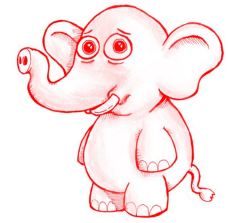


# The Tusker Tribune

## The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2018

## Were There Clues to YouTube Shooter's Intentions?



By Sean Moran  
Tusker Tribune Staff

The headquarters of popular video streaming site YouTube experienced a shooting on Tuesday, where the attacker shot three employees, who were all taken to the hospital, leaving one in critical condition.

Afterwards, Nasim Aghdam, a 39-year-old video creator who utilized YouTube as her main platform for her videos, took her own life on the headquarters' premises.

According to police, her motive appeared to be that she claimed the company's filter age restricted and demonetized some of her videos. Her father spoke to reporters on Wednesday, saying he had reported her violent and strange behavior to police multiple times.

Both YouTube and Google executives from YouTube's parent company expressed their shock and fear regarding the situation. One statement from Google's chief executive tweeted, "There are no words to describe the tragedy that occurred to-

day."

Some of the suspects videos reflect her distaste for meat-eaters, and some featured exercise. Other motives are still being looked in to, and a full investigation is imminent.

The suspect complained about her demonetization issues many times on various accounts. She did contact the YouTube support team about the issue, but it was not resolved. She claimed she was purposely targeted by YouTube and that they did not want her to earn any money from her videos.

She was also able to gain access to the building easily via an underground parking garage due to the lack of security at the various entrance points.

Security in the building is expected to be heightened in the next few weeks. Many movements advocating for gun control have used this, in addition to the recent school shootings, as evidence for the need to reduce an increase in gun violence in America.



## Ready Player One—A Review



By Liam King  
Tusker Tribune Staff

*Ready Player One* is a science fiction book that was written in 2011 by Ernest Cline. It quickly gained fame, even becoming a *New York Times* bestseller.

A short seven years later, Warner Brothers teamed up with Stephen Spielberg to release a movie for the sensational book. It received positive reviews, with a 75% from *Rotten Tomatoes* and an 8/10 from *IMDb*.

I saw the movie a day before it was supposed to be released at the iPic theater in Dobbs Ferry. It was quite intriguing and enjoyable; however, it did have its flaws.

The book *Ready Player One* is extremely



well-written, and my favorite novel of all time. The story is set in 2045, and the plot is about an 18-year-old named Wade Watts. He lives in a trailer stack in Columbus, Ohio with his aunt.

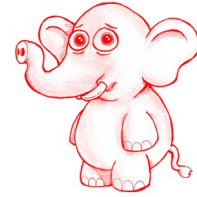
Wade grew up using a school-issued OASIS, which is an extremely advanced virtual reality headset that everyone uses. For those who live in 2045, virtual reality is reality, as everything outside is barren and polluted. The creator of the OASIS died a few years before, and people have been trying to find an Easter Egg that contains half a trillion dollars and the ownership of the OASIS.

Wade goes out of his way to try to find the Easter Egg to keep it out of the hands of the main antagonists, the IOI (Innovative Online Industries). The movie's plot is identical, but the way the story unfolds is much different and way more modern.

*Continued on page 2*



## Sonnenblick, Collins Know How to Write for Kids



By **Donovan Smith**  
Tusker Tribune Staff

"What are you reading?" is a standard question from my mom so I thought I'd

spotlight two authors whose books I have been reading in case you are looking for an answer if your parent is asking, "What are you reading?" too.

Jordan Sonnenblick is an author whose books I had been reading. It started with a partnership read in Mr. Pappas' 2<sup>nd</sup> period ELA class in December with two classmates when we selected the book, Notes from the Midnight Driver.

This book was selected ironically because it had three available copies. The book was an easy read and I actually liked it. So, I moved on to another one of Sonnenblick's books and then another and then another.

I have read Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie, After Ever After and Curveball: The Year I Lost My Grip. The books are good because they are relatively short and filled with middle and high school themes



that most kids can relate to. The author's writing is funny, sarcastic and sometimes emotional.

I then moved on to Suzanne Collin's trilogy The Hunger Games. I have finished the first book, The Hunger Games and am in the process of finishing the second book Catching Fire.

The final book Mockingjay is waiting for me. The books follow the main characters Katniss and Peeta through the Hunger Games—a do or die competition that is aired live on TV. So far, the books have held my interest, peaked my curiosity and have been hard to put down. The genre of these books is science-fiction thriller and they haven't disappointed me yet!

So, if you are looking for a new author to explore, perhaps you should walk yourself to the SMS library, Somers Library, Barnes and Nobles or hit the internet for a download and check out the books by Jordan Sonnenblick and Suzanne Collins so you have an answer when your parent asks, "What are you reading?"

### Ready Player One

*Continued from page 1*

The book contains a lot of references from the 1980s that may be obscure to some kids today. It is an adult novel after all. However, the movie includes both references from the 1980s and modern references to satisfy both parent and child.

The message of the story is to persevere through any condition, believe in yourself and be loyal to your friends.

Overall, I would give the movie a 7/10. The cinematography and the CGI were stunning. The acting was average, but certain characters stood

out, especially Tye Sheridan and his passionate portrayal of Wade Watts/Parzival.

However, the most crucial reason for why I only gave the movie *Ready Player One* a 70% is because compared to the book, the movie is sub-par. For a person who's never read the book, the movie would be amazing. However, after reading the near-perfect book, watching the movie did not impress me as much. If the movie was exactly like the book, I would probably rate it a 9.5/10.

If you are interested in thrilling, action-packed novels, I would recommend reading the book before watching the movie. However, you can still enjoy the movie without having any idea about the book. It's a family-friendly film with a good message.

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The Tusker Tribune is featured online and is published weekly (except during school vacations) on the Somers Middle School Website. It is entirely student-written by 6th, 7th and 8th grade students

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## Shattered



By **Juliana Spano**  
Tusker Tribune Staff

She holds it  
knowing it could break at any second;  
She grips it tighter  
and releases;

She isn't moving,  
too afraid to drop  
it;

She shuts her  
eyes,  
takes a deep  
breath,  
and stretches her  
hand out,  
letting it shatter on the floor.

She falls to her knees,  
and she covers her eyes,  
as the tears flow.  
It's broken  
and it can't be fixed.  
She will never be fixed.

She stands.  
She walks away  
with one piece of her shattered heart ;  
Not letting it go until it's fixed.



## Time to Get Rid Of Winter Break?



By **Aleksiana Rukaj**  
Tusker Tribune Staff

Many students are outraged! As soon as we had that week off school due to the Nor'easter, we just knew that our spring break was in the dumps.

Most students had already made plans for the spring break to go away and could not cancel. The debate continues, though. Should we get rid of mid-winter break for next year or not?

As soon as we students had no spring break left, we all thought "wouldn't it be smarter to replenish the mid-winter break?" Well, I think so! And here's why: They give us a mid-February break just in case we have snow days during it (so that they don't take off our spring break) but if we didn't have mid-winter break, that would leave us more snow days to use up in case we did need them (which in this case, we would have). Wouldn't that be more beneficial to not only the students, but the staff as well?

I surveyed a student and got her take on this new idea. I surveyed Hester Turner on how she felt about the mid-winter break idea. "I think that this would be a better idea than having only a couple of snow days to use rather than being able to have a lot more!"

## March Madness Recap



By **Lindon Ulaj**  
Tusker Tribune Staff

As many people know, March Madness is a very popular event. It is watched by millions of people across the country and throughout the world.

There are many rounds included with this college Basketball tournament, with about 64 teams. This takes place throughout March. This gets all the way down to the championship, which was held in San Antonio, Texas this year.

There are many rounds such as Elite 8, Sweet 16, Round of 64, etc. This tournament has the top teams in the country playing each other. What makes this tournament the most popular? Any team can beat anyone. This year, a 16th-seeded team beat the top-rated team from Virginia. This was the first time ever this has happened in all the years this



tournament has happened. Anyone can beat anyone so the games are exciting to watch.

People bet thousands of dollars on teams. The NCAA has made a program where you make a bracket and you pick one out of the two teams. If you get it right, you get a point.

Once the tournament is taken down to the championship, you get 32 points if your prediction is right. Last week, the championship was held in San Antonio with Villanova and Michigan battling for the championship. Only one can win, which was Villanova. This team had beaten many records throughout this tournament, such as most 3 pointers in a single game.

Also, in the most recent championship game, one of Villanova bench players broke a record never seen before. He was Donte DiVincenzo and he had scored 31 points in a single college game. This was the most in a college championship game. Overall, this is one of America's top playoffs to watch.

# The Power of Memes



**By Stefan Swee  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

What are memes?  
Many people ask, including my mom multiple times.

Memes are the meaning of life, the reason we get up in the morning, the reason the Internet exists and the reason a lot of people get in trouble for looking at their phone in school.

There are many types of memes like ironic memes, Dank memes, edgy memes and many others I'm not allowed to talk about.



Meme of the Month Calendar

There are also Dead memes. Dead memes are memes that are longer funny. Just to list a few there are the Harambe memes, Dat boi memes, do you know da wae memes, salt bæ memes, Joe Biden memes, Hey Beter memes, boss baby memes and many more.

People who like those memes are called Normies or dead memers. Normies like dead memes. These are some memes that used to be funny in 2016 but are now dead. You can search up Meme of the Month calendars and you can see some memes of the year but most of them are dead by now.

## Music Report



**By Noah Volkman  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

### Invasion of Privacy – Cardi B



She is the new Queen of Rap. She is engaged to rapper Offset of Migos. She is pregnant. She is releasing her debut album, *Invasion of Privacy*, tomorrow. "Bodak Yellow" was a hit, "Bartier Cardi" was a hit, "Be Careful" is coming on the rise, etc. She is taking over.

**Bodak Yellow**

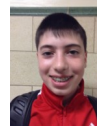
- Bartier Cardi (featuring 21 Savage)
- Be Careful
- Drip (featuring Migos)

### Chanel (feat. Pharrell) - Rae Sremmurd

Pleeese, Rae Sremmurd! Just put out *SremmLife 3!* And stop releasing your singles as "Swae Lee, Slim Jxmmi & Rae Sremmurd"! Swae Lee and Slim Jxmmi are Rae Sremmurd!  
**Chanel (featuring Pharrell)**



## State Testing Time! Is it Worthwhile?



**By Joseph Melillo  
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Are the NYS test worth taking?  
Many students and adults do not see the point in taking these tests.

I'm Joseph Melillo and I'm going to tell you about the state test. The state test takes 2 days, and two hours during the school day is set aside for testing periods. However, if a student needs more time, he or she can take that time beyond the regular testing period.

On day one of state testing students need to complete 35 multiple choice questions. On day 2 students need to complete 6 short response questions and 1 extended response question.

Many students do not like these tests. They ask, what is the point in taking it?

We students already take the STAR math and STAR reading assessments. If the state really needs to see how our students are doing, they can just take the results from our STAR tests.

The state test is just putting more stress on the students. That stress is piled onto the stress from having to go to school on spring break days. Also, the state test makes the school run on a two-hour delay schedule. This also aggravates teachers because the last time we had a full week was almost a month ago, so the shortened periods are tough for fitting in lessons. There is also a lot of homework, so students have a lot of stress from the homework.

Maybe it's time to look at a different way of assessing our progress!

