

# The Tusker Tribune

## The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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## The Refugee Crisis Should Concern Us All



**By Sean Moran**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

In America, we enjoy, and sometimes take for granted, our rights. Yet, some people do not have these rights.

What if you didn't have rights to free speech, or a government to give you those rights? There are some people in this situation. In Europe, a refugee crisis is booming and it is only getting bigger.

In Sweden, for example, a massive 14.3% of the population is foreign born. This mass immigration is mostly brought on by ISIL, a terrorist group, controlling large parts of Syria and Iraq. So, to avoid dying and all, many Iraqi and Syrian civilians are fleeing the Middle East for Europe. This sounds like a very bad event, right? So surely, we Americans should know all about it. To test this theory, I interviewed 15 of my classmates to see what they knew about it. I told them to rate their knowledge on the subject with no idea, somewhat aware, and knowledgeable.

If they answered somewhat or knowledgeable, I asked them what they knew about it. Out of the 15 people interviewed, 73% had no idea this was even going on, and the rest answered



only somewhat aware. Here are some of their answers:

"People from the Middle East are overpopulating some European countries."

"Middle-eastern people are moving to Europe and there is a job crisis"

As you can see, these answers vary somewhat yet have roughly the same basis. So, to provide some context, the European Refugee Crisis began some time in 2015, with an influx of Middle-Easterners immigrating to Europe. Most migrants sail over the Mediterranean Sea to Europe or cross over into the Balkan Region of southeastern Europe. Most refugees plan on seeking asylum in western European countries like France or Germany, and some take the journey to Sweden, due to the Scandinavian nation's reputation for taking in refugees.

As you can see the crisis will likely continue for years, and yet this event goes overlooked by the public. Although there is not much we can do about, the least that we can do is observe and take note of this major event in world history and politics.

## Lifeproof Phone Case Stylish and Strong



**By Nikki Cassara**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

If you need an iPhone case that is dirt proof, shockproof, and waterproof, then the LifeProof case is an essence you need. It is IP-68 certified, which means it can be immersed in 6.6 feet of water for up to one hour. Some LifeProof cases, like the LifeProof Nuüd, is also tested to Military Standard 810G-516.6, which guarantees that your phone will not break if you drop it. It comes



in a variety of colors, ranging from red, blue, or purple.

Although the case is rather pricey, around \$65, it is worth it. The case will last for a very long time. It is scratch proof, waterproof, shockproof, and prevents dirt from entering your phone.

I've been using my LifeProof case for about a year now, and it has kept my phone safe from many harms. I really recommend buying a LifeProof case.

*Continued on page 2*

# Questioning State Tests' Purpose

## A Tusker Tribune Commentary



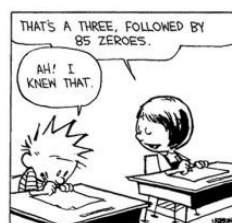
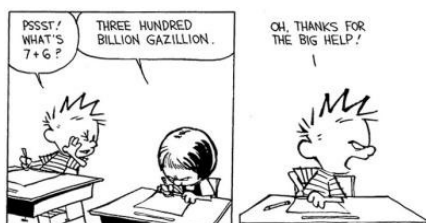
By Skylher Reyes and  
Allie Zattola  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers

Tuesday was the start of the NY state math exams. They just finished today.

We think math state tests shouldn't happen. These tests don't affect our grades, yet the state still make us take them. There is no point of taking them, only to see how the teachers have been teaching.

The state tests cause unnecessary stress and some kids get so worked up about it because it's a long and sometimes hard test.

Some people can't stay still for a long time so for state tests, it is hard for them to focus and to concentrate on the test. We are glad that there is an option to opt out of the test. This means that you have the choice to take it and you have to have your parents' approval.



This year we both opted out. We opted out because we think the tests put so much stress on us and they are unreasonably long with work from 7th grade math.

This test is more difficult for us because people, including us, are in accelerated math which means we take 8th grade math. Some kids took 7th grade math last year but some also skipped 7th grade math and went straight to 8th. This becomes a problem because you forget what you learned last year and your math teacher usually tries to fit in a 7th grade lesson in the matter of a week.

Plus, after a long testing period, we have to go through an 8 period day of shorter classes. Most kids are just plain tired by the end of the testing period.

All in all, we think that the state tests cause unnecessary stress and there is no need to have that amount of stress on top of everything else in school.

## Lifeproof

From page 1

The case comes for many phones, iPhone and Andriod. It also comes in a variety of shapes. A type just for you and your needs. Suppose, you need a case mainly for water

protection, you can get a case that specializes for water resistance.

A LifeProof case guarantees that your phone will not break. This is why LifeProof cases are an essential you need and I really recommend you buy one.

## The Great Pencil Revolt!



By Juliana Bockhaus  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer  
"AGHHHHHHHHHHH!"

The horrid screams of my fallen comrade being forced into a small room with a blade spinning around him. Cutting him, piece by piece.



He came out of that room a coward. I had lost the one friend that I had once envied for his bravery and courage. That's

when I decided, it was time.

I ventured around the room, pencil case to pencil case speaking to anyone who would listen.

I said, "To those of you who have been snapped or sharpened. The time has come to revolt against the homo-sapiens!!! Those of you who agree, join me in my quest to create an army!!!"

*Continued on page 4*

**The Tusker  
Tribune Staff**

Nick Cirillo  
Sean Moran  
Skylher Reyes  
Allie Zattola  
Amy Lasher  
Laura DiPalma  
Juliana Bockhaus  
Gia Crecco  
Dario Avila  
John Roublick

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**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**

# City of Calamity Part 3



By Nick Cirillo  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer  
*Editor's Note—This is the third chapter in this series. Chapter 2 ran in the 4/27/17 issue of the Tusker Tribune.*

Dom, Janette and Dylan sat down on some rubble to rest.

"I still can't believe that... *Thing*... exists. And it attacked us," Dylan said, shivering and glancing around, paranoid. It was almost as if he expected the corpse of the beast lying nearby would reanimate.

Dom threw his blaster gauntlet to the air and caught it repetitively. It was crafted out of the same tech that had been lying around the city.

"So... What *happened* here?" Janette questioned. Even after the attack and the discovery of the bodies of Tony Trey and Farooq Handler, Janette needed the scoop.

"Yeah, I'll tell you, but you're going to have to swear you won't talk about this back in the newsroom," Dominus said. His face was grim and set, and he stared her down waiting for her response.

"Sure," she said off-handedly.

"*Promise me.*" The two locked in an intense swear until Janette gave in.

"I promise. Now let's get talking," she finished impatiently. Dominus set down his gauntlet and pressed a button on his armor, lighting up a holographic display and acting as a projector...

## 15 Years Ago, New York

The missile flew through the air, branded with the symbols of half a dozen terrorists.

"It's atomic. It'll work. We need to draw it in," Dominus said. He stood in a lab coat holding a vial. Behind him was his assistant April and a cage with several animals in it, including a wolf, a bear, a chameleon, and a fossil of what many said

was a real dragon.

"I'll work on it, sir," April said, rushing to the computer.

"The animals are ready?" Dominus said, but he knew he'd get no answer. April was concentrating on her coding and he already knew she would do everything right. Dominus reached into a compartment in his lab and found the futuristic, experimental tech he had stolen from the headquarters of the company that made NanoSurf and other products. He put on what looked like a suit of armor that would protect him from nuclear energy.

"Sir, the missile is being drawn in." But April had no knowledge of how fast the bomb would hit. She walked to check on the animals, and before she could get up --

**BOOOOM!!!!** The nuke blew apart in the lab, but the technology that had worked in tests before failed. The lab blew apart, and the entire city crumbled, emergency beacons everywhere, people dying, buildings crumbling, lives collapsing, dreams dissipating. New York City was broken. Then the radiation spread into the counties next to the city, creating a huge Wasteland from the biggest nuclear bomb ever made. But something even worse happened.

April screamed, and she seemed to melt *into the cage, and started to fuse with the animals.* Her screams were the only thing Dominus heard, safe in his armored cocoon, and out of the rubble of the lab stood a massive beast. It had the head of a wolf, the body of a bear, but was covered in chameleon-like scales and had massive, dragon-like wings. It roared like a primal beast, but its eyes were intelligent and smart like April's, even sharing the same green color.

Then the beast shook, a huge boil forming on its body, and from that spawned a smaller but still large version of the animal -- yet lacking the wings and intelligent eyes, only savage instinct resting within. More and more spawned from the original, and Dominus only thought one thing -

*Run.*





## POETRY

### *In Motion : A Farewell to Winter*



By Amy Lasher and Laura DiPalma  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers  
What a wonderful Winter!  
Snow sputtering down through the

ice cold air,  
Like leaves floating down  
from high above,  
Covering the icy grass with  
snow,  
Like a warm fuzzy blanket.

What a wonderful Winter!  
Snow angles forming,  
Snowballs flying,  
As you fight with your  
friends and family.  
Building snow forts to protect  
You from the ambush above.



What a wonderful Winter!  
Dashing down the hills,  
In our open sleigh like,  
A cheetah chasing its prey,  
The cold ice dazzling on the  
Frozen pond.

What a wonderful Winter!  
Hot chocolate burning  
The tips of our tongues.  
Curling up by the nice warm fire  
After a long cold day.

What a wonderful Winter!  
Although Spring soon shall appear.  
As temperatures begin to rise around  
here.

These memories will always be here.  
Waiting for you again next year.  
We'll miss you wonderful Winter!

## A Tablet Diatribe



By Hunter Duffy  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer

It has occurred to me that the tablets the school has invested in to help us enhance our educations are only teaching us how many problem the tablets have.

Speaking from experience, the tablets can be very hard to handle and for me, most of the time when I have problems, I'm told it's not the tablet's fault, it's mine.

But how can it be when we as kids have no control over the choice of tablet we want or the choices Microsoft makes while

making the tablets? One of my problems is my tablet can't connect to the Wi-Fi at my house. When I brought this problem to the attention of others, they blamed the problem on my Wi-Fi, which works great with all Samsung and Apple products.



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Because of this problem, I have to use my mom's old computer that is not in very good condition to do my homework. This makes me more stressed on top of all the other schoolwork and issues.

I am tired of hearing it is all my fault my tablet doesn't work or that it is not in great condition. It's not the students' fault, so we should not get blamed. I hope you agree.

### Revolt *From page 2*

When he had finally collected enough soldiers, it was time to revolt. It was time to plan. The pencil army decided that on the day of the big essay, they would all snap.



When the day finally came for the homo sapiens to wright their big essay, all the soldiers awaited the signal. Finally the signal came.

"1,2,3" —CRACK!!!

Suddenly there was a long line for the pencil sharpener. The revolt was crushed.

# Club Penguin App Not Up to Standard



**By Dario Avila and  
John Roublick  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writers**

Club Penguin is an online popular website for kids. Players have been waddling around for more than 12 years.

Recently, Club Penguin shut down. Why? A new mobile app, Club Penguin Island, opened to replace it. You might say "It's going to be the same thing." But, the players of Club Penguin, aren't convinced it's as good as the original. Let's see what some lifelong Penguins think about this... (responses use their Club Penguin aliases)

Us: How do you feel about the new Club Penguin Island graphics?

BoboSmiles1: "I feel the Club Penguin Island graphics are more cartoonish; it feels a little bit weird, it's not Club Penguin."

Us: Do you like the idea of daily challenges?

BoboSmiles1: I would say yes, but it would have to be the right difficulty.

Let's see, another us-

er... Us: How do you feel about Club Penguin shutting down?

Wearethe2egg: The shutdown of Club Penguin made me feel a certain way... and it's not positive.

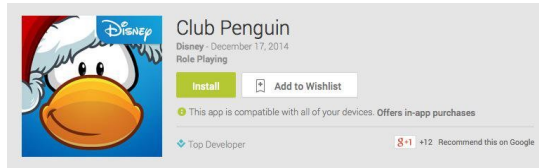
Us: What do you think about Club Penguin only being an app?

Wearethe2egg: Having Club Penguin Island as an app will lower the number of users... It's a bad idea.

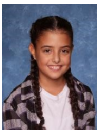
How about another... Us: A membership in Club Penguin Island costs \$4.99 per month, and unlike Club Penguin, you can barely play the game without a membership. Any thoughts about that?

PackEggsMom1: I really don't like that because, in Club Penguin, most of the penguins, were not members, but they could still play the game. They will definitely lose users doing this, including me.

As you can see, people are not happy about the shutdown of Club Penguin. We will just have to see whether or not the game is as good or better than the original Club Penguin.



## An Ode to Teachers



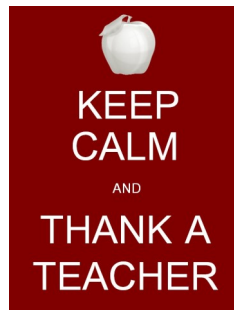
**By Gia Crecco  
Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

Teachers, oh, teachers,  
What can I say?  
You fill my life with homework—  
yay!

You teach us skills  
That we will need  
For every day and for eternity.

Teachers, oh, teachers,  
What can I say?  
Show us students all your ways,  
How to read,  
And how to write,  
Doing homework all day and night.

Teachers, oh, teachers,



What can I say!

Filling our minds with words to say,  
Making us smarter day by day,  
Making sure we stay in school,  
And focus on education.

Teachers, oh, teachers  
What can I say?  
You helped us a lot,  
How can I repay?  
Working all day and all night,  
Making sure students are doing all right.

Teachers, oh, teachers  
What can I say?  
Thank you for all the things you taught me to say,  
Teaching all day and all night  
Making sure we are doing all right!

# My Soup



**By Julia Gambardella**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

It's cold. Very cold. Almost as cold as my father's glare. As of now he was staring at the tree that would soon be in our fire place.

Since I am the eldest, it was my job to collect the wood after he chopped it. My father tends to stare at the tree before cutting it. And when he stared, I was silent because I knew that meant he was focused, and I didn't want to disturb him right now. So I gazed off into the cold forest and looked around at the leaves that have been ripped off their tree and devoured by the snow.

Then I quickly turned my attention to the tree. My father took his first hit. The sound snapped the warmth right out of me and I began to shiver. I started to think about the warm soup mother would be making tonight and all I could imagine was the first bite as it traveled through my body, sending the warmth to every nook and



cranny.

My father finished chopping a few pieces of wood and so I gathered them in my wheel barrow. Pretty soon, we were finished. We decided it was too cold to continue and that the wood we gathered would be enough to last us the night.

We headed back to the village. Nobody was out. They were all probably in their home near the fire, eating soup. But I wasn't jealous because I knew soon I would be doing the very same thing.

As soon as we walked into the cabin, the fire hit my face like a wave of heat. My siblings quickly ran up to my father and me. I gave them and my mother a hug as I walked to the fire place. We hadn't been gone long but I guess they were thankful that we went out and got the wood.

My mother's soft voice called us to eat. We decided to eat by the fireplace. I took the first sip of soup and for a split second I forgot it was the season of winter.



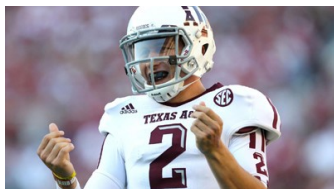
## SPORTS UPDATE



**By Eli Yates**  
**Tusker Tribune Staff Writer**

In the NFL as predicted, Myles Garrett was drafted the #1 seed by the Cleveland Browns.

In the NBA playoffs, the Golden State Warriors are playing the Utah Jazz and Utah is down by one game. I think that Golden State will win the series because they are such a



as

they are having a great season, but so are the Rockets. However, the Spurs beat the Rockets in more one-on-one player matchups and they have a better overall team as well.

In the Celtics-Wizards series, the Celtics are up by two and I think they will continue winning. They are up 2-0 and they want it



more than the Wizards by a lot.

In the Cavaliers-Raptors series, the Cavs are up by two as well, and they also are going to beat the Raptors just like last year.



good team, with five all-stars, and they have pretty good chemistry.

In the Spurs-Rockets series, the teams are tied 1-1. I think that the Spurs will win because

