

The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2016

Forget the Primaries! It's SMS ELECTION TIME!



By Kaitlyn DeRosa
Tusker Tribune
Staff

It's Election season here at SMS and members of our student council will be beginning to prepare for the big day!

Members of the student council will be running to achieve a position that they will have for the next school year. Each member running for a position will have to complete a petition signed by 50 students of their grade, a petition signed by 5 of their current teachers, a letter of intent (their speech), A resume stating all the committees they have been on and a contract.

I am a member of the student council and I am currently



running for President (pretty cool right?) along with my good friend Peyton DiSiena (We are going to be Co-Presidents meaning we will both be president at the same time.). Here are some other positions to run for:

President (Must be going into 8th grade and have 2 years of experience) I'm running for this!

Vice President (Must be going into 8th grade and have 2 years of experience)

Secretary (Must be going into 7th or 8th grade and have 1

year of experience)

Treasurer (Must be going into 7th or 8th grade and have 1 year of experience)

Environmental Officer (Must be going into 7th grade and have 1 year of experience) I was this!

Fundraising Officer (Must be going into 7th grade and have 1 year of experience)

Ambassador of Advertising (Must be in 6th grade and be an active member)

Chief Technological Officer (Any member familiar with school technology)

If you are interested in joining Student Council please see Mr. Arnett in room 123, it's really worth it! And don't forget to wish Peyton and me luck!



Poetic Ponderings

by Kaitlyn DeRosa: "Shadow"

She's a Dark silhouette
She follows me around
No matter where I go
She smiles at me from the ground.

When I wave, she waves back.
I am always on the move.

So even when I groove
So she has no time to slack.



Illuminated when there's light
And runs away in the dark

But I know she'll always be behind me.
When I need her.



Magnus Chase: Sword of Summer

By Peyton DiSiena
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello readers!
Hope you are having a great week.

This week I will be talking about a brand new series called Magnus Chase! The first book, The Sword Of Summer written by Rick Riordan is based on Norse Mythology, talking about Norse gods and creatures with



crazy twists along the way.

Rick Riordan also wrote Percy Jackson and the Olympians, The Heroes of Olympus, and The Kane Chronicles series. I hope you find this new series interesting and begin to read. Happy reading!

Reader Review: 'Deception Point' by Dan Brown



By Nitin Seshadri
Tusker Tribune Staff

Synopsis

Deception Point is a thriller novel by Dan Brown. It was written in 2001 and has received rave reviews. It is set sometime in the future on the eve of a presidential election.

The plot concerns an asteroid found in the Arctic ice shelf which may contain extraterrestrial life. It is second only to *The Da Vinci Code* (by Dan Brown) in its popularity.

Plot

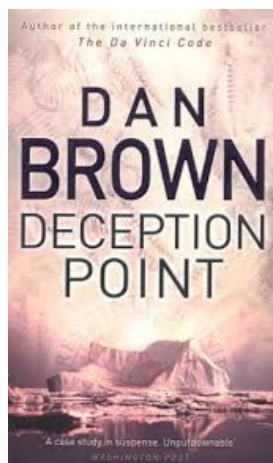
During a landmark presidential election, NASA discovers an asteroid in Antarctica that may contain the fossilized remains of extraterrestrial life-forms.

This could tip the scales of the election because the currently leading presidential candidate, Senator Sedgewick Sexton, has vowed to put an end to NASA because of its high spending but low yield. NASA decides to consult the advice of a carefully selected group of civilians—four scientists: Michael Tolland, Corky Marlinson, Norah Mangor and Wailee Ming – and a National Reconnaissance Organization (NRO) employee, Rachel Sexton, who is Senator Sexton's daughter.

When they arrive at the NASA outpost on an Antarctica ice shelf, they analyze the supposed asteroid and its authenticity seems to be without a doubt. The civilian group decides to let NASA publish the information to the major news sources so that the current president, who is losing to Senator Sexton (see above), can make a comeback in the election.

However, after reanalyzing their data, the team discovers that the asteroid is fake. Then, a secret team of agents known as Delta Force, who has been stealthily keeping tabs on the group, attacks, kills Ming and Mangor and leaves the rest of the team members (Rachel Sexton, Corky Marlinson, and Michael Tolland) to die on an ice floe, to prevent the data from being publicized and incriminating NASA and the president.

However, the remaining team survives! They are picked up by the USS Charlotte (a naval submarine) and contact the president's adviser, Marjorie Tench, minutes before the president is scheduled to make a press conference about the discovery of extraterrestrial life on the asteroid. Tench hushes up the team's report and halts the



press conference. The USS Charlotte then drops the team members on Tolland's research boat, the *Mayo*.

When the team again re-analyzes their data onboard the *Mayo*, they confirm that the asteroid is man-made. Rachel gets a gut feeling that they are going to be attacked and decides to fax the data to her father, Senator Sexton. However, the Delta Force team catches wind of this outgoing communication (with a radar jamming machine) and attacks the ship.

In the ensuing skirmish, all the Delta Force members are consumed by sharks that start circling the ship. William Pickering, the director of the NRO, is revealed to be the commander of Delta Force. It is also revealed that the asteroid was really a burned sea rock containing some underwater organisms. Pickering is then killed when he and the ship are sucked in by an underwater vortex. The fax finally goes through to Senator Sexton as the ship goes under.

Sexton, Tolland, and Marlinson are picked up by a Coast Guard Osprey and return to their normal lives. However, Senator Sexton wants to publicize the information received in the fax from his daughter, which could incriminate NASA and the President. Gabrielle Ashe tries to stop him on request from Marjorie Tench, but fails. However, after Senator Sexton goes to the press conference, Gabrielle Ashe, knowing this, swaps the envelope containing the incriminating data with a different one*, humiliating him. At the end, Michael Tolland and Rachel Sexton have entered a romantic relationship.

My thoughts

Deception Point is a great book. Its intriguing storyline with its twists and turns kept me reading till the end. I couldn't stop reading this book even when I had to go to bed (that's how awesome it was). I would, without a doubt, recommend this book to readers of any age. In conclusion, *Deception Point* is an awesome read!

***Note:** Read the book to find out what was in the other envelope!

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deception_Point (Wikipedia)

http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/976.Deception_Point (Goodreads)

More info

<http://www.danbrown.com/deception-point/> (Author's website)

Dan Brown books for the avid reader:

<http://hubpages.com/literature/Best-Books-of-Dan-Brown> (List of Dan Brown books)



Matt Kushner's 'Time Warp' Series

It is recommended that you read the previous chapter(s).

Chapter 7

Rex and I ran back to the main factory room.

"What is happening? Why did you—" All of a sudden, lasers started coming from all directions. Looks like I didn't have time to ask Rex. All I had time to do was to figure out how to escape. A left here, a right here, then I jump there, then all I have to do is....

All of a sudden, Rex picked me up by the turtleneck on my shirt. He (or she, I really can't tell) was on top of one of the conveyor belts and running at inhumane speeds. Right after he picked me up, we were running up to one of the exits, into the town of Relishere, and into the afternoon light. This time, we were behind a large warehouse. No D.E.F.E.N.D. units followed. But I knew they were watching us.



"Rex! What is happening? Where are we? Who are you? And *when* are we?" Instead of answering, it (I think that's most appropriate) just continued walking. Every once in a

while, we would pass a resident, who would stare at the robotic skin of Rex. Finally, after we were a few hours in the night and at least six miles

from Relishere, we stopped at a diner.

It was an abandoned diner. The only person who was there was an old man at the counter

"Mr. Flogger, it's nice to see you!" The D.E.F.E.N.D. unit that I once knew as Rex took off his helmet—which looked like the rest of the D.E.F.E.N.D. unit's robot skins—and looked at me. He had a very serious face. And he was not happy.

"I do not like you. But listen. These people are planning to send out time machines like little toys to little kids. What they are hoping is that these kids will interrupt the timeline, and, almost literally, blow up time.

"So, can you help us break in?"

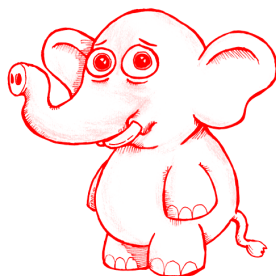
"Why, uh... Mr. Flogger do you need my help?" The man from behind the counter went up to me. He put his hand on my shoulder and looked at me grimly.

"We are the last two Wechsler agents. They killed the rest of us."



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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
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7th Grade Spring Fling Tomorrow Night!



**By Remi Saad
Tusker Tribune
Staff**

Tomorrow night, the 7th grade Spring Fling is here. From 7-9pm, it's a night of fun.

There will be pizza, chips, soda, and water. Go on the Somers Middle School website, print out the permission slip, sign, pay, and you're good to go.

During your lunch period, present your signed permission slip with your \$12 payment.

Even though we will all be there to have lots of fun, we have to play by the rules. Some of these rules include, cameras and cell phones may not be used during the dance. No outside food or drink is permitted. All students will be released for pick up at 9PM.

I have never been to these socials, but I



heard they are a lot of fun. I have interviewed 3 students. I asked Mia Renne, "What do you think of the socials?" She replied, "I think socials are a good way to interact with other people since everybody usually are always on their phones. It is also a good way to meeting people because mostly, the only way we talk to other people is through Instagram or social media."

I have also interviewed Caitlin Norbutt, "Most socials are fun but most people don't like them. I don't like to be forced to do something such as, games and dance."

I interviewed Makenna Wiggins saying, "I think they are fun, but they get boring after a while. I think they should put a little more effort into them instead of buying snacks and pizza. I also think that they can improve them by adding more activities and maybe fewer chaperones."

The Tusker Tribune Commentary: State Testing and Students

By The Tusker Tribune Staff

It's that time of year again, the time when NYS state exams quickly become a hot topic among faculty, parents and students across the nation.

The subject? Whether or not state tests are actually useful. Last year, over 650,000 students opted out of the tests, and the number this year is almost sure to surpass it, no doubt bolstered by the growing anti-test movement, which has a base of factual information behind it to combat the claims of those who try to defend testing.

According to the anti-test side, years of research have proven that the weeks leading up to and during the test are often filled with needless stress, which results in a generally bad working environment for



students, making them unable to focus.

Along with this, the fact that students and teachers cannot view the grades is another stumbling block for the test, as it gives no foundation for what the student needs to improve on, and simply drops a score that rarely accurately summarizes the student taking the test, yet it defines a rather large part of them academically.

However, a common argument among pro-testers is how they prepare children for other tests like the SAT's with their formatting, which is a valid point.

In both of these sides, you rarely get to see a student's opinion on how it really affects them, instead mostly adults are speaking. So in response, we'll be featuring student views on this riveting issue in the next edition of The Tusker Tribune.

Reader's Rant by Christiana Walker

'Inventor's Secret' is WAY Off Target!

First of all, despite the intriguing plot and promises of excitement that are implied on the cover, that is nowhere near the actual plot of the book, as I will elaborate on later.

The main plot, although not noted on the cover, takes up most of the novel and comprises of some of the worst writing I've seen in my short 13 years of life. The most notable element of this 'plot' (dare I call this piece

of trash that) is the tepid and uninteresting love triangle between Charlotte, Jack and his brother, Coe.

Charlotte and Jack's relationship is shown as a humorous rivalry in the first few chapters, a little interesting but standard fare that I've seen before, until one specific event caught my eye

"...Unwilling to lose this dare, Charlotte pulled the corset away from her body and dropped it. The stiff boning clattered against the stone floor. When Jack still didn't move, Charlotte glared at him but determinedly moved her fingers to the buttons of her blouse. A ripple of satisfaction passed through her veins when his eyes widened ever so slightly. She knew it was hot-headed of her, but she couldn't resist the temptation of outdoing Jack. . ."

What even was this? This wasn't amusing or full of character; it was just a stupid way to shoehorn in some romance and 'written fan-service', which, there is a HEAVY amount of in later chapters. Remember the original plot? Yeah that's more akin to a side plot now considering how it only pops up once in awhile, and when it does it's very short and fast with not much detail.

Speaking of not much detail, that's exactly how I can describe most of the characters. Being more interested in minor characters that only

appear in the beginning and end of the book more than your main leads is a very bad sign for the author, and it shows how weak your characters are.

Charlotte is one big example. Her personality does not fit into the time period one bit, and doesn't even conform to the stereotype she's been given. Her character is about as well put together as a smashed egg,

There's also another misconception about her character: You can obviously see that the author tries to make her a 'strong female lead', but fails miserably. She wears skirts for battle even though that's detrimental to speed and maneuverability, she whines over possibly everything in existence and becomes an object for the two male leads to battle over. She's more akin to a fancy couch than a realistic human being!

Grave's storyline, as I mentioned before, is only a side plot and shows up for rapid intervals that quickly lead to more exposition and bosoms. The funny thing is, if the kids weren't idiots this storyline wouldn't have existed. Mouse that's attracted to metal happens to go onto that new kid? Coincidence! No heartbeat? Pfft, that doesn't matter. Super human strength despite looking sickly and having a weak stature? Who even cares? Just goes to show how unintelligently these

characters are written, how did they accomplish living alone in the catacombs again?

Finally, we have the nail in the coffin that will hopefully hide this monstrosity forever: The lack of action and excitement. We only get small splashes of it, among fields of 'tight dresses that show a lot of skin and 'gee golly! These boys are fighting over me!'

You could easily skip parts of the book and not miss anything but a few bosom-ful descriptions and Charlotte whining. In conclusion, this was horrid book that had potential, but did not use it and was left with a stupid love triangle and bland characters.



Tusker Tribune 'Top 10' Cutest Pets!

By Hunter Duffy
Tusker Tribune Staff



Herewith for your entertainment is a 2016 list of top 10 cutest pets!

10) Mini pig



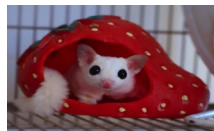
This common pet can cost up to 1.5k. They require a lot of attention and work well with allergies.

9) Hedge hog



This some what rare animal can cost up to \$250.00. They have good hearing and sense of smell but weak eyesight.

8) Pygmy goat



This common animal can cost up to \$400.00. It can also adapt to many different climates.

7) Sugar glider



This somewhat rare pet can cost up to \$500.00. It can be 5-12 inches long and are very energetic.

6) Fennec foxes

This rare pet can cost up to 5k. Even though it is only allowed in certain states but there cute little face makes up for it.



5) Spotted genet

This rare pet can cost up to 1.5k. They are also very similar to cats but are way cooler.



4) Capybara

This some what rare pet can cost up to 1.5k. They are also great swimmers and can stay underwater for long periods of time.

3) Serval

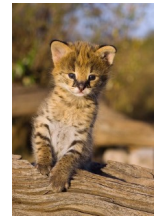
This rare pet can cost up to 3k. They are felines who can thrive in a variety of different habitats.

2) Wallaroo

This rare pet can cost up to 4k. They are herbivores who can survive long periods of time without water.

1) Chimps

This rare pet can cost up to 50k. They can walk on two legs and are very good climbers.



Source: You Tube Video: "Top 10 Cutest Pets of 2016"

Click on this link to see the video: <http://viewpure.com/qzZYzMTveQ4?start=0&end=0>

Random Thoughts

By Hunter Duffy:

'Beach'

A cool breeze hits my shoulder;
My feet rest on the sand .
In the distance I see huge boulders;
And if I lay down I feel the sand on my hands.

I walk to the store and dip in my feet;
The water is very cold compared to the sand.
Then on the ocean floor I take a seat;
But it is so cold I'd much rather stand.

I start to head back to the seats a mile away;
But before I could get far something called for me to stay.

