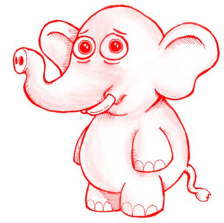


The Tusker Tribune

The Student Newspaper of Somers Middle School



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Spring 2018

Get Set for a Blustery Zoo Trip!!!!



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

Rainy weather, cold days and wind. Will any of these factors affect the 7th grade Bronx Zoo trip tomorrow?

The weather is supposed to just be cloudy on Friday but there are chances of showers throughout the day. Most of the exhibits are outside and aren't covered by an overhang or anything like that.



The high for Friday is 53 degrees and the low is 39 so

sweatshirts and jackets are likely to be needed. I would also recommend pants and sneaker as a good type of shoe to wear.

I also recommend bringing a drawstring bag and not a backpack because we are leaving after announcements and will not return until the end of the day, so no books will be needed. We are also allowed to bring our phones to take picture of the animals and you must bring your own lunch as we are not allowed to buy food there.

We are also allowed to buy merchandise if we bring our own money. Remember the trip is tomorrow so come prepared!



Take Care Wandering Through The Instagram Minefield



By Ezra Weinstein
Tusker Tribune Staff

Most people in the world have the social media app called Instagram. Instagram is a social networking application that allows you to create a profile and post photos or short clips.

On Instagram, you can follow and friend people who you know. You should only friend the people you know because there are people who are adults but lie about their age online. Those people could try to steal your personal information such as your age and other information you only share with your parents.

You have to be very careful on Instagram and even on the internet itself. This is my story about Instagram predators.



**Weinstein's
Wisdom**



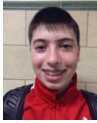
One day I was watching a video on YouTube and noticed a notification from Instagram had popped up. I clicked on the widget and it said someone had messaged me. What they messaged was very inappropriate and I do not feel comfortable sharing it because of how bad it was. It was not someone black mailing me or cursing; it was weird. The only thing I will reveal is that it had to do with sexual content.

If someone ever asks for your personal information, messages you sexual content, or is harassing you in any way, block the user and report his or her profile for whatever reason. Do not ever trust anyone on the internet.

The only people you should communicate with are your friends and family. The internet is a dangerous place and is not as safe as you think. Be sure to think before you do something or post something mean or inappropriate online.

You never know what can happen on the huge internet.

Computerized Testing? Fix the Glitches, First!



By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

April 11 and April 12 were the days that the 6th grade took the computerized NY State ELA Exam.

The 6th grade was the only grade to take the state test on the tablets. The company that has the contract to supply the tests—Questar—experienced “minor” issues when the entire state went on it for real during the test dates.

Previously, the state tried out the computerized exam on a series of test runs, but different schools did it on different days so the state was not prepared for the entire state to get on at once.

On the first day of state testing everything was going smoothly until it came to the time when the students had to log on. The entire Questar server froze on the login screen so that the students could not get on the server to actually take the test.

And during the actual test, some of the kids who took it at first had to retake it due to their tablets and the server freezing. So overall, the experience was pretty stressful.

Noah Volkman says “I like using technology, but I think we should keep this on paper.”

Better yet, I think that the students should have a choice on whether to take it on paper or on the tablets.

On day 2 of testing, it ran much more smoothly. The server didn’t freeze and the login went smoothly. However, it would have been less stressful if Questar had been better prepared.

In conclusion, if the state wants students to take the computerized state test, they should make sure the server can handle all the students. They should also give students the chance to decide whether or not they will take the state test on paper or on the computer.



Point Blanc By Anthony Horowitz



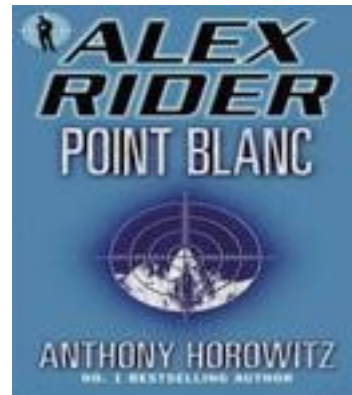
By Max Harkins
Tusker Tribune Staff

A contract killer, named The Gentleman (based on the fact that he mailed flowers to the family of the victims after he murdered them), has just killed billionaire Michael Roscoe by sabotaging his personal elevator.

Right after school, he sees a drug dealer dealing drugs from his car. Alex chases his car to their barge in the harbor. He is near a work site, so he hijacks a crane and lifts the barge to place it next to the police station. The police take him into custody, but release him to the MI6 because of his special status. MI6 sends him to millionaire Sir David Friend’s house.

Alex is acting as a rebellious ex-student in order to get into a ‘troubled’ kids school, Point Blanc, to see if he could find a connection to the mysterious murders of Michael Roscoe and Viktor Ivanov, another multi-billionaire.

Alex Rider is now alone in the French Alps, without help, trying to find out the most he can about Point Blanc. But what he discovers is much more dangerous than a



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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 from

**Somers Middle School
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Somers, NY, USA.**

Any SMS student is eligible to write stories. If interested, please e-mail Advisor Dean Pappas at

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So, What is it About 'No Hoods in School'?



**By Jack Van Tassel
and Anthony Tucci
Tusker Tribune Staff**

We believe that not allowing hoods in school is pointless and it is a waste of time to have the teachers yell at kids for having their hoods on.

The school's argument is that having a hood can help you conceal contraband. In our opinion, if a kid was trying to conceal an item, they would not hide it in their hood, and if someone was hiding something they would be able to hide it with or without a hood.

Why do teachers find hoods disrespectful? They do not have find it disrespectful.

When we wear hoods, we feel warmer than with the hood off. Also, when a kid has a bad hair day, he can just wear the hood.

We're allowed to wear hoods outside, so, why not inside? Why wasting your time just to tell

us take off our hoods. HOODS are GOOD!

Every single company that makes hoodies adds hoods to them. Most of these companies are very popular and have been using the same design for a long time.

If they believed hoods were bad or unnecessary, why would they add them to the sweatshirts?

If kids wear hoods, it would not be a distraction unless there is a rule against it, like in our school. If a kid is doing something he is not supposed to, it catches someone's eye.

If hoods were allowed, they wouldn't be a distraction and it would not affect the person wearing the hood.

Speaking for us and many other kids, we would like it if hoods were allowed so thank you for your time, have a great day, and remember:

HOODS ARE GOOD.



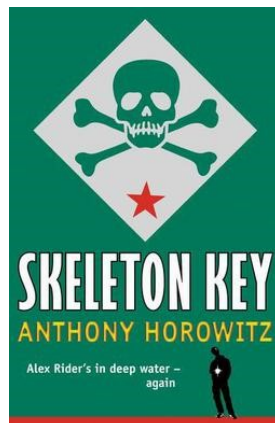
Skeleton Key By Anthony Horowitz



**By Max Harkins
Tusker Tribune Staff**

Three men bring uranium to General Alexei Sarov in return for \$1 million. After the three men attempt to blackmail him for \$250,000, he kills them by switching the runway lights for the private jet. The jet gets driven accidentally into a crocodile infested swamp, killing them efficiently and simply.

Back at school, Alex Rider is confronted by John Crawley, the office manager for MI6. Crawley offers Alex an opportunity to be a ball boy after a mysterious break-in in a professional tennis championship. Alex learns

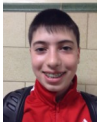


that the burglar is a Chinese national. Later, while on the lookout for him, Alex sees him and tries to follow him at a distance. The burglar then catches on and lures him into a trap to kill him.

Later, MI6 sends him over to the United States of America to the CIA. Glen Carter and Belinda Troy attempt to go to the house of General Alexei Sarov, but experience difficulties along the way. They need to find out where Sarov is keeping the uranium and what he is doing with it.

After Carter and Troy get killed brutally, Alex is forced to go after Sarov and his psycho killer, Conrad, alone and virtually weaponless. Alex finds out that General Sarov is not only building a bomb to eliminate a singular city, it is the whole of Russia along with plenty of other countries.

Analysis: The Homework Debate



By Joseph Melillo
Tusker Tribune Staff

It's time to take a deeper look into the controversial subject of homework. Some experts say, yes, homework benefits students mind. Other experts say, no, homework just puts more stress on students. What do you think? Let's take a deeper look at this subject.

Students shouldn't have homework. According to an online website called OccupyTheory, they say, "As students are growing older they should have less homework and instead should have more time should socialize with other people to form friendships.

The website also states, "Assigning homework forces a person to take on added disciplinary responsibilities. Should the child come home and decide that they would rather watch television or play with friends than do their homework, it is up to the parent to lay down the law and make sure that the homework is completed before the child can have fun. In many instances, the parent does not even agree with the rules they are making."

This means that parents force their children to do homework before doing anything fun with their friends. Homework also adds extra stress to students. For example, if students had a



test on the day after and they had a lot of homework, they would be stressed out because they'd have to study and do homework. This is why some experts believe students should have no homework or a limited amount of homework.

Students should have homework. The website OccupyTheory states, "If a student is having trouble completing their homework assignments, they are able to consult with their teacher about the specific aspects that are confusing to them,

which leads to a more cooperative learning experience. Without homework, children would left to their own devices for figuring out their schoolwork, which would cause children who learn unconventionally to be left behind." Which means, if a student doesn't have homework they would be alone while they try to figure out the problem. Also, since more parents are working, homework may be a way to bond, it may even get older siblings involved as well. This could lead to greater peace and harmony in families.

In conclusion, there are many different sides to whether students should have homework or not. Should students have homework? Or should they not have any homework? What do you think?

Thinking of Summer? Whoopie Pies Can Help!



By Caitlyn Stellwagen
Tusker Tribune Staff

Although it may seem far away, summer is soon! And you know what comes with summer? Yes, vacations and camps but, what comes with the weekends when you're not at camp? It's the worst. Boredom. When you're bored you probably look up some "easy crafts" on Pinterest or something like that. But, you come to find that they aren't so easy as they claim. So, I found an easy recipe for your own whoopie pies! And it's only 4 ingredients!

Ingredients

- 1/2 of an 8-ounce package reduced-fat cream cheese softened



- 1/4 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 of a 7-ounce jar marshmallow crème (Like Fluff)
- 12 soft chocolate cookies or your favorite soft cookies

Directions

For filling, in a medium mixing bowl beat cream cheese and butter with an electric mixer on medium to high speed until smooth and fluffy. Or mix it by yourself

with a spatula. Fold in marshmallow creme.

Spread filling on bottoms of half of the cookies. Top with the remaining cookies, bottom sides down. For firmer filling, wrap and chill about 2 hours before serving.

That's it! Enjoy!

Music Report



By Noah Volkman
Tusker Tribune Staff

PRETTYMUCH an EP – PRETTYMUCH



"Would You Mind"'s pop group PRETTYMUCH is in a big pool of wannabe One Directions right now. With their debut EP *PRETTYMUCH an EP* out tomorrow, this should give them a bump up.

1. [Hello](#) 2. [10,000 Hours](#) 3. [Healthy](#) 4. [On My Way](#)

THE WALMART YODELING KID

If you haven't seen it or heard about it yet, then



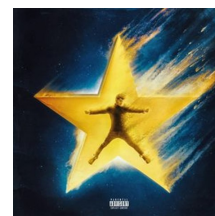
you've been under a rock for the last few weeks because yodeling kid Mason Ramsey did a cover of some old song in Walmart. He is living proof that you can get famous over night.

He ended up going to Coachella, an American music festival. [Walmart Yodeling Kid](#) [Walmart Yodeling Kid Live at Coachella](#)

COSMIC – Bazzi

Bazzi is a 5-star singer. First with "Mine" and then a bunch of other songs that weren't as popular but that I like.

[COSMIC by Bazzi on iTunes](#)



Baseball Season is in Full Swing!



By Juliana Spano
Tusker Tribune Staff

The sun is coming out and you know what that means—baseball time!

Both the MLB and local teams have started their seasons and have already participated in



games. Some Somers games have been cancelled due to the weather such as last weekend's 9U doubleheader in New Rochelle. However, the Somers 10U games against Yorktown were still on but were rough due to the cold and rainy weather.

Hopefully the weather will soon get warmer and the baseball players can play to their full potential under the sun! Play ball!

NBA and NHL Playoff Hype!



By Matthew Horowitz
Tusker Tribune Staff

The best months in the school year are April and May. The reason is because it is when most playoffs start.

For me, my favorite sport to watch during April through May is basketball because the scores can be so close, and one shot can make a difference in a game.



The NBA playoffs started on April 14th. The worst part of the playoffs is when your team gets eliminated or your team does not make the playoffs. Sadly, all my teams did not make it this year. The playoffs are the time to get hyped, get sad, get mad, and get annoyed at

one of the players on your team.

The second sport that is in the playoffs is hockey and that started on April 11th. Hockey is a crazy sport but, in the playoffs, it is even crazier. The hits are bigger, the goals mean more, and the crowds are bigger.

This year for the NHL playoffs, I think that the Vegas Golden Knights are going to win the Stanley Cup. The reason I want them to win is because it is their first year in the league and that would be the first time a first-year team won the Stanley Cup.

