



The Tusker Tribune



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Lockers: Source of Stress and Decoration



**By Eve Clark
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Lockers. We all love them, we all want them, but did anyone know how much of a pain they can be?

I don't think anyone understood that you would have to go to your locker after almost every class and you only have 4 MINUTES!

Some people's lockers are on the third floor and a good amount of peoples classes are on the first and second floor. Having to go right before the buses is a hassle. You have to get everything out of your locker and put it in your bag, most likely get the code wrong and then go down to the front of the school.



The locks are the worst part—you go a little bit too far off your number and you have to restart, while on a time limit. Most students' lockers didn't even work until the second week.

But of course, the best part of lockers are the decorations, I personally put a disco ball and a white board in mine. What did you decorate your locker with?

How Has COVID Changed Us?



**By Jason Graessle
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Coronavirus has changed us in many ways, whether it's mask wearing, depression, or staring at a wall in your basement for two years.

However, now while being able to be in school, you appreciate people, even though you may be wary of them. Last year, I did e-learning, and now doing in-person, I feel like a gift that was given to me most of my life that I did not enjoy, is being handed back in a new form.

You reading this may feel like I used to about school—boring, useless, and that get-me-the-heck-out-of-here feeling, but trust me, I took learning

in person as the dumbest idea on earth. I wanted to do it from home. And then I did it from home. I mean sure, I got sick lighting, a nice desk, recess where I could do whatever I want, and a sense of, "I can go to the couch or wherever." But that gets boring after a while.

No walking to different classes, no seeing friends, and no feeling like you can be as focused as you can, mostly because of the god-awful microphones that drive you up a wall. But I'm not saying it was all down moments. I really had fun during breaks, I got new friends, I overheard people's house conversations because they didn't know how to mute, or they just wouldn't mute.

If you want my honest, truthful opinion, I have no idea if I'd want to do it again, because it had downsides, big down sides, and upsides the size of Mount Everest.

But I'd choose in-person learning for sure.



'I Now Pronounce You Dog and Dog!'



**By Xavier Tejeda
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Have you ever been to a dog wedding? No! I am not surprised but I have been to one and it was chaos.

It was a normal Sunday morning, and then all I hear is loud music and the sound of a mop being dropped and a Hispanic mother getting angry (the Hispanic mother is mine.) I come out of my room to hear all the stuff I have to do for a dog wedding. I am angry, but not because of the chores I have to do. It's that why is my one-year-old puppy getting a wedding before me? It's whatever because I finish my chores, and then I



realize "Ugh, they're gonna use my speaker to play music all day."

It's all right because my cousins came over and we were talking about how dumb this wedding is—the dogs had cakes, dresses, and rings. The funny part is that my puppy is smaller than the bride, so I wonder how that's gonna work and at the end of the night, because the wedding lasted until

3 a.m., my puppy already liked another dog and that dog is a boy.

But it doesn't matter—at the end of the wedding, everybody left happy except me because I had to clean up the mess. Do I regret waking up? Yes. And I'm angry but I did have fun that day.

Climate Change Does Affect Our World



By Emely Cordero
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you ever thought how life would be with a different climate every day and having to dress differently. Like one day, you would dress warmly for the cold, and the next day, refreshing clothes for a very hot day.?

Well, climate change might be the reason we may do this in the future. Human activities are changing the earth's natural greenhouse. They have also increased concentrations of greenhouse gasses.

The main cause of climate change is human activity, like burning fossil fuels, which produce carbon dioxide—a greenhouse gas. It's called a greenhouse gas because it produces a greenhouse effect.



The effects of climate change include earth becoming warmer, with some regions having warmer temperatures, while others, while not getting warmer, may become wetter or dryer.

Depending on the temperature, the greenhouse effect will warm the ocean and melt the glaciers and ice sheets, which will increase the sea level. The ocean will also expand as it warms, causing the sea level to rise.

For people who plant vegetables, the effects might be positive and negative. Some of the laboratory experiments suggest that the elevated CO₂ levels can increase plant growth, but other things like changing temperatures, ozone, and the water and nutrient limitation, may hurt growth. Climate extremes, like droughts, floods and extreme temperature can lead to crop loss and threaten the income of agricultural producers.

Human activities have warmed up our planet over the past 50 years. Industrial activities that the modern civilization depend on have raised the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels from 280 part per million to around 217 parts per million in the last 151 years. So what do you think about climate change?

The Red-Eyed Wolves



By Aubrey Rodriguez
Tusker Tribune Staff

It all started on Friday the 13th...

Rex was walking in the woods. He stopped and looked around. Then he saw a wolf. It looked . . . different.

Rex left the woods thinking about the weird wolf. He went home and went to sleep. After school the next day, he walked out and he saw the wolf again, but this time, the wolf's eyes were glowing red!

Rex ran to the woods and walked on his usual path. He looked around, and he saw not one, not two, but 18 wolves with glowing red eyes. Rex got scared and tried to run out, but the wolves stopped him...**He screamed and there was silence, and he never came back. . .**



The Possibility of Evil—the Prequel



By Akousa Adobea-Wired
Tusker Tribune Staff

My Mama; she is a great one. Always makes sure everything is perfect. "Adela, comb that nappy, frizzy hair right now!" she would say. "You smell terrible so go and take a shower," she would shout.

She was the most beautiful woman I've seen my whole entire life. She is 60, black curly hair, 5'5 feet tall, brown eyes, and very thick. I hope to be like her one day, however I am flat, I have frizzy hair that doesn't wish to cooperate with me, and I'm 4' 8" inches tall.

Just like she corrects everyone to make sure they are perfect, I want to do



the same. Every day, Mama and I skipped around Pleasant Street searching for new fertilizers for our sweet 'ol roses. Well, this is our street, anyways. My dear grandfather built the first house around here a couple dec-

ades ago. Our family is a legend, aren't we?

"Adelaaaaaaaa, are you awake? I hope you are dressed properly because we have to go," Mama hollered.

"Yes Mama, I am," I muttered tiredly. "Excuse me missy. Don't you go around muttering to yo mama and the townsfolk," Mama says as she checks out my outfit. "Change the shoes, they don't go with the dress. And get some lip gloss on, your lips look like the Sahara desert." I do as my mama says.

We start by going to Tommy Lewis's house. He's my best friend. We go everywhere together and I love his goofiness. He has blonde hair, is 5 feet tall, and has very long eyelashes. I can't complain about anyone having a crush on him because he sure is pretty handsome.

"Heyyyyyy Addieeeeeee, whatchu doing over there?" Tommy comically hollers.

I chuckle and holler back, "Just coming to visit real quickly and get some fertilizers."

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The Possibility of Evil

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He smiles and lets me and Mama in. Mama glares at Tommy and says, "Boy don't your daddy teach you to close the door after your guests?"

"Sorry, Miss Strangeworth. I'll go do that now."

As Mama and Tommy's dad, Mr. Lewis, chat, Tommy and I play with the Legos in his room.

Ever since my daddy died and Tommy's mom died in that tragic car crash, we've been like brothers and sisters to each other. And Mr. Lewis has been so caring to me and Mama as well.

"Hey, you wanna see a new game my daddy got me?" Tommy asks.

But as soon as I'm about to reply, Mama clears her throat behind and says, "Adela, tell your sweet friend Tommy that you have to go and study and collect important things. Tell him you don't have time for those little toys of his right now."

I shrug my shoulders and mouth the words "I'm sorry, how about next time?" to Tommy as he nods at me and Mama.

He closes the door for us as Mama murmurs so Tommy doesn't hear, "What did I tell you about those toys of his? You are about to be 14, Adela! You don't have time for those. If you want to be a proper woman like me, you must listen to what I say."

Knowing that Mama is always right, I nod my head agreeing with her.

As we skip to the supermarket, we find the tree leaves, coffee grounds, eggshells, and grass clippings and collect them from the sample area. We encounter Martha Harper and we wave. She is so beautiful and I wish to be her close friend one day.

"Hey you there," my Mama shouts to the Stewarts'. "Your papers are hanging everywhere from your bag. Fix it!" The Stewarts smile politely at Mama as they fix it but as soon as she looks away, they roll their eyes at her. Why, how could they do that? She was just trying to help.

Mama then yells to one of the employees in the supermarket, "The row of fishes are crooked. Nobody likes that. You might as well take better care of your hygiene too." Mama mumbles while shaking her head, "Ugh, these filthy flawed people have spoiled Pleasant Street's name and legacy." Unsure of what to say, I just shook my head as well.

When we got home, Mama watched me as I sprayed the fertilizers on the roses, correcting everything I do wrong. I can never make a mistake in feeding the roses because they are our precious babies. I then make rice and beans with

green peas for Mama and I to eat while we watch the news. I personally don't like rice and beans with green peas but Mama expects me to love it since it's healthy, so I act as though it is my favorite. Mama grumbles about all the crime from the news and how this town and street will never be perfect just like she is. We both take 20 minutes taking showers, then head off to bed.

I say my prayers then think about how Mama is so perfect. I wake up to see it is still dark. The sound of Mama's voice shrieking and screaming startles me. I hear something rustling but I don't know what it is. I went into her room without knocking which I am obviously not supposed to do and I couldn't believe my eyes.

Gathered together are the Stewarts, Mr. Lewis, Martha Harper, Tommy, the employees from the supermarket, and my teacher, Miss Fundleson, all gathered up together tying Mama to her bed and choking her.

"WHAT ARE YOU DOING?" I shout. Are they out of their minds?

The Stewarts yelled, "Your mother is cruel and vile and corrects us for every single thing we do wrong in a malicious way. We must get rid of her so we can live our lives the way we want to."

"NO, I WILL NEVER ALLOW THAT."

But before I try to do anything, Tommy ties my fingers together. I couldn't believe it. How could my very own best friend betray me like this? As if he was reading my mind, he whispered,

"I'm so sorry. My father told me to contribute to this. But your mother is way too strict to us and you know it. I will be working at a store now so I can't be friends with you anymore or spend time with you. Goodbye Adela." This is baffling.

Before they beheaded Mama with the knife, Mama ululated, "Adela, make sure you carry our legacy. Go on correcting others so they may be perfect as I am and as you will be. However, be smart about it so you do not end up in my position. And as always, take great care of yourselves and our roses. I love you."

As they killed her in front of me, spitefully, I began to cry silently for the wickedness of the world.



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Is the New Backpack Rule Unfair?



By Evelyn Aronoff
Tusker Tribune Staff

The new backpack rule seems a little unfair, making kids keep their bags against the wall instead of allowing them to walk around with them.

They should let kids walk around with their bag if they want.

Some kids have trust issues and leaving theirs behind is annoying or bothering. So, I feel we should get rid of it. This rule may spike kids' anxiety or worse.

Along with this, some kids steal from backpacks. It's happened before, and it could happen again.

Most kids have phones or air pods or money



kept in their backpacks and those items could get stolen.

They only made this rule so kids won't be on their phones during recess, which is not even that big of an issue. Most kids just talk to their friends during recess or play sports. And if a kid is on their phone and they are alone, that often means they don't have any friends and no one to talk to so they only get comfort from their phone. It makes them feel good, and what would they rather do—just sit there, alone, head down just looking depressed? No, that's embarrassing.

Therefore, I think they should let kids have their backs during recess. What harm could it do? All people want is for it to at least be optional.

The Afghanistan Crisis



By Anya Khurana
Tusker Tribune Staff

Have you been reading or watching the news lately? If you have, you may have noticed that a country called Afghanistan has been mentioned a lot lately. Afghanistan is a country located in central Asia. Afghanistan is bordered by Pakistan to the east and the south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the north, and Tajikistan and China to the northeast. Its population is a little over 30 million people, 48% of those people being female.

Afghanistan has been a place of danger and fear for 20 years and it all started after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City. Back in 2001, the USA wanted revenge on those responsible for these attacks and officials identified an Islamist terrorist group called Al-Qaeda and their leader, Osama Bin Laden, responsible for these attacks. At the time, Osama Bin Laden was in Afghanistan under the protection of the Taliban, another Islamic terrorist group that had been in power since 1996. When the Taliban refused to hand over Osama Bin Laden to the USA, the USA fought back, using the military and they quickly removed the Taliban.

Soon, NATO allies joined the USA, and a new Afghan government took power in 2004 but sadly, the deadly Taliban attacks continued. In 2009, President Barack Obama made a troop surge which helped push the Taliban back, but not for long, and so, the Taliban kept on fighting with the USA, NATO, and the Afghan government. In 2014, NATO retrieved its international forces, giv-



ing a lot more responsibility for security and safety to the Afghan government. This, unfortunately, gave the Taliban the opportunity to seize more territory.

In 2020, an agreement between the USA and the Taliban was made and the USA agreed to remove all American and NATO forces in 14 months if the Taliban did not allow Al-Qaeda or other militants operate in areas it controlled. However, this deal did not stop Taliban attacks. Instead, the Taliban just moved their focus to the Afghan government, forces, and civilians, carrying out targeted assassinations and the areas that the Taliban controlled, grew.

Now, the Taliban controls almost all of Afghanistan and they are pushing to get other countries to recognize the Taliban as the official government of Afghanistan. How the Taliban plan to govern Afghanistan is still unclear but women in Afghanistan face an uncertain and scary future. The Afghan women fear for their freedom to work, dress as they choose, or even leave their house without a male accompanying them under Taliban rule. Another major fear is that Afghanistan will turn into a training ground for terrorism again though, Taliban officials say that they will keep their word from the US-Taliban deal and prevent any terrorist group from planning an attack on the US from Afghan soil.

The future of Afghanistan is unclear and may remain unclear for quite some time. No one knows what the Taliban has in store for Afghanistan but people are scared and fear that Afghanistan doesn't have a pleasant future is spreading around. What will happen to Afghanistan? Only time will tell.

Source: BBC News