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Assembling the Pieces Of Life's Puzzle



**By Akosua Adobea-Wiredu
Tusker Tribune Staff**

When I was a child,
My life was a completed puzzle.
I spent my days playing with
ABC blocks

And giggling endearingly at adults for attention.

But while growing up, I faced struggles;
And the puzzle pieces were slowly being displaced.

Endless nights of screaming parents.

Long days of worthless
friends and appalling
grades.

I didn't want to face
those demons;
Of going through misplaced, broken and
missing pieces.

However, when I adjusted to the daily life of growing up,
I realized that my goal in life wasn't to scramble
To fix the completed puzzle,
And that the puzzle was never meant to be perfectly finished.

My fantasy of living a perfect life while developing was never meant to be achieved.
For the instructions in the puzzle box never said:

To complete the pieces flawlessly,
But it said to do my utmost and never give up.

It must show effort of trying,
Because that's the missing piece to maturing.



A Decidedly Mixed View of School



**By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff**

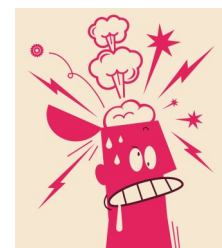
School is a place where you learn, have "fun", and a place some people consider as hell.

I don't have a bad or good opinion of school; I just don't like going to school. Everyday for five days a week, and six hours a day. Classes that seem way too long. Words that come from teachers and students. School is confusing to me, and it makes me stress a lot. Isn't school supposed to be "fun" and a place to "be ourselves"?

Five days a week and six hours a day? I really don't mind, but I would like it not to be more in the morning. You expect kids to work in the morning? My brain doesn't really function until the afternoon, so whatever I hear in the morning, I was most likely falling asleep in your class.

Teachers always say we're being too dramatic, but there's a difference between us and grown-ups like staff. I know we must go to school, but I don't want to go to school at the same time. When I come back tired from school, it's not because I'm getting bullied; I'm getting stressed out from all of the work and some of the teachers who bother me.

To continue, classes that seem way too long. It seems too long even though classes are 50 minutes, ten minutes less than an hour though. I don't really like this schedule and I don't think it's because of COVID that we stopped using the original schedule. The old fashioned schedule is when we had 30-35 minutes of class and had 8 classes a day and that is what I was excited about because its 34 minutes. I think if I have too much of a time in that class, I get bored to death and I fall asleep. Some teachers need to get that some kids are tired, and school is their only escape from their house and not liking school as well.



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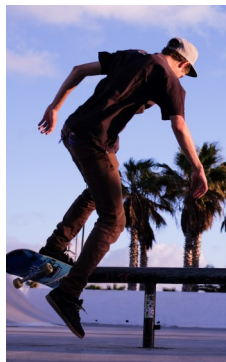
Getting the Hang of Skateboarding



By Col Shala
Tusker Tribune Staff

Hello, it is me, Col, again. Today, I'm going to be talking about how I learned to skateboard for the first time ever.

When I was nine, I got a skateboard while I was on vacation in Delaware with my cousins. I actually got it the last day of vacation, so my cousins couldn't teach me how to skate.



So the skateboard ended up in my shed for a year. Then, I found it when I was cleaning out the shed, so I went to the same place where I learned how to ride my bike.

It was pretty hard. I didn't even know how to get on the skateboard. Then I got a little bored, so I decided to sit on it and ride it. Of course, I didn't know how to control it so I fell flat on my face.

After that, I thought to myself, *I'm going to bring my skateboard to Darien's house and he can teach me how to ride it.* He did teach me the basics, and some tricks. Right now, I know how to do an Ollie and a 180.

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To sum it up, teachers and students always have something to say about what you're doing or anything. Teachers always say, "pay attention" or "do better". That is what stresses me out because I overthink a lot, so every word I say, I overthink it.

When teachers tell us we're not doing anything, that just ruins some kid's day because some people look up to those teachers. Other kids say, "do better" and that might also hurt someone's feelings because even if it's a "joke", sometimes they aren't funny. Some people can be cruel when it comes to words and even their actions.

To conclude, school can be a pain to a lot of people. Not only students, but teachers too might be having a hard time managing their time and work. Classes seem way too long, five times a day and six hours, and crucial things can happen. I learned not to trust anyone, so school makes me comfortable and uncomfortable in a way. School can change the way we see or do things and that can lead up to too many problems and bullies.

I couldn't care less if someone bullies me because that's their problem that they're having a hard time at home or somewhere else. I'm not clueless, like I said, so I notice every small detail on everyone and I know when someone is hurt or when someone needs help with their problems.

Social Media Can be a Help



By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff

Social media is probably one of the most used things by us. Is it really bidding for you? Some people say it ruins you. I think otherwise.

I know social media can't solve all my problems, but doesn't mean it can't solve some of them. I find I'm able to relax myself more online than in real life. Social media made me who I am and not people telling me what to do.

To introduce with, social media can't solve all my problems, but can help with some. My experience with social media is that I have met wonderful people who helped me in my life. They helped me with some of my problems

and they helped me get to places like where I am now.

Other people can be rude and just mean to you because they don't know who you are but so what? You can ignore them, and you can block them, just like you can do in real life. People might look



forward to going online and playing with their friends—it can help them mentally and physically.

To continue, I find I'm able to relax myself more online than in real life. Parents or other people say that social media just ruins your whole life or your whole reputation. Sometimes I argue with that because that is not true to me. It might ruin you a bit and you might experience difficult times, but over time, you seem to forget what happened and you can't hate a person forever just because they did something stupid.

I had tough times with social media, but that doesn't mean it ruined my whole life. Social media is basically a way to escape reality and that might help people who are suffering from depression or sadness. It also helps me a lot because sometimes I feel more of myself than in person. Social media is my comfort zone where I can be myself and where I can relax.

To sum it up, social media helped me see who I truly am. I have changed so much since I started social media, not because people told me what to do. Instead, I changed because it made me more open-minded to other people. I now look at people and imagine how they are viewing me.

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Trust, and How it Fits With Facing Life's Challenges



By Chloe Lee
Tusker Tribune Staff

In 2021 I learned to trust no one. Trust is just a word that people can use to manipulate you to believe that people have it. That year taught me an important lesson not to fall for that.

I have experienced many backstabbing moments. One may not know about another person and that's exactly how they get trapped. Life is not fair. That's all I have to say to that.

To start with, I have experienced many people who hurt me. The year of 2021 changed me mentally and now I have a different way of seeing things. No matter how nice the person is or can seem, everyone has thoughts or actions that are rude and mean. I'm not clueless anymore and I'm aware now of people's emotions. I'm not trying to be dramatic or anything, but I always try to look through people when meeting them so I can expect something to come. I always can't tell because a lot of people are good at hiding their emotions, but that doesn't stop me.

To continue, someone may not even think of anything and just be friends with them. Most of my friends just call me mean when I warn them about people and say I should open to people. I just let it go then because they all come running

back to you when they get hurt. Their loss. People let their mood down and they show emotion and let people bully you. I never got that because I know that will just make you look weak and an easy target to bully. I've seen that a lot in this school. When I or someone doesn't show emotions, they leave you alone and you will be fine in your schools since you still have high school to look forward to.

To wrap it up, our world is not fair. I have never really understood it until a few years ago and now I realize what it means. Our life is full of unexpected challenges. Many things can threaten your mood and outlook. The fact is we only live once. Life is life and there's no way we can change that.

I am all thankful my life though because I have people who love me the way I am. They saved me in a way I can never

express to them and I probably won't complain again. Many people might be saving other people without them noticing so a little act of kindness can really help.

To conclude, the year of 2021 did something that I will never forget. People trying to use me and trying so bad that it turns out I'm outplaying them. Playing other people and manipulating them far from reality? Life itself is playing and meeting challenges, but still having a way to break through it. We all had some bad times, but I probably won't be foolish again to just sit around and wait for destiny. Life has no meaning if we don't confront the risks.

You never become your best self
when you let others define you.



Social Media

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I overthink a lot and I know it's a bad thing, but now I don't feel insecure about everything.

A lot of the times when people say social media is bad for you, it is because people are behind screens, and they can say anything to you. Listening to them is just foolish, because, why listen to them when you're trying to do something?

Think of them as an ad. You're trying to watch a video but an ad pops up. What do you do?

You cancel it out. That is exactly what you do to people who are trying to get in your way because they are weird for thinking or caring about what you enjoy.

To conclude, I say, social media is not that bad for you. Sure, it won't solve all of your problems but it can get you somewhere. You might find yourself more comfortable online. It really helped me become who I am today, and I would thank the people who helped me. Millions of people are wanting to commit but you never know if you have just saved one's life. I know I sure did.

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This is Why I Love The Beatles!



By Ruby McDowell
Tusker Tribune Staff

John, Paul, George and Ringo. The Fab 4. The most influential band—ever! These are just some of the words used to describe The Beatles.

July 1957. Two boys met and The Beatles began. Well, they weren't originally called The Beatles. They were called The Quarrymen. And the original drummer wasn't Ringo Starr. In fact, Ringo Starr wasn't even named Ringo Starr. He was named Richard Starkey. But, imagine (Imagine – John Lennon) being Pete Best, the original drummer, who was fired because he was a bit sad, and then watching The Beatles explode in popularity!

I love the Beatles. It is quite obvious, giving the name of this article, but what do I like exactly about them?

Well, their songs are quiet catchy, singable, and don't have huge exploding guitar moments. Drums, guitar, bass, sometimes piano; but that's it. Additionally, songs like, "Get Back", "Ob la di, Ob la da", Maxwell's Silver Hammer" are like stories. They tell a random story that is quite catchy.

Of course, there are also The Beatles famous songs, like "Let it be", "Hey Jude" "All You Need is Love", to name a few, that are just amazing. Take a listen with the links at the bottom of the page, to see for yourself.

All of what I just said is true, and it applies to this reason: Their songs spring across many genres, so everything above applies to whatever type of music you want to listen to.

Well, I guess you now know a lot of things about The Beatles. Now start listening!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKJqecxswCA> – Get Back
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9x5WY_jmsko – Ob la di, Ob la da
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJag19WoAe0> - Maxwell's Silver Hammer
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDYfEBY9NM4> – Let it be
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qMls5yxP1w> - Hey Jude
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xMflp-irg> – All You Need is Love
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNnFFKv_NyI – Imagine
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2uTFF_3MaA – Yellow Submarine



What, Exactly, is the "Trans-Siberian Orchestra"?



By Lucas Ziegler
Tusker Tribune Staff

You may think that the Trans-Siberian Orchestra may be some Russians playing string instruments, coming from Siberia, a really cold region in Russia.

But really, it is many people from many different backgrounds who play various instruments, coming together to make awesome music. Believe it or not, they are actually a rock band!

The band does not just have string instruments; it has all kinds of different sounds and instruments.



It was started by Paul O'Neill, who is a famous Broadway producer. He produced rock bands like Aerosmith,

AC / DC, and The Scorpions. The band was named after the Trans-Siberian railroad that symbolizes hope in a harsh and unforgiving place. I got to go and see them at the new UBS arena in Long Island (home of the NHL NY Islanders) over holiday break. The arena is brand new, and there are no bad seats.

The band played live songs with an impressive light show consisting of lasers, pyrotechnics and fire, walls of video screens, and other amazing and unbelievable special effects. The show I saw was related to Christmas and had The Nativity story, along with the orchestra's other famous songs.

Overall, the show was well written and a joy to watch. That's why you don't judge a book by its cover, or in this case, by its name. You should go and experience it yourself and you might be pleasantly surprised.

Trans-Siberian Orchestra: Christmas Eve performance

http://www.viewpure.com/MHioIlbnS_A?start=0&end=0



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