookie dough that you can, but don't overlap. Pour the brownie batter over the Oreo layer and make sure that it's even. Bake for 30-35 minutes Or until completely cooked. Let cool and enjoy!

Apple Watch

From page 2

The Workout App works really well but I almost never use it. Notifications to breathe are bothersome and getting told to stand during the middle of class gets old really quickly. Yet somehow, I end up liking the Apple Watch. Let me explain.

It has this whimsical feel to it. It's a feeling that I'm taking part in the future, like how every one felt with smart phones and 3-D printers.

But I don't think everyone needs one. I actually think no one needs one yet. But if you have \$400 to spare and you want to take part in the future, it's a great product. Final Rating: six out of ten stars.

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

Joseph Burgio
Xander Pedersen
Nitin Seshadri
Natalie Maher
Jaewon Yeo
Eli Yates
Robert Gaudio



Ode to the Socratic Seminar



By Jaewon Yeo
Tusker Tribune Staff
Writer

Trying for their voices
not to sound afar,

People discussing and arguing
around.

The questions they are discussing
in the Socratic Seminar

Talking about their opinions and
taking ground.



People are looking for evidence from the notes
at hand.

As the speaker goes on and speak for what
seemed like ages,
Making a point and making a stand.

People are looking for evidence from the notes
at hand,

Trying to add more evidence to the claim
Making a point and making a stand,

Firmly believing in their claim while keeping

it tame.

Trying to add more evidence to the claim,

People having much more to say,

Firmly believing in their claim while keeping it tame,
Referring to the play without keeping it astray.

People discussing and arguing around,
People referring to their script as they talk,
Talking about their opinions and taking ground
People staring at the speaker like a hawk.

People referring to their script as they talk,
Scrolling through the tab and shifting through pages,
People staring at the speaker as a hawk
As the speaker goes on and speak for what seemed like
ages.

Scrolling through the tab and shifting through pages,

People having much more to say,

Trying for their voices not to sound afar

Referring to the play without keeping it astray,

The questions they are discussing in the Socratic Seminar.

Tradition

From page 1

There are
Inauguration Day
traditions that the
modern president
normally does.
The President is
first sworn in.
Then he gives a
speech. Then a
parade around
town occurs and
the President en-
joys a luncheon.
The day ends with
a series of Inaug-
ural Balls, all of
which are attend-
ed by the new
president.

The next
Inauguration Day
will be four years
from now. Even if
President Donald
Trump gets re-
elected, they still
must do the cere-
mony.

SPORTS UPDATE



By Eli Yates
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

Women's Australian Open Finals: Serena Williams plays sis- ter Venus in an incredible match



On Saturday January 28, Serena Williams played her older sister Venus Williams in the Australian Open finals. Venus, 36 years old, played Serena in her 73rd major tournament.

This was the 9th time that the Williams sisters played each other in a grand slam final. The first time the sisters played each other in a grand slam match was in 1998 and Venus won that match. In 2003, the Williams sisters played again and this time Serena won. Then on Saturday Serena beat Venus 6-4, 6-4. With that win, Serena has won the second most grand slam titles and is one title behind Margaret Court.

Had Venus won, she would have become the oldest player ever to

win a grand slam title. Although she did become the oldest player to get 50 wins in the Australian open.

Men's Australian Open Final: Federer takes on Nadal in an intense 5 set Match



On January 29th, Roger Federer played Rafael Nadal. These two players haven't played each other in a final since 2011 but they have played each other 11 times! Nadal had the better record with 23-11 in head to head matches and 3-0 in the Australian Open, having won most recently in 2009.

This time, in the 5th set it was tied 2 sets to 2 sets. Then in the last point, the games were 5-3 Federer when Federer hit the ball down the line and Nadal challenged it and it was in! Now Federer has 18 grand slam titles which makes him have the most men's grand slam titles.