

# The Tusker Tribune

The student newspaper of Somers Middle School



Volume 5, Issue 19

<http://somersschools.org/domain/995>

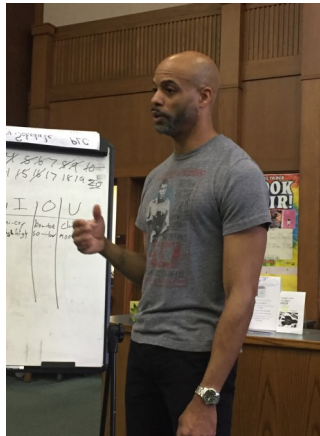
Spring 2016

## Charles R. Smith Wows 6th Grade

By Hunter Duffy  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Last week, poet Charles R Smith visited our school. His presentation was really informative. We learned about his many books and his inspiration.

According to him, inspiration can come from anywhere. It was also fun learning about him. According to Charles, it's important to have a healthy mind and healthy body. He even showed off one of his tricks—suspending himself off his chair using just his arms.



paring unlike things, finding rhymes and descriptive writing. He also told us that poets don't have to use 10 words when they could use 2. His work shops were really inspiring. In fact, they inspired me to write this:

Charles R. Smith was so much fun  
Even though there was no sun

His presentation was not drab  
And everyone cheered when he started to dab



From the crowd it looked easy but when John Bodkin (sixth grader) could barely do it for a second, it showed there was more to it.

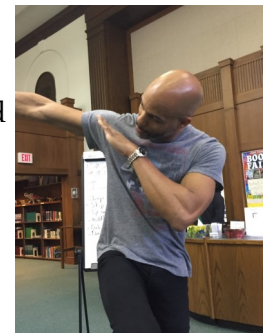
Later he led workshops. In the photography workshop, we learned good angles for taking pictures and how to do a pan.

And in the writing workshop, he taught us about com-

His poems were so good he could probably do a split  
But they looked really hard when John tried it

And in his workshops he had a lot to say  
With him here we had a great day

Why use a million when you could use ten?  
I can't wait till he comes back again



## Smith Turns His Tough Childhood into Success!



By Charley Martabano  
Tusker Tribune Staff

That's right folks! Thanks to Mrs. Gelman, and the PTA, Charles R. Smith got to finally return after 6 WHOLE years!

Charles R. Smith came here from a hard upbringing! Gun shots were fired and the gangs would fight every hour! Charles R. Smith went to books for a cure! Charles R. Smith has many books. He showed us only a quarter of them

though, he has a total of over 30 books! It's quite amazing when you think about it.

He has a very busy life! He has traveled to around 7 countries and has traveled to 42 out of the 50 states of America! Charles R. Smith has met man famous people including Shaq and Coby Brian! All of the kids enjoyed his visit and could not wait for his return!

*Continued on page 2*

# Volkman's "Sport Scoop":

## Steven Curry Wins Back-to-Back MVP Awards

By Evan Volkman  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Stephen Curry has won his second straight Kia Most Valuable Player Award. He joined Steve Nash as the only point guards to win back-to-back MVPs, and post a 50-45-90 shooting percentage.

Curry was the first unanimous winner too, after receiving 131 1st place votes. He also finished in the top ten for Most Improved Player. To compare his stats from last year to this year, take a look at the following:

- He guided the Warriors from a 67-15 record, to a NBA all-time best, 73-9
- He upped his minutes per night from 32.7 to 34.2
- He upped his shooting percentage from .487 to .504
- He upped his three point percentage from .443 to .454



- He led the league for the second consecutive year in free throw percentage

- He raised his rebounds per contest from 4.3 to 5.4

- He led the league in steals per game with 2.1

- He raised his point per game from 23.8 to a league-leading 30.1

- He made 116 more three pointers, and broke his own record (Set in 2014-15) of 286, by making 402

- He started this season 51st all-time for career three-pointers made, and ended 19th.

You can't argue with the facts. He is by far the most dominant player on paper on the planet. In addition to his statistics, he provides a sizzle that no one else can.

Whether it is crossing opponents and making them fall to the ground, or making a 40 feet three pointer for the win, he can do it all. Curry has been brought into the conversation of best point guards of all time, and he is certainly up there. If he can keep this up for 5 or 6 more years, he will certainly be a legitimate contender for this role.

### SUCCESS from page 1

Charles R. Smith JR also did a couple of activities. The first activity was a pizza lunch with him so we could ask more questions! The questions were elaborate and the answers were amazing! He also did a writing workshop where we did 3 exercises! The first involved giving a different view of an object! Next we choose

a few words and created a column using words that matched the category! The final one we played a game where we had to use an action word to complete the sentence, "I \_\_\_\_\_ to the door!"

I saw kids eyes light up as they understood the concept, he was absolutely brilliant! The final workshop, with a total of 39 kids, was the photography workshop!

**The Tusker  
Tribune Staff**

**Remi Saad**

**Evan Volkman**

**Matthew Kushner**

**Hunter Duffy**

**Nitin Seshadri**

**Charley Martabano**



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**



## Matt Kushner's 'Time Warp' Series

### Part 2

#### Chapter 1

Watching yourself grow up is very strange. While doing this, you are able to see your life play out in front of your eyes.

It was all very sad, you know, watching your past life happen right in front of you. I was born on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1974, in Relishere. My mother died three years after I was born, and my father was forced to raise me until I was 16, when he died, following my mom. Thus, I was forced to raise myself.

The problem was, I was too old to be raised in a foster home, so I was on my own at 16. I got a job, moved to Milwaukee, and started going to college. After college, I decided that I should move back to Relishere. When I got there, things started looking up for me. I watched myself get married and open up a shop. I was happy, but the time would last short. I then had to reluctantly watch my wife die. From there, I watched the electronic shop across the road come back into business.



That's when I remembered a faint memory of the other 2016 that I lived in.

*People. Seeming to be falling into the ground.*

*Cars. Seemingly attracted to the sky.*

*Buildings. Being ripped off their foundations.*

It was still all too clear. Would it still happen? And how did that exactly happen? Was that a time paradox of some sort, taking affect?

I had to know.

"Good morning! Care to try out a roller board? Those things are totally rad!"

"Er... I'm fine. I'll just look around the shop."

The electronic shop was packed, unlike mine, which sat across the street, empty.

And so, I looked around, looking for anything suspicious. Let's see... roller boards, flying drones, massage chairs, and the- My face turned white. There was a stack of time machines on the wall. They resembled the old ones, but this time, they looked more fashioned for the 21<sup>st</sup> century generation. Oh god, oh god, oh god....

WHAT was I going to do?

## 'It Came from the Woods' — A Suspense Thriller Series . .



By Nitin Seshadri  
Tusker Tribune Staff

*We really should not have buried it in the woods. Looking back at it, I knew I should have warned them. It was a terrible creature with a deadly secret. I still regret that I didn't tell them before.*

**8:45 P.M.**

After burying the creature in the woods, the men stepped back, satisfied with their work. They sat down on a log and rested for a few minutes, tired from the digging. After a while, the men got up, dusted the dirt off their shorts, and walked off.



**9:30 P.M.**

The men strolled back to the village, ate dinner, and went to sleep. Meanwhile, a mile away from the town, the creature rose. It had a black body, the teeth of a shark, claws which could upturn an SUV in one swipe, and the demeanor of a crazed troll. It raised its nose in triumph! It had smelled the trail of the men. *Humans*, it thought. *Food.*

**9:45 P.M.**

As it lumbered towards the village, the smell of humans became stronger and stronger. *Food...food*, it thought. Finally, it had found the village. It howled with delight. As the creature broke into each house, the last thing all the inhabitants of the village saw was a set of sharp, gleaming teeth, open wide.

## The End is Near!!!! Yay!!!!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS



May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>:  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade visits Wash-  
ington, DC  
May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>: 5<sup>th</sup>  
grade visits SMS  
May 25<sup>th</sup>: ILS Lab  
Assessment  
May 25<sup>th</sup>: Chorus/  
Orchestra Concert  
May 26<sup>th</sup>: Living His-  
tory Day  
May 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Schools  
Closed (Memorial

#### Weekend)

June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>: ES Regents Lab Practical  
June 8<sup>th</sup>: Band Concert  
June 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> PE Final (in class)  
June 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Language Fi-  
nal (one piece per day)



June 13<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Social Stud-  
ies exam  
June 14<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Math final  
June 14: Yearbook  
Distribution  
June 15<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Math final  
June 16<sup>th</sup>: Algebra

#### Regents

June 16<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Science final  
June 17<sup>th</sup>: Earth Science Regents (AM)  
June 17<sup>th</sup>: Geometry (PM)  
June 17<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> Social Studies final  
June 17<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Health  
June 20<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> Health final  
June 20<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies final  
June 20<sup>th</sup>: FLACS Exam  
June 20<sup>th</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation practice, 8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Dance at  
Villa Barone (7-  
9PM)  
June 20<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Splash-  
down trip  
June 21<sup>st</sup>:  
\*Raindate for  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Splashdown trip  
June 22<sup>nd</sup>: 1/2  
day (dismissal  
at 11:30AM)

June 22<sup>nd</sup>: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation (2:00PM)  
June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Last day of school for 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
(1/2 day – dismissal at 11:30AM)



## Volkman's Music Mayhem!

A weekly  
compilation of  
popular tunes

### By Evan Volkman Tusker Tribune Staff

1. One Dance (feat. Wizkid & Kyla) - Drake
2. Panda - Desiigner
3. Messin' Around (feat. Enrique Iglesias) - Pitbull
4. I Took A Pill In Ibiza (Seeb Remix) - Mike Posner
5. Don't Let Me Down (feat. Daya) - The Chainsmokers
6. 7 Years - Lukas Graham
7. CAN'T STOP THE FEELING - Justin Timberlake
8. This Is What You Came For (feat. Rihanna) - Calvin Harris
9. Work From Home (feat. Ty Dolla \$ign) - Fifth Harmony
10. Sorry - Beyonce
11. Too Good (feat. Rihanna) - Drake
12. Work (feat. Drake) - Rihanna
13. Never Forget You (feat. MNEK) - Zara Larsson
14. Close (feat. Tove Lo) - Nick Jonas
15. My House - Flo Rida
16. Cake By The Ocean - DNCE
17. Needed Me - Rihanna
18. Rock Bottom (feat. DNCE) - Hailee Steinfeld
19. Kiss It Better - Rihanna
20. Lay You Down Easy (feat. Sean Paul) - MAGIC!

### Top 20 Songs As of 5/19/16



# The U.S. and the Gold Standard



**By Nitin Seshadri  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever seen a foreign exchange rate board or looked at an exchange rate calculator, and noticed that every so often, the rate of gold to U.S. dollars changes?

Since the time of the Civil War until 1971, dollars had a strict exchange rate to ounces of gold: \$20.67 per ounce. This meant that no matter what happened, even if there was a gold rush or the gold in the earth had run out, every ounce of gold was worth \$20.67. This meant that the economy was kept stable over long periods of time. This might look good to some people, as it may seem that there can be no inflation (prices going up) or deflation (prices going down). The Federal Reserve was created in 1914 to help mitigate such fluctuations.

However, having a fixed exchange rate with gold, otherwise known as the “gold standard”, meant that your riches could fluctuate with how valuable gold was at the time. For example, if there was a gold rush, prices would skyrocket as merchants marked up their prices (so they could get gold).

But, if there was a gold “slump”, less gold could buy more. So, this could work out in either way, like a double-edged sword.

For this reason, many countries, by the 20th century had left the gold standard and they had variable exchange rates in relation to gold. (There are still countries that still are on the gold standard.) Britain was one such country that



stayed on the gold standard—up until 1931. The British Central Bank (its version of the Federal Reserve) was known for keeping a very short supply for gold—so thin, in fact, that in 1931, speculative attacks on the pound (the British currency) forced it stop giving out gold when millions of depositors withdrew their money from

banks. As a result, some depositors lost money that had been cashed in the bank. They then left the gold standard as a result.

Now let's fast forward to 1934, when the price of gold had been inflated to \$35 per ounce. The jump in price increased the assets of the Federal Reserve by over 65%. This allowed them to inflate the money supply and keep prices constant to prevent economic fluctuations. This worked, but not effective enough.

The implications of staying on the gold standard were taking a toll on the U.S. economy, and a speculative attack on the dollar could have occurred the same way it happened to Britain.

In 1971, President Richard Nixon declared that “the government will not pay any fixed value of cash for gold”, thereby driving the US off the gold standard.

## Sources

Bernanke, Ben S. *The Federal Reserve and the Financial Crisis*. N.p.: Princeton UP, 2013. Print.

PSDgraphics.com. *Gold Bars PNG*. Digital image. PSDgraphics.

PSDgraphics, n.d. Web. 15 May 2016. <<http://www.psdgraphics.com/file/gold-bars-png.png>>.



## POETRY

### In Motion

*By Remi Saad*

### Spinning until no end

*Spinning and spinning until  
no end  
Getting dizzy and dizzy  
I fall  
No one is there to catch me  
Spinning*

*Mid air  
Dreaming and dreaming  
Wind in my hair  
Eyes closed  
Spinning*

*Suddenly, wind stops  
Eyes open  
I look down  
You welcoming me  
With open arms  
Spinning*

*I'm still falling  
It was just a dream  
I woke up  
With a dizzy head  
On a rock  
Shaped like a heart  
Spinning*

*I look around  
Dark  
I see a shining light  
I walk up  
Shaped like a heart is a  
jewel  
Glittering in the moonlight  
Spinning*

*Spinning and spinning until  
no end  
In a tunnel that goes on  
until infinity  
I finally stop*