

## Saved!

by Emily Miller

It was the day of the big football game, and Runza Rex was wearing the number 60 in honor of Runza's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He was running to the stadium because the pre-game Runza hamburger meal was about to be served to the team when... BOOM! Thunder rolled across the parking lot.

"Oh, no!" fretted Runza Rex. "It's starting to rain, and I don't have the hamburgers covered!" Suddenly, with great force, it started pouring down hail. "Ow!" Runza Rex cried multiple times before he finally realized he had no choice but to turn around and run towards Morrill Hall. As Runza Rex frantically sprinted to Morrill Hall, he saw the few cars that were left driving at least 200 miles per hour out of the parking lot like maniacs! "Whoa!" thought Runza Rex. "Why are they driving that fast?!" Sorry to say, he soon found out.

"RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!" screamed a voice. "WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!" yelled another one. "HOLMES LAKE DAM HAS OVERFLOWED!!" explained a teenage boy. "JUST SPRINT!!!!!" shouted a crazy-haired, middle-aged man. But, as you can probably guess, after about 5 minutes, the group was far out of Runza Rex's sight, and some very deep water was not far behind.

WHOOSH!!! Runza Rex heard water approaching quickly from behind him. All he could do was put on the heat and try to outrun the water which was not going to be easy. Too late!! The raging flood scooped Runza Rex up and carried him towards Morrill Hall. But, the water was slowly pulling him under.

Runza Rex tried to cry out as soon as he realized he was no longer afloat, but all that came out was a muffled whimper. He couldn't breathe! Suddenly, he stopped moving. This was weird because the flood water was constantly sending huge waves that made him flail in the air like a rag doll!

Slowly, he was lifted up above the water by two scooped tusks! "Scoop Tusker's the name and survivin's the game," boomed an all-bones animal. "By the way, this is Milford Mastodon." "Uh... hi!" Runza Rex

stammered, finally recovering from his shock. He must be in Morrill Hall now. That explains his "new friends."

"Well, let's get down to business," said Scoop Tusker. With Runza Rex still in his tusks, he went over to the wall, showed his bone-print, and amazingly, that particular spot slid open to reveal a secret elevator. "Now, don't tell anyone about this, alright?" said Milford Mastodon. "We saved your life, so don't endanger ours."

The ride down was quite smooth. When they finally reached the two friends' lair, Scoop lit a fire in a pit and sat down on a wood bench. Milford gave him a blanket and Runza Rex settled down in one of the dark, fire-lit corners. There was no electricity. Even though he was wet, cold and shivering, Runza Rex felt quite at home, especially since the flood was no longer raging upstairs.....

Runza Rex was awakened by an impatient Scoop Tusker. "Let's go!" he exclaimed. "It's time to take you back where you belong!" Scoop showed Runza Rex a dank and musty tunnel he had not noticed before. "You want me to go through, I'm guessing?" sighed Runza Rex. "Yep," was the reply. "The tunnel isn't long, and it leads to Memorial Stadium. But, first, let's warm up those hamburgers, so you can bring them to the team." Ten minutes later, Runza Rex was standing in the middle of all the team members eating a well-deserved hamburger.

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