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13-U: VICTORY AGAIN!



By Thomas Mauro
Tusker Tribune Staff

The 13U Tuskers have won the Taconic Youth Football championship for the 3rd time.

As a player for this team, I have to say we put in the work every day and got the biggest prize. We never lost and didn't win by less than 20 points. If that's not a great season, I don't know what is. In the championship game, we beat the Mahopac Indians 40-14 to close our final youth game. The game was broadcast on local live cable for everyone to see.

Since we were eight years old, we have put in the work at practice over 300 times. We worked the hardest, and it showed. We lost to one team in five years. No matter what challenge was thrown at us, we always prevailed, and I am very proud of that, and we should be as a team.



I'm proud to have played for this team and unfortunately, unlike every other year, there won't be next year. Well, there will be, but with different people. I will miss my phenomenal coaches who put in time I will never understand.

This is the most hands-on and dedicated coaching I have ever experienced. No matter what, they were always there to make sure we won, and I'd like to say thank you. I will also miss the bonds formed and the teammates who don't return. Even though I'm excited for the future, I'm sad this had to end. But in the end, don't be sad it's over; be happy that it happened.

Reporters/Contributors

Chloe Lee
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Growing Up Under Communism *An Interview with my Mom*



By Lucas Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff

Editor's Note: Lucas interviewed his mother, who grew up in Romania while it was under communist rule.

My mom grew up in a communist country in Eastern Europe in the 1980s. At that time, Europe was divided by the Iron Curtain between East and West. Eastern Europe was communist while Western Europe was capitalist.

The Iron Curtain was dividing Europe by adding a geographical barrier and keeping the Eastern countries far removed from any Western influence. Those on the East side could not travel easily to the West side. My mom grew up on the Eastern side of the curtain.

Q: How was it growing up in communism?



A: When you are little and cannot compare with or know anything else, I would say it was okay. Everyone was provided with the same type of house. There

was only one choice of car, and you could only choose its color. My father had a blue one. As a child going to school, we had to pledge allegiance to the Father of the Nation every morning. We only had one TV channel and cartoons played only at a certain time of the day.

Q: What was your best memory?

A: Living in an apartment building with a courtyard where all the kids would gather and play after school. An old lady used to come to the courtyard with homemade lollipops and she sold them for a quarter. It was a big deal because we did not have many choices of sweets.

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A Remote that Controls the World!

A response to a Writing Prompt from author Jason Reynolds



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

If I could have a remote control that would control the world, I would do these types of things.

I would first pause or use the rewind buttons on things I might have messed up. I know that sounds like cheating, but if you have a remote control that's all yours, what else would you do?

I would mute the people that I find annoying and just don't have to listen to what they are saying.

I would pause and rewind events that I have messed up on. Sometimes you don't have a second chance and you wish that you can go back in time. Or when you thought of something you could have done, but didn't because you didn't think of it of that moment. I would do exactly what I am thinking. I would go back in time and fix things that I messed up on and come right back. Time travel-



ing will not be a big problem because it's a tiny thing that I would only change a little bit of time.

Some people find other people annoying so I would mute them—you know, the people who annoy me and I can't avoid. Normally, I must go through their annoyance and so then if I could mute them, I would easily avoid them. I can't avoid all my problems but maybe I can avoid most of them.

To end with, I would do many things if I had a remote control that controlled the whole world. People who

I find annoying would finally be quite for once. And then things I have messed up on, they won't be in my head anymore.

I overthink a lot about my actions, and I think of things if I did something wrong or not. Those thoughts will finally go away, and all of my worries will go away.

Communism

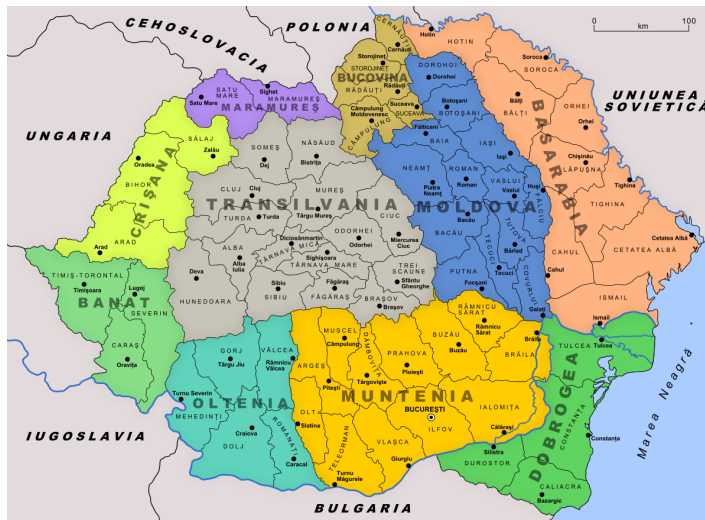
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Q: What was your worst memory growing up in communism?

A: My worst memory as a child was staying in line for food. We were provided with an allowance card for daily provisions. The grocery stores were quite empty, and each family was allowed to buy only a certain amount. I was very happy when the store would get a shipment of oranges and bananas during the winter. Even now I love the smell of oranges in the winter as it reminds me of that happy feeling when we would get some.

Q: How was school in those times?

A: We went to school even on Saturdays. We had to wear a uniform in public school and there were no private schools. A lot of what we learned was about the Father of



the Nation and all the good things he was doing for the nation. The classroom was like a small army, with groups and group commanders and one leader of the classroom—the group leaders were the students with the best grades. I was a group leader and really wanted to be the classroom commander. It prepared us for political work and becoming members of the communist party.

Q: What would be a good book you would recommend people read to understand communism?

A: Red Scarf Girl is a good book. It tells the story of a Chinese girl growing up during similar times, however in a different part of the world.

