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NIGERIAN BORN CHILE OSUJI ELECTED ICC PRESIDENT

By Julius Oyekunle

The judges of the International Criminal Court (ICC), sitting in a plenary session recently have elected Judge Chile Eboe-Osuji of Nigeria as President of the Court for a three-year term with immediate effect.

The election also saw the emergence of Judge Robert Fremr from the Czech Republic as First Vice-President with Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of France as Second Vice-President.

"I am deeply honoured to have been elected by my peers as President of the International Criminal Court. As I take up my duties, I feel encouraged that I am able to rely on the wide experience of the two Vice-Presidents, Judge Robert Fremr and Judge Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, both of whom I have closely worked



Chile Osuji ICC president-elect with previously. Judge Chile stated in his acceptance speech.

"I look forward to working together with them as well as with all the judges, all the Officials and the staff of the Court in a spirit of collegiality. I also look forward to collaborating with the Assembly of States Parties, civil society and the international community at large, acting together to strengthen and reinforce the Rome Statute


system, the 20th anniversary of the adoption of which we celebrate this year."

Stating further, "I am also grateful to the previous President, Judge Silvia Fernández de Gurmendi, and Vice-Presidents, Judges Joyce Aluoch and Kuniko Ozaki, for their work and leadership," he added.

Justice Chile Eboe-Osuji was born in Anara in Imo State, Nigeria, on September 2, 1962. He obtained his bachelor of laws degree from the University of Calabar, Nigeria.

He obtained his master of laws degree from McGill *continued on p(47)*

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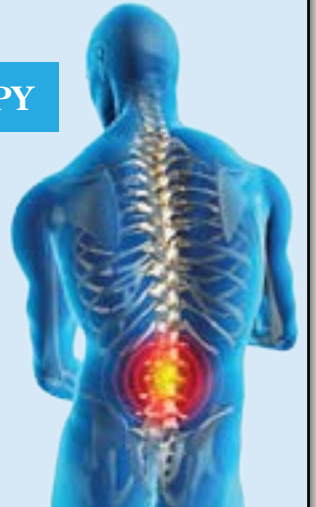
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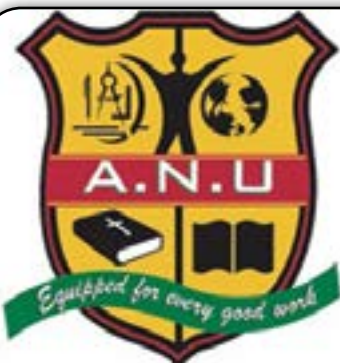
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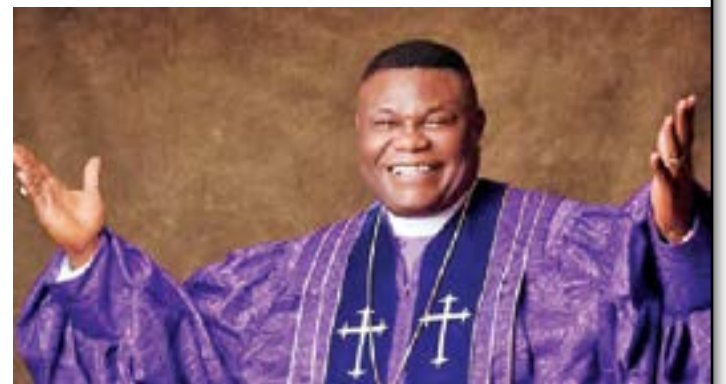


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CANADIAN DOCTORS' PAY SPARKS DEBATE IN NIGERIA



Senator Murray-Bruce

By Julius Oyekunle

Recently, hundreds of doctors in Canada reportedly protested their own pay at a time when nurses and patients are struggling. Senator Murray-Bruce, who seemed to be concerned with fellow lawmakers of the protesters in Nigeria, took a swipe at the Federal Government for allegedly failing to address their concerns.

He stated, "Obviously, you will want doctors and other workers to be paid poorly when you can afford to fly abroad for your own medical treatment at taxpayer's expense but let us think of the people. Take a cue from Canada. If we don't pay our doctors well, we will lose them to other nations," the common sense lawmaker said in a tweet.

While some Nigerians feel upset with Murray-Bruce's comments, others defended him amid a recent

disclosure that senators reportedly get millions of naira as running cost. A Twitter commentator noted, "Sir, you and your colleagues in the Senate and House of assembly can also protest that your allowances are too much...what do you think?"

At a time when the country is coming out of recession, many Nigerians feel its high time the Federal government reduce its annual overhead and most especially take home payments for political office holders. While many believed the Senator's outburst was right and necessary, many other Nigerians think otherwise. "The self-righteousness of a politician never ceases. He has jumped on the doctors... and left the ones who have pegged back everyone's salaries. You can't keep tweeting about government shortcomings when you're part of it," another twitter comment states.

CANADIAN WARSHIPS LAND IN NIGERIA AFTER 108 YEARS



By Julius Oyekunle

In another evidence of a stronger bi-lateral ties, Canadian warships have arrived Nigeria for the first time in the 108 years existence of the Royal Canadian Navy.

HMCS Summerside and HMCS Kingston are two warships from the Canadian Royal Navy and landed in Nigeria earlier in the month

with a view to establishing a relationship that will enhance the Nigerian Navy's efficiency in the Gulf of Guinea.

The warships, HMCS Kingston and HMCS Summerside, which are first class coastal defence vessels of the Royal Canadian Navy, have served in the Canadian Forces since 1996 and 1999 respectively.

They have 75 crew

WHO WARNS NIGERIA, OTHERS OVER LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK

By Julius Oyekunle

The World Health Organization has warned Nigeria and 15 other African countries of a listeriosis outbreak that started in South Africa in 2017, confirming its support for their preparedness and response to the disease.

The other African countries are Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozam-

bique, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Listeriosis is a bacterial infection most commonly caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*. It can cause severe illness, including severe sepsis, meningitis, or encephalitis, sometimes resulting in life-long harm and even death.

Listeria is primarily transmitted via the oral route after ingestion of contaminated food products

According to WHO numbers, nearly 200 South Africans have died since January 2017 as a result of contaminated ready-to-eat meat products that are widely consumed in the country and may also have been exported to two West African countries and 14 members of the South African Development Community.

Measures are being taken to create awareness on listeriosis, enhancing active surveillance and lab-

oratory diagnosis, ensuring the readiness of Rapid Response Teams, and strengthening coordination and contingency planning. Experts have been deployed to South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland to support these efforts.

"This outbreak is a wake-up call for countries in the region to strengthen their national food safety and disease surveillance systems," said Dr. Matshidiso Moeti, WHO regional director for Africa.

STUDENTS PROTEST FEE INCREASE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

By R.Njeru

Students from the University of Alberta recently participated in a demonstration to oppose an increase in the cost of post-secondary education. The students also wanted to talk about the reduction of certain expenditures.

David Turpin, the university's president, decided to address the students after they constantly banged on his office door.

Although the forum was attended by staff members and hundreds of students, they still feel that their concerns have not been addressed effectively; this is according to Marina Banister, president of the U of A Students' Union. The students have decided to continue with a peaceful protest outside the president's office.

According to Marina Banister, the students are highly disappointed with the board for ignoring them despite the fact that they were raising a genuine concern. He emphasized that this was indeed a serious issue since there have been no demonstrations against the institu-



tion in nearly a decade.

Despite the protests by more than 600 students, the university's board of governors voted in favor of the hikes. As it stands, the tuition fee for international students will now increase by 3.14 percent. On the other hand, students who live in residence will pay 15.8 percent more for their meal plan and four percent more for rent.

The board declined to talk to the media about the issue.

Banister said that she felt that the university had decided to take

this decision to increase fees for international and residents students so that it can maintain the high salaries and benefits of its staff members. She says that this is a selfish decision by the board members because it has resulted in the suffering of some of the brightest brains Canada has to offer.

According to an online survey that involved 632 respondents, it has emerged that around 94 percent of residents oppose the new meal plan, which will cost \$4,999 — \$682 more than the cur-

rent plan.

According to one of the international students, Mpoie Mogale, the increase in the tuition fee saddens him since he knows that his mom works extremely hard to send him money from South Africa. He says that he might be forced to graduate in a hurry although he was planning on studying at the university for another two years.

Many will be hoping that the university board and the students will come up with an amicable solution that will put a smile on everybody's face.

members led by the Commander, Royal Canadian Navy, Vice Adm. Ron Llyod.

Speaking during a visit to the Flag Officer, Commanding Western Naval Command, FOC, Rear Admiral Sylvanus Abbah, Llyod stated that the visit would provide an opportunity for the two navies to synergize and collaborate in order to secure the waters and curtail oil thefts and activities of Pirates.

The one -week stay in Nigeria has made it possible

for the warships to participate in Obagame Express, a maritime exercise conducted by the United States of America Forces, that is designed to enhance cooperation among participating nations.

"We are looking into supporting our excellency (High Commissioner) with respect to Canadian relationship in Nigeria and we are proud to have two Canadian ships: HMCS Summer Side and HMCS Kingston that will operate in the exercise,"

Lloyd noted.

Also speaking, the Canadian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Christopher Thornley reinstated his country's commitment to work with the Nigerian Navy as part of the bilateral relationship.

He said, "Our bilateral relationship is going on and this is a step in the right direction to see military cooperation as part of multilateral exercise Operation Obagame."

Rear Admiral Sylva-

nus Abbah, while responding admitted that the visit was a privilege since it was the first time, "Canadian Royal Navy came into existence since 1910 and has participated in the first, second world wars and other wars, including United Nations Peace Keeping wars."

"You have the experience and with your strategic location at the Atlantic to the Pacific and northward into the Arctic ocean, we hope to tap from your wealth of experience. Abbah stated.

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Editorial

THE LAMENTATIONS OF THE DISCOMFORTERS

Following the parallel drawn by Senator Ben Murray Bruce regarding the protest of Canadian doctors due to unequal pay for other health workers, it seems as if though we finally have a Senate or at least individuals in the upper chambers willing to fight for the cause of the common man. It will be recalled that the brain drain in the health sector has become a major issue, which the Bayelsa born Senator tried to address by advocating for increased remuneration and more funding for the health sector, which inevitably was a plausible move.

The Nigerian health sector no doubt is in shambles and has not been able to meet up with standards in Canada and indeed many other countries. From the poor quality of service delivery, outdated facilities and inadequate health personnel, there are evidently sincere reasons to lament.

However, there is the case of the uncomfortable comforters – whose mourning has no effect on the bereaved, rather than cause him more emotional pain and remind him of his wounds like the Biblical Job. One of the golden rules of equity states that “he that must come to equity must come with clean hands”. The morality of Senators in the wake of the recent disclosure of their running cost and monthly earnings is not only shocking but an act of wickedness. Unfortunately, Sen. Bruce and other Senators have not come out to protest their unfair pay gap between the Senate and the taxpayers.

Unlike the Canadian doctors, the legislative arm has not protested their awkward pay in solidarity with the common man and yet are the quickest to make comparisons of what is obtainable elsewhere. At

a time, former CBN Governor and present Emir of Kano made a shocking revelation that over 20 percent of budget expenditure is spent by the legislative arm. When the masses refuse to acknowledge their oppressors and fight through common conscience to abolish all injustices, the oppressors will ultimately turn out to cry more than the bereaved.

When cases of corruption becomes a sensational issue for the press and social media, and where perpetrators of fraud and evil become victors and popular, when the law becomes weak to fight for the inequality and unfairness in the distribution of wealth, it is the Discomforters who will come out to justify themselves as though they were with the masses in the struggle. Unless Nigerians are willing to say NO with all fury and determination, our complacency is a license to the continued perpetration of this wicked acts by political office holders, enriching themselves from the government purse. The lamentation of the masses is not loud enough – they simply need more than noise, they must come with one voice and give it a fight.

THE ‘ELEVENTH HOUR’ POLITICS

Politicians are gamblers, skillful in their cunning to persuade and dissuade voters. It is not peculiar to a particular hemisphere, all have drunk from the same cup of deceit and scheming. The recent announcement made by Liberals in Ontario to expand Pharmacare to Senior citizens is indeed laudable but comes at a time when the elections are fast approaching. It is not a Liberal thing, as conservative politicians aren't exempted in this type of last ditch effort to target voters. Often, due to the sumptuous promise made, voters

are unable to ask questions regarding how to finance such incentives. On many occasions, politicians resort to robbing Peter to pay Paul. Pharmacare and indeed other welfare services are necessary for a balanced society, however, who bears the brunt?

The interconnectedness of the economy will no doubt cause an imbalance in other sectors. This is simple economics. The desire to win votes leaves us most times as voters with no option but hold on to the ‘laudable’ promise regardless of how bogus or sometimes economically impracticable it might be. To Premier Kathleen Wynne, she may have won the hearts of many elderly folks as the election draws near, but the announcement at this time is reminiscent of witty political calculations. How the incentives will be financed will have to be debated. Regardless of motive, remembering the elderly is commendable. The fact that politicians are on their toes to make such promises during elections is also a good sign of our democratic creed. It is evident of the competitiveness that has made Canada's democracy survive for 150 years and still waxing stronger.

THE BLACK MONTH OF MARCH - A CASE FOR SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

The month of March was no doubt a month of gross darkness for the people of Ontario. From homicide to suicide-murder, death from terminal disease, in all the community recorded 5 mortalities. We at NCNC share the pains of the bereaved and pray that they will be comforted by the ray of light they spread in our hearts while on the earth.

While we as humans, death is inevitable, however, the events surrounding the death of Nnamdi, Assali and

her boyfriend are a sad reminder of the loss of social control and social solidarity which makes it difficult for criminality to thrive. Where families, for instance, are far away from one another, individualism thrives. The implication is that today's generation has to deal with issues as they deem fit. It also creates independence for younger, but disgruntled youths who possess firearms due to the laxity in gun control measures.

There's the need to

return to a life of association, where the psychological needs of individuals are met rather than become isolated to our own risk. Through our association with significant others such as religious groupings, ethnic configuration, and community participation, individuals are able to tender their grievances, agonies and pains on the altar of support. Death is inevitable, but we can systematically avoid some if we care for others.

**“SOMETIMES, ONLY ONE
PERSON IS MISSING, AND
THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMS
DEPOPULATED.”**

–ALPHONSE DE LAMARTINE,
MÉDITATIONS POÉTIQUES

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HEALTHY LIVING

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Disclaimer: In no way are any of the suggestion herein meant to take the place of advice given by a licensed health care professional. Please always consult your doctor before commencing any medical treatment.

A LOVING RELATIONSHIP IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH



By Darlene Zagata

While there may be no concrete proof that a loving relationship is beneficial to one's health, it certainly seems to have a positive effect on one's overall well being. It seems that those who are involved in a long-term relationship where each person is treated lovingly tend to be happier, more relaxed, have more confidence and are generally healthier. A good bit of the reason for this may be less stress in the home. It is well known that stress can add to a host of maladies, both emotional and physical. If a person is involved in a relationship that is negative, there is more likelihood that they will suffer from stress induced ailments. The more relaxed and loving a relationship is, the better the chances are that a person will not suffer as many stress induced health problems.

Being in love and being able to share and receive affection promotes happiness, relaxation and peacefulness. This in turn can lower stress levels resulting in lower blood pressure and a better balance between the mind, body, and spirit system of the complete being. People in a happy, healthy relationship tend to laugh more and laughing has been said to be beneficial to health. People who are in abusive relationships or who live in a home environment where negativity is prevalent seem to be more susceptible to illnesses. When suffering from stress the body's immune system may be compromised therefore making the individual more prone to flu and colds along with a myriad of other illnesses. Those who are involved in a stressful relationship may find themselves emotionally and physically exhausted. When energy is depleted the body begins to wear down. Most people involved in these types of relationships do not eat right nor do they get proper rest and sleep, which are both essential for good health.

A healthy relationship

can improve one's well being in a variety of ways. This is not to say that a healthy relationship is one without disagreements or problems but in a healthy relationship, the partners are able to talk openly and honestly with each other. They are able to work through their disagreement by having good lines of communication and are able to transcend problems that would otherwise escalate into a relationship that is not as healthy as it should be. Healthy relationships are not perfect; no relationship ever is. But when a person does not feel comfortable enough to discuss his or her feelings with a partner, those emotions will build inside, causing stress that may later lead to serious health conditions.

Even people who do suffer from some type of illness have been known to make faster recoveries when they have a caring, nurturing mate to help them through their sickness. Whether we believe it or not, love does have a curative effect. The mind can influence the body and the healing process and when a person knows that there is a stable, loving individual in their life that they can depend upon, the mind is relaxed and comforted and is able to put more effort into healing the body. If a person who is in an abusive relationship becomes ill, they may not care whether they get better or not. Deep within the psyche they may believe that they have no reason to recover or they may feel that their mate will treat them better as long as they are sick. In this sense, the subconscious may actually work to inhibit the healing process. But if a person has a healthy, loving relationship to look forward to, the mind may work to speed up the healing process so that the individual can return to their state of health because this individual wants to be able to continue enjoying the love that he or she receives. Love may not heal all as the old cliché says but it certainly can't hurt.

PRACTICAL TIPS TO REDUCE YOUR RISK OF HEART ATTACK AND STROKE IF YOU HAVE DIABETES

(NC) With the new year underway and spring just around the corner, it's a good time to take simple steps to improve your health. But this can be challenging if you have a chronic disease like diabetes. Whether it's a parent, relative or family friend, many of us know someone living with diabetes.

But what many of us don't realize is that diabetes can have a negative impact on vital parts of the body, including the heart. In fact, approximately one in two people with type 2 diabetes

will die due to heart disease, which includes heart attack, heart failure, and stroke. This is the most common cause of death among people with diabetes. Yet, according to a recent survey of people with diabetes, nearly half (49 percent) are unaware that their diabetes alone significantly increases the risk.

That's why it's so important to talk to your doctor about your heart health if you have diabetes, and take steps to lower your risk of heart disease.

Diabetes Canada rec-

ommends the "ABCDEs" to help reduce your risk of heart attack and stroke:

A1C. Control blood glucose levels and keep your A1C around 7 percent or less. A1C is a blood test that is an index of the average blood glucose level over the last 120 days.

Blood pressure. Keep blood pressure to less than 130/80 mmHg.

Cholesterol. The LDL (bad) cholesterol target is 2.0 mmol/L or less.

Drugs to protect your heart. Speak with your doc-

tor about medication options to help reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Exercise. Along with a healthy diet, a regular physical activity can help you achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

Smoking and stress. Avoid smoking and manage stress effectively with, for example, exercise, meditation, yoga or whatever works for you.

Speak to your doctor, and visit www.myheartmatters.ca for more information about how you can protect your heart health.

ARE YOU PREGNANT? FOLLOW THESE FOUR FOOD SAFETY STEPS!

(NC) When you're pregnant, food safety is more important than ever because you and your unborn baby are at an increased risk of foodborne illness or food poisoning. Your immune system is weakened, making it harder to fight off infections and leaving you vulnerable to serious health problems. Your unborn baby's immune system is also not developed enough to fight off harmful foodborne bacteria.

There are approximately 4 million cases of food poisoning in Canada every year. It's especially important for pregnant women to pay attention to food safety. Food poisoning can be even more dangerous to your unborn

baby's health than yours.

If you develop food poisoning during the first three months of pregnancy, it can cause a miscarriage. It happens later in the pregnancy, it can cause your baby to be born prematurely. Food poisoning can also cause a stillbirth or a baby who is born very ill. Because your baby depends on you for everything it needs, it is very important that you are careful about what you eat and how you store, prepare and cook your food.

You can protect yourself and your unborn baby by following four key steps to food safety — clean, separate, cook and chill.

• Clean: Wash hands

and surfaces often with warm, soapy water.

• Separate: Make sure to always separate raw foods, such as meat and eggs, from cooked foods and vegetables.

• Cook: Always cook food to the safe internal temperature. You can check this by using a digital food thermometer.

• Chill: Always refrigerate food and leftovers promptly at 4°C or below.

Some foods carry a higher risk for foodborne illness than others for pregnant women.

Here is a list of tips, including foods to avoid:

• Make sure to cook hot dogs and non-dried deli

meats until they are steaming hot before eating them.

• Don't eat raw or undercooked meat, poultry and seafood.

• Avoid refrigerated smoked seafood.

• Avoid unpasteurized juice, cider and dairy products.

• Avoid unpasteurized and pasteurized soft and semi-soft cheeses including blue-veined cheeses.

• Avoid refrigerated pâtés and meat spreads.

• Avoid uncooked foods made from raw or unpasteurized eggs.

• Avoid raw sprouts.

Find more information, visit www.canada.ca/food-safety.

HEALTHY AFTER-SCHOOL HABITS FOR KIDS

(NC) The new year is a perfect time to reset great habits for kids and families. After all, a predictable routine has been proven to help kids thrive in their environments.

A key part of that routine is good after-school habits. Here are a few quick tips to end the day off right and set into a smooth evening.

Healthy hygiene.

Washing hands is especially important in the winter months, to ward off germs and keep your household healthy. Make sure this is the first thing your kids do when they get in the house. Those hardworking backpacks need some hygiene as well, so have kids empty their backpacks of leftover lunch, homework papers and all the stuff that lingers at the bottom.

Replenishing your body. Keeping little ones hydrated with water will

help them stay alert, giving them a boost when doing their homework. A wholesome snack that doesn't spoil their appetite for dinner is also a key factor for happy kids. Orville Redenbacher microwaveable popcorn is a 100 per cent whole grain, high-fibre snack your kids will love. Plus, most of the product line is now made without any artificial

colours, flavours and preservatives.

R & R. Kids have been busy all day and need some down time. Use this time to ask about their day and all the highlights and challenges they encountered. If you are still at work, give them a quick call before they start winding down to get the latest news and updates.

Lead by example. As

a parent, make sure you are modelling healthy behaviour as well. Fuel up, hydrate, relax and engage in fun and productive conversation. Try to avoid checking your phone and flipping on the television the moment you walk in the door. If your kids and family see you are following a great routine, they are much more likely to do so as well.

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DIASPORA GROUP NAMES OLUWO AS GRAND PATRON



The Oluwo of Iwoland, HIM Oba (Dr.) Abdulrosheed Adewale Akanbi has been approached by officials of Executive Club, Manchester, United Kingdom as the Grand Patron of the elites club.

The choice of Oluwo as their highest honorary title became necessary according to sources close to the club to tap from his wealth of experience and as custodian of traditional values to pilot the affairs of the club for more effectiveness.

Speaking through her president, Mr. Adewale Hassan said " Your Imperial Majesty sir, We are seek-

ing for your permission to have you as our GRAND PATRON It is going to be our Great pleasure to gain from your wealth of experience to continue to steer our Great Club to greater heights".

The Oba was commended for rebranding Yoruba culture and the elegance with which he has projected the cultural heritage, saying Oluwo's conducts have drawn the attention of even the foreigners to the richness of our cherished culture.

He has also reiterated the commitment of the club to support the traditional leader in this new role.

3 HONOR KILLERS TO BE DEPORTED

Mohammad Shafia and his wife Tooba Yahya were found guilty of the murder of their three teenage daughters and Shafia's first wife in 2012 and will no longer be Canadian citizens henceforth.

Their son Hamed was also sent to prison for his role in the murders.

Yahya and Shafia will be sent back to their native Afghanistan once they are released from jail.

The orders, requested by the Canada Border Services Agency, were issued

for serious criminality and come with no right of appeal after the parliament revoked their citizenship rights.

All three family members are serving 25-year life sentences for the killing of sisters Zainab, 19, Sahar, 17, and Geeti, 13, and Rona Amir Mohammad, 52.

Their bodies were found in June 2009 in a car submerged in a canal in the city of Kingston, Ontario.

During the 2012 trial, prosecutors said Moham-

mad Shafia was angered that his two eldest daughters wanted boyfriends, in defiance of his values.

The court heard how he had become increasingly angry and upset with his three teenage daughters for having secret relationships with boys and wearing revealing clothes.

The jury was told the decision to murder the four women was made after 19-year-old Zainab took refuge in a shelter, defying her male relatives. The trio appealed their conviction

in 2015 and lost.

The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRC) revoked Shafia's permanent residency on 27 February. Yahya's was revoked at a hearing in Montreal recently.

The IRC, however, admitted it had no information regarding Hamed's citizenship.

The Shafia family left Afghanistan in 1992. They came to Canada in 2007, having previously lived in Australia, Pakistan, and Dubai.

LAGOS GOVERNMENT SUCCUMB TO PUBLIC PRESSURE

By Julius Oyekunle

Apparently reacting to public outcry over the recent increase in Land Use Charge, the Lagos State Government has shifted grounds as it announced a major reduction in the new rates payable by property owners under the Lagos State Land Use Charge (LUC) Law.

The government also waived the penalty for late payments across the board, the state's Commissioner for Finance, Akinyemi Ashade, stated.

Mr. Ashade who disclosed this while addressing a press briefing at the Bagauda Kaltho Press Centre in Alausa on the outcome of a dialogue with stakeholders, said the rates payable on commercial properties have been reduced

by 50 percent in response to the demands of the people.

The commissioner said the government took the decision following extensive deliberations with stakeholders on the new rates.

He said the government has also reduced the charges for owner-occupier with the third party including industries and manufacturing concerns by 25 percent, while tax credits have been given for LUC charges already paid in addition to the introduction of installment payment system.

The government's decision came after pressure from individuals, pressure groups and civil society organisations (CSOs).

Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in Ikeja had protested the new law after giv-



Akinyemi Ashade

ing Mr. Ambode a five-day ultimatum to reverse the law which was seen as inconsid-

erate and unrealistic considering the present economic challenges.

TORONTO NEUROSURGEON TO STAND TRIAL FOR MURDER



Muhammed Shamji

A Toronto court has ruled that neurosurgeon Muhammed Shamji will stand trial for the murder of his physician wife. Justice Leslie Pringle ruled as Shamji watched on with a grim look. Dr. Elana Fric Shamji's body was found

stuffed in a wooded compartment in Vaughan in December 2016.

He will also be standing trial for dismembering his wife's body, committing an act of indignity to the human body.

Victim's parents who have yet to come to terms with the loss of their daughter were also present at the court premises (North York). "She didn't deserve what happened to her... She just wanted to live a happy life after her divorce." The mother of the deceased, Ana Fric stated.

Shamji is bound to appear in Superior Court in downtown Toronto on April 6.

WOMAN RECEIVES LIFE-SAVING KIDNEY DONATION AFTER PLACING AD IN TORONTO MAGAZINE

Jennen Johnson walked into Toronto General Hospital Tuesday ready to complete the final step of a journey to save her own life.

Last November, the 42-year-old was told she needed a new kidney, or she would only have four years left to live.

Instead of depending on the traditional hospital waiting list, she posted an ad in a Toronto magazine pleading for a donor to come forward.

The ad went viral and Christi Nolan of Hamilton responded. It turned out, she was a perfect match.

"She's an extraordinary human being, she's doing something that not many others would do," Johnson told Global News of her donor and new best

friend.

The transplant was a success, and both woman are recovering in hospital.

"I did it, and I feel amazing," said Nolan, who is a 37-year-old yoga instructor.

The women have be-

come close friends and plan on sharing thanksgiving dinner together with both of their families.

Nolan gave Johnson a new kidney, but she also gave Johnson's 12-year-old daughter a future with her mom in it.

"My daughter was going to be 16 and I'm not going to be here? That was just boggling my mind," Johnson said, adding that time moving forward no longer involves time running out.

Source: globalnews.ca



INDIVIDUALIZED FUNDING FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM EXPECTED TO COST \$2.8M



Jim Reiter, Health Minister

The individualized funding for children under six-years-old that the Saskatchewan Party government had promised in their 2016 election campaign is coming in the April 10 budget. Health Minister Jim Reiter said the total investment is expected to be around \$2.8 million.

This means that families who have children under six-years-old on the autism spectrum will receive \$4,000 annually per child to help pay for necessary supports. The campaign commitment is to increase that funding within two years.

This funding stands to help support 700 kids under the age of six based on \$2.8 million.

The start of this program was deferred from last year's budget, and health critic Danielle Chartier is going to be watching it closely come April 10.

"Aging out of the eligibility is one issue for sure, and if it is in this budget we will have those kinds of questions. Is it going to be

retroactive for those families for whom it was committed two years ago?" Chartier said.

"The reality is what it means by not having access to services and supports, kids fall behind, and when kids fall behind, families suffer."

Two of Christina Noubarian's three children are on the autism spectrum. They're 11 and 13-years-old respectively. One goes to school full-time, the other can only go for two hours a day.

"We had very limited access when the kids were under six. We didn't get what was promised to us. We had to fight for our own. We had to actually have our own therapy program that we ran through our house," Noubarian explained.

To get her kids the full care they needed, it would cost the Noubarian family thousands, around \$3,000 a month by her estimate. They can't afford that and would cap out based on what Noubarian was able to

make working nights at restaurants and other jobs.

"I don't think that's an attainable goal for any family. We're working with one fulltime working parent, because the other one had to stay home because there wasn't childcare services available who would take kids with special needs that require that amount of extra support," she said.

Noubarian says that the current plan doesn't account for kids on the most severe side of the autism spectrum that need even more supports.

"I'm not sure the total solution, but funding would help. To have extra care that comes in gives my husband and I a break because it will be out whole life. We look at retirement, and it will probably look different for us than a lot of people," Noubarian said.

Reiter and Noubarian are expected to meet in the near future to discuss her circumstances and what resources may be available for her family.

"I certainly sympathize with that and there are gaps. I think we've come a long way in the last few years. It wasn't too long ago there was almost nothing in place," Reiter said.

"I think [individualized funding] is a huge first step, but the platform commitment also spoke into the out years of not only increasing funding for those under six, but also funding for school age years, the ones that are under 18."

Source:globalnews.ca

QUEBEC GIRL TO MAKE A WEEKLY SALARY OF \$1000 AFTER WINNING A LIFETIME LOTTERY

By N.Ugoh

A Quebec teenager is celebrating her 18th birthday in style after she won with her first lottery ticket ever.

After striking the jackpot, Charlie Lagarde, had the option of choosing a salary of \$1,000 per week for the rest of her life or taking a lump sum of C\$1m (\$780,000; £550,000).

The Quebec resident celebrated her birthday by buying a bottle of champagne along with the scratch ticket.

The young winner decided to go with the \$1,000 annuity after receiving advice from a financial adviser. According to the adviser, this was the better option because it is free from taxation.

According to Patrice Lavoie, a spokesman for the lottery corporation, this is a



great start for the life of the young lady because she will be making something that is equivalent to a salary of more than \$100,000 a year.

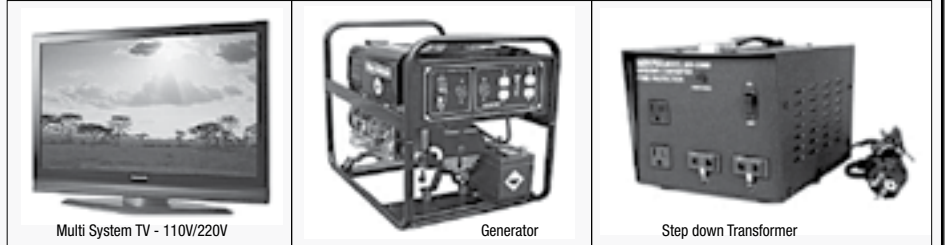
Lavoie was amazed by the fact that the young winner fell upon a winning ticket despite the fact that it was her first lottery ticket ever.

Lagarde told Loto Quebec that she is planning on advancing her education in photography addition to travelling across the globe. She says that one of her dreams is to work for National Geographic.

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INCORPORATION LET'S INCORPORATE

The incorporation process is relatively simple whether you incorporate provincially or federally.

As a sole proprietor, you may be looking back at last year's results and ahead to the time you have to pay your taxes, and wondering whether you might not be better off incorporating to control the income tax expense on earned income. In Canada, a company may be incorporated provincially or federally. Federal incorporation has some advantages:

- You can carry on business in any provincial jurisdiction using the federally approved name.
- The head office can be in any province.
- Books and records can be maintained in any province.
- Annual meetings can be held in any province or territory.

- If you are incorporated provincially and wish, for example, to move your business from Alberta to Manitoba, it would be necessary to dissolve the Alberta corporation and reregister in Manitoba or apply for a discontinuance in Alberta and apply for a continuance in Manitoba. If your business is incorporated federally, you need only file Articles of Amendment indicating the head office is moving and register an extra-provincial corporation in its new home province.

Whether you are thinking of incorporating provincially or federally, the following are a few areas to consider:

Naming the Company

The corporation can have a name company or a number. If you incorporate using a number, you may also use a name (i.e., 1234567 Ontario Ltd. could also register itself as "Able's Horse Stable".) This name becomes "attached" to the registered number.

When conducting business using the trade name, you must still identify the company by its registered name. For instance, sales invoices could show "Able's Horse Stable" but should indicate that the actual incorporation name is 1234567 Ontario Ltd.

The name chosen cannot be either identical or deceptively similar to existing registrants in the province. The name or number must be identified as a corporation by using the French or English forms of "limited" or "incorporated".

Location

The head office of a provincially incorporated company must be located in the province of incorporation. The head office is



Dami Okunade B. Comm (McGill), CPA, CA, CFA

usually at the same location as the operations but, if there is more than one operating location, a choice can be made.

Ownership and control are determined by the number of shares held.

Ownership

Shares must be issued in order for the company to be owned. The owners must decide among themselves the minimum number of shares that will be owned by each shareholder. The shares provide the owners with voting rights. Whether the corporation issues 10,000 or only 50 common shares with voting rights, the degree of ownership and control are determined by the proportion held by each individual. The value of each share is decided at the time of issue. If share value was set at \$10 per share, then the holder of, say, 5,000 shares would have to remit \$50,000 to the corporation to purchase ownership.

Private corporations may not have more than 50 shareholders. The residential addresses of all shareholder(s) must be provided for notification purposes.

Directors

All corporations must appoint at least one Canadian resident as a director. If four or more directors are appointed, 25% must be Canadian residents. The residential address of the directors must be provided along with the residency status.

Officers

In owner-managed businesses, it is not unusual for the shareholder(s), director(s) and officer(s) to be one and the same. It is not a requirement for officers to own shares or be directors of the corporation. However, in that officers manage the operations of the company, they are held to a high standard of stewardship and thus the appointments should not be taken lightly. The residential addresses of the officers must be provided.

Year-End Date

You will have to determine a fiscal year-end date for the corporation. Depending upon the date of

5 THINGS TO DO IMMEDIATELY AFTER YOUR IDENTITY IS STOLEN

(NC) If you keep up-to-date with popular movies and newspaper headlines, then you probably are aware of extreme versions of identity theft. But if this were to happen to you in real life, would you know what to do?

Identity theft is when scammers acquire and collect your personal information for criminal purposes. Identity thieves are eager to steal your credit card information, bank account details, full name, date of birth, social insurance number, full address, mother's maiden name, online usernames and passwords, driver's license number, signature and passport number.

If you fall victim to this sneaky scam, here are the

steps you should take:

1. Confirm. The best way to find out if your identity has been stolen is to monitor your financial accounts and your credit card statements frequently. If you're getting calls from collection agencies about unfamiliar accounts or your credit applications are turned down unexpectedly, investigate further.

2. Contact your financial institution. If you think someone has gained access to your personal financial information, call your financial institution immediately so they can suspend your accounts and limit the amount of money you lose. Credit card com-

panies may also be able to reverse a transaction if they believe your card was billed fraudulently.

3. Use the right contact info. Never use the contact details of financial institutions that appear in emails or websites you are suspicious of — they will probably be fake and lead you to a scammer. You can find legitimate contact details in the phone book, on your account statement or on the back of your card.

4. Report it. By reporting the scam to authorities, they may be able to warn other people and minimize the chances of it spreading further. The best places to report this are the

Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre and the Competition Bureau.

5. Protect yourself. Take steps to keep this unfortunate scam from happening. Be wary of unsolicited attempts to extract personal or financial information, shred documents before recycling them, shield your PIN when using your credit or debit cards, and notify the post office and your financial institutions when you change your address. Familiarize yourself with the billing cycles of your credit and debit cards, double checking all statements for irregularities.

Find more information at www.antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca.

WORK WITH AN ADVISOR TO MEET YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS



(NC) A new year is upon us, and that means it is an opportune time to think about your financial goals. It's never too late to develop or improve your savings habits, whether you're just starting out, well on your way to retirement readiness, or somewhere in between.

There are a few questions you can ask yourself to get started:

- What are my financial goals?
- How much financial risk am I comfortable taking, if it means my returns might be higher?
- Do I have outstanding high interest debts to pay off?
- Do I need assis-

tance and guidance from a financial advisor?

Working with a financial advisor can help you save more and increase your wealth over time. In fact, Canadian research shows that people

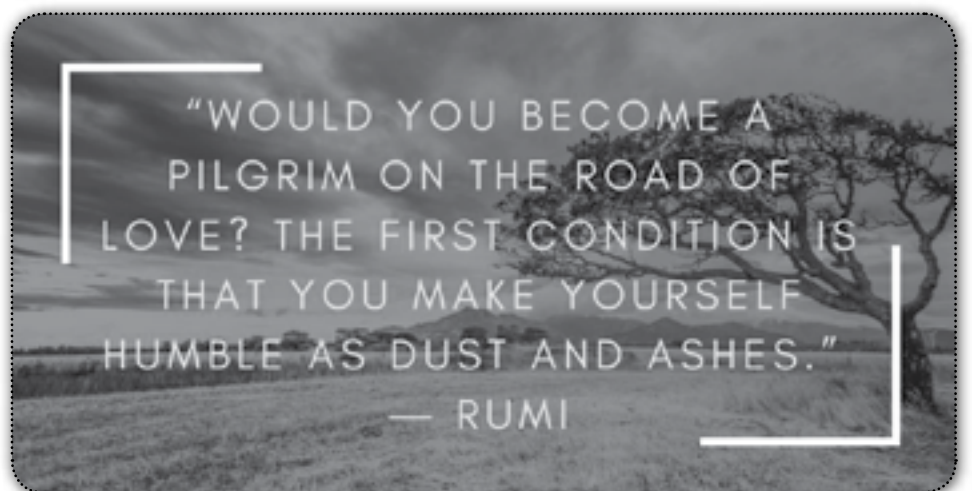
who have had a financial advisor for 15 years or more have 3.9 times the savings of similar people who do not have an advisor. Simply having an advisor can encourage people to save regularly

and save more.

If you don't think you have enough money to work with an advisor, think again. More than half of advised investors started working with an advisor when they had less than \$25,000 – and roughly one quarter had less than \$5000.00.

It's your money. Do your research and choose an advisor you trust to answer your questions and provide good investment recommendations. It's the first step on the path to meeting your financial goals and becoming retirement ready.

Find more information online at investorcentre.ific.ca



incorporation and the business cycle, you may choose a year end other than the calendar year end. It is advisable to speak to your CPA about the best month end for your type of business and to maximize tax-deferral possibilities.

Auditor or Accountant?

Provincial acts of incorporation may require audits of financial statements. This requirement

can be waived for non-publicly traded companies as long as all of the shareholders agree to waive the audit provision. Consent to waive an audit is required each year. Most business owners, their banks and creditors do not require audited financial statements; waiving audit provisions in favour of reports provided by a CPA is an acceptable alternative.

Even though the ap-

pointment of an auditor may not be required, it is wise to consider appointing a CPA as part of the incorporation process to assist in setting up the required books and records, tax accounts, business number, WSIB, employee payroll remittance accounts, HST or PST accounts and all the other regulatory registrations that may be specific to your business.

Seek Professional Advice

Incorporation requirements vary from province to province. The guidelines above are provided as general consideration as to what is normally required. Entrepreneurs considering incorporation should seek professional assistance in their jurisdiction to ensure the appropriate steps and documentation meet the requirements under their provincial incorporation act.

8 ILLEGAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER

We've all been through the interview process before, and we're all familiar with the routine – a potential employer invites us in and asks questions to learn as much as possible about our skills and potential fit. Seems simple enough. But what happens if the interviewer asks an illegal question? It happens surprisingly often. Some of these questions are so common, and can come so naturally in regular conversation, that you may not know they're illegal to ask. However, employment law expressly prohibits particular types of questions to ensure equal opportunity hiring.

Here's a look at a few examples of common interview questions employers are not allowed to ask:

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

That's right. A seemingly innocent question is, in fact, illegal to ask. They can ask if you are of legal age to be employed in Canada, or if you are of legal age to serve alcohol, but anything more is infringing on your rights. Additionally, watch out for alternate questions that may be an attempt to infer your age. For example, what year did you graduate? While a question like that is not expressly illegal, answer only if you are comfortable and feel it is not an attempt at age discrimination.

DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN? IF NOT, DO YOU HAVE PLANS TO?

Some employers feel that parents are less likely to work extended hours and more likely to take days off for their kids. These employers want to know if you are worth their financial investment by deducing how many hours you're able to work. However, they are not allowed to make hiring decisions based on this fact and you are not obligated to answer if you are asked.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ARRESTED?

This can be a tricky one. Interviewers are not allowed to ask about your arrest record. Unless you were convicted of a crime, you are considered innocent of any offence and you are not obligated to answer to this question. However, an interviewer can legally ask if you have been convicted of a crime, and if they do so, you will be expected to provide an answer.

WHAT IS YOUR SEXUAL

ORIENTATION?

Fundamental discrimination laws prohibit questions like these as they have no bearing on whether or not you are capable of performing the duties of the job. This creates the opportunity for discrimination, and if any employer asks this question, they are clearly offside.

WHAT RELIGION DO YOU PRACTICE?

Like sexual orientation, the religion you practice has no bearing on whether or not you are able to complete the tasks required. They may be asking to know what holidays you celebrate and determine what days you will need off, but there are better ways to ask and more appropriate times to coordinate.

WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS?

Though this question seems simple enough, answering it can disclose more information than you realize. Similar to asking about your plans for children, this is an attempt to determine your availability for extra work and longer hours. You may answer if you feel comfortable, but if you think they may discriminate against your situation, you are by no means obligated to.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENTS OR DISABILITIES?

Employers are not allowed to ask about your health or disabilities. They are allowed to ask if you are able to complete work related jobs, for example, if you can lift large amounts of weight, or if you're able to be on your feet for hours at a time. But broad questions about overall health can lead to discrimination based on disabilities, and that starts to creep into illegal territory.

DO YOU SMOKE OR DRINK SOCIALLY?

This question is in an attempt to elicit information about your reliability based on any current addictions or lifestyle choices. Broad questions like this are illegal. Answer with care and if you feel comfortable enough to do so.

IN SUMMARY...

If an interviewer is asking you any of the above questions, you have the right to deny the disclosure of information. An excellent way to defer illegal

LEADERSHIP 7 PERSONALITY TRAITS OF A GREAT LEADER

If you want to be a great leader who attracts quality people, the key is to become a person of quality yourself. Leadership is the ability to attract someone to the gifts, skills and opportunities you offer as an owner, as a manager, as a parent. Leadership is the great challenge of life.

What's important in leadership is refining your skills. All great leaders keep working on themselves until they become effective. Here's how:

1. LEARN TO BE STRONG BUT NOT IMPOLITE.

It is an extra step you must take to become a powerful, capable leader with a wide range of reach. Some people mistake rudeness for strength. It's not even a good substitute.

2. LEARN TO BE KIND BUT NOT WEAK.

We must not mis-

take weakness for kindness. Kindness isn't weak. Kindness is a certain type of strength. We must be kind enough to tell someone the truth. We must be kind enough and considerate enough to lay it on the line. We must be kind enough to tell it like it is and not deal in delusion.

3. LEARN TO BE BOLD BUT NOT A BULLY.

It takes boldness to win the day. To build your influence, you've got to walk in front of your group. You've got to be willing to take the first arrow, tackle the first problem, discover the first sign of trouble. Like the farmer, if you want any rewards at harvest time, you have got to be bold and face the weeds and the rain and the bugs straight on. You've got to seize the moment.

4. LEARN TO BE HUMBLE BUT NOT TIMID.

You can't get to the

high life by being timid. Some people mistake timidity for humility. But humility is a virtue; timidity is a disease. It's an affliction. It can be cured, but it is a problem. Humility is almost a God-like word—a sense of awe, a sense of wonder, an awareness of the human soul and spirit, an understanding that there is something unique about the human drama versus the rest of life. Humility is a grasp of the distance between us and the stars, yet having the feeling that we're part of the stars.

5. LEARN TO BE PROUD BUT NOT ARROGANT.

It takes pride to build your ambitions. It takes pride in your community. It takes pride in a cause, in accomplishment. But the key to becoming a good leader is to be proud without being arrogant. Do you know the worst kind of ar-

rogance? Arrogance from ignorance. It's intolerable. If someone is smart and arrogant, we can tolerate that. But if someone is ignorant and arrogant, that's just too much to take.

6. LEARN TO DEVELOP HUMOR WITHOUT FOLLY.

In leadership, we learn that it's OK to be witty but not silly; fun but not foolish.

7. LEARN TO DEAL IN REALITIES.

Deal in truth. Save yourself the agony of delusion. Just accept life as it is—the whole drama of life. It's fascinating.

Life is unique. Leadership is unique. The skills that work well for one leader may not work at all for another. However, the fundamental skills of leadership can be adopted to work well for just about everyone: at work, in the community and at home.

www.jimrohn.com

3 THINGS TO LOOK FOR IN AN ALL-IMPORTANT FIRST JOB

(NC) Whether you're the parent of a young person or a recent graduate looking for a first job, you know that Canada's job market is rapidly changing. In order to adapt to all of these changes when searching for a job, experts suggest young people should look for opportunities that focus on three specific qualities that will help prepare them for the future.

1. Experience. It's a classic cycle. When young people need a job, they're told they don't have enough experience — but how can they get experience without a job in the first place? Paid internships and co-op placements can make all the difference, so when youth know the path they want to take with their career, it's recommended that they find an educational or training program that offers placement opportunities.

2. Networking. Many career-level jobs aren't posted publicly. That's why it's so important to meet as many people as possible in a given industry to get a foot in the door.

3. Skills. Instead of looking for a job that teaches industry-specific skills, it's

becoming more and more important to build the so-called "soft skills" like communication, collaboration and problem solving.

Fortunately, there are organizations that are will-

ing to provide young people with the opportunity to build these skills when they can't find a job that affords them the chance. One example is the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada and their Raise the

Grade program, supported by RBC Future Launch.

Raise the Grade is designed to provide skill development opportunities, mentors and support to high school students living in poverty. This includes academic support, which prepares them for higher education, and career discovery, which prepares them for work.

DIAMOND NAIJA RADIO
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E je k'ajo so
"Let's talk about it"
with
KEMI AGBEKEADE
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@ 2:30pm EST / 7:30pm UK / 8:30pm Nigeria
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questions is by assessing what information the interviewer is looking for, and directing the conversation

to your related employable skills. If they are a quality employer, they should accept your answer without

any difficulties. If they continue to push you for information, really think about whether this is the type of

employer you want to be working for anyway.
Source:
careers.workopolis.com

SEX ON THE FIRST DATE (THE FEMALE ANGLE)



By CHINWE ANNIE AMAECHI

I must start by saying that many years ago, it would be an abomination to discuss this topic. Why? Premarital sex was absolutely unheard of. It's not that some (or most) of our parents/ancestors did not indulge in it; they just didn't have the guts to talk about sex as if it was football or some other sport. Today, talking about sex is no big deal, even amongst the group of people we categorize as "under-age".

The point is today, the debate has moved from "is premarital sex okay?" to "is it ideal to have sex on the first date?" In other words, there is a general belief that pre-marital sex is the rule, not the exception; so those who don't indulge are seen as "special saints".

It has been scientifically proven that sex is the number one emotional need of the male man, while it is non-existent on the female's list of needs/priorities. Instead, the woman strongly desires affection. This explains why when two people of the opposite sex meet and are attracted to each other, the man looks forward to the day he will take the woman "to bed" while the woman looks forward to the day the man will take her to the altar. Therefore, when the man asks her out on the first date, the last thing on the woman's mind is sex.

Of course, there are exceptions to the general notion that women don't subscribe to sex on the first date. However, any woman who sets out to have sex on her first date with a man must be extremely desperate, promiscuous and emotionally imbalanced. You're free to take me up on this assertion!

Let's think about what goes on in the minds of the "couple" after sex on the first date. The man's mind is filled with songs of victory; he says to himself with a wide grin: "I came, I saw and I conquered; all in one night", then he may look forward to the next episode, just for the fun of it. Otherwise, he could simply add her name to his list of conquests and move to the

"next catch". However, if he is one who is in the process of choosing a life partner, he declares his 'sex-on-the-first-date girlfriend' to be cheap and definitely not wife-material, and then the 'ultimate search' continues. Hey guys! You can't deny this!

On the other hand, the woman's mind is filled with one or more questions. She is uncertain about the next step with the man. She wonders: does he like me?; will he ask me out on another date?; do we have a future together?; was it wise for me to have slept with him on the first date?; She feels cheap and worthless. Do I have a witness?

Sex on the first date does not help build or strengthen a relationship in any way whatsoever. In fact, it is a bad foundation. It is like eating the chicken used to garnish a meal before the meal itself; it leaves nothing to look forward to; no prize, no "wedding night fantasy".

Sex can never mean the same thing to the man and the woman. To the male man, sex is a fun activity; a sport; a good way to release stress. It doesn't matter who the other player is. In fact, the more the players, the sweeter the game. Men are hunters; they work hard to catch the prey and salivate in anticipation, but once the prey has been caught, it is just another meal. A man can buy the whole world for a woman he is 'chasing', but once he gets her and has sex with her, the zeal to impress automatically dissipates; what more can he ask for?

On the other hand, a woman sees sex as an act of giving her whole self (spirit, soul, and body); an expression of love; something shared between people who feel something special for each other. She does not see it as a sport or a mere event. As far as she is concerned, having sex with a man indicates that they are in an intimate relationship. Unfortunately, she expects the man to understand this and feel the same way.

The first date is supposed to be the beginning of the period of getting to know about each other; it's a time to ask the basic ques-

Continued from the last issue

Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi

"This is what you want? I wonder what your pastor would say if he heard that you wanted sex. Or your editor whom I was told is a Christian."

"My editor? Who gives a flip? It's not one's business." Albert said and stopped. He added, "The choice is yours."

He had declared his intention.

When he kissed her, sparks of desire ignited in her, and she eagerly responded to her surprise. She had never experienced the feelings that ran through her body. That day, she was able to put him off but with great difficulty.

When she was leaving, she invited him to her house. That would be better and keep them safe, she reasoned.

On her way home, she wondered at the things that happened in Albert's apartment. While she worried about the feelings she experienced in his arms, feelings she had never felt before, she also worried that she could lose him like she lost the last man she was in a relationship with if she didn't do something. And she didn't think she wanted that to happen. She really liked Albert.

A week after, he called her. "Hey, I need to see you. You've been on my mind all day."

"Albert, things went a little out of control the last time I came to your house, and ... er ... I'm not sure I want it to happen again."

"I really like you, Grace. I thought you liked me too. And I haven't done anything. I told you what I want in this relationship, didn't I? Don't you want to see me anymore?"

Against good judgment, she went to his house again, and without openly discussing it, both of them knew what might happen. Well, she was in her safe period, she thought.

As she surrendered to the domination of his lips and gave in to her de-

tions - nothing too deep or personal. That's why the experts advise that going to the cinema to see a movie on the first date is a bad idea; it reduces or totally eradicates the opportunity for the couple to talk to each other.

A woman is like a precious stone wrapped in thousands of wrapping sheets. To truly discover her and genuinely fall in love with her, a man must pa-

sire, she quickly told herself that she would ask God for forgiveness afterward and make sure it did not happen again.

She did ask God for forgiveness but it happened again when she went back to his house the next day. And again, she asked God for forgiveness ...

... Now she was pregnant.

When she didn't see her period, she was shocked. How could she be pregnant? Wasn't she in her safe period - she wondered with a table calendar in her hand. Her cycle was probably delayed and would correct itself. The following day had brought no relief. When a week after, the situation was still the same, Grace was in full panic.

She had quickly prayed that God would intervene and help her but since she was still pregnant, she apparently prayed for help at the wrong time. She should have seriously prayed before she began to go steady with Albert or before she went to his house, she reflected.

She hoped Albert would understand her situation: being an unmarried Christian and a worker in her church, she wasn't supposed to be pregnant. She hoped together with him, she would find a solution to her pregnancy.

However, she guessed there were only three things she could do: get married to him, abort the pregnancy or keep the baby and become a single parent.

She didn't like the third option. As much as she liked children, she didn't think she would like to become a single mother. Her mother was a single parent, how could she become one as well? What would people, especially her church members say?

It would have to be marriage or abortion.

But would she want to marry Albert? She asked herself. There was no doubt that she liked him though they didn't know each other well yet. He was generous and fun to be with. But there was also no doubt that he wasn't a serious Christian.

tiently 'unwrap' the jewel, one wrap at a time. This is done over a period of time by healthy communication; definitely not sex! Ideally, by the time he is getting to the last of the wrapping sheets, he ought to have decided whether he wants to spend the rest of his life with her and by the time he sees the precious stone bare, they ought to be married. This may sound archaic, but believe me, the emotionally



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

And more importantly, would he want to marry her? She knew that if he loved her or cared about her, he would accept the pregnancy and ask her to marry him but she wasn't sure about his feelings for her.

How could she have given her body to a man who didn't love her and had not put a ring on her finger? What was she thinking? She scolded herself. She had only herself to blame for her predicament.

She might have to abort the pregnancy and put it behind her. That way, her church and her mother - especially her mother - would not know about it. It would break her mother's heart if she should know. The woman would be greatly disappointed.

She would abort and ask God for forgiveness, again - she thought. She seemed to be doing a lot of wrong things since she met Albert.

She decided within her that if Albert wanted them to get married, she would accept. She was old enough for marriage.

She glanced at the clock on the wall. The time was seven-fifteen and Albert would arrive soon. Knowing she had to make herself look presentable, she got up, entered the bathroom to brush her teeth and wash her face. Then she wore a yellow gown with short sleeves. While combing her hair, her cell phone began to vibrate, and then ring. It was Albert. She picked it and he told her he was on his way. Good.

She put the phone down, packed her hair together at the back and secured it with a black scrunchy.

When the doorbell

rang at seven-forty, Grace who had been in the living room with her mother, got up and went to the door. Looking through the peephole, she saw Albert.

As Albert waited for the door to be opened with his cell phone in his hand, he wondered why Grace called and asked him to see her in her house this evening. It must be important as she sounded serious on the phone. He took a deep breath.

The door opened and Grace stood there. She smiled and said, "Hello."

Her eyes went over him. He wore a white shirt under a grey suit. The first two buttons of the shirt were not done.

"Hello. How are you?" "I'm fine." She gave him a brief hug then stepped back, looking at him.

He swaggered in with confidence like a rich man's son that he was. She locked the door and taking his right hand in her left hand, she led him in, to where Ibie sat with her laptop in front of her.

This was Albert's third time in the house but he hadn't met Ibie the first two times.

Grace introduced him to her mother, "Albert, this is my mother, Pastor Ibie. Mom, this is Albert Asika. He works with Reflections."

Ibie looked at him. He was about five feet-ten inches tall, a little light-skinned, handsome with a well-set teeth and a smile that would make any man proud.

As he greeted Ibie respectfully, Grace was proud of him. He was smooth and had a way about him that she had noticed and fallen for the first time she met him. She hoped her mother would not ask him questions that could embarrass him.

(To be continued)
This story is from the novel - *With This Ring* by Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi
To read the novel, pls visit: <https://www.amazon.com/Taiwo-Odubiyi/e/BOOG-6MUO31>
Or: www.okadabooks.com/search?term=odubiyi
www.pastortaiwoodubiyi.org

YOU & the LAW

JUDGE JUDY SLAPPED WITH \$4.75 MILLION LAWSUIT



By Daniel Forrester

Judge Judy has been slapped with a \$4.75 million lawsuit after she allegedly withheld the profits of her show from two producers.

This lawsuit comes after she received around \$100 million from CBS for selling her show's library. The producers, Sandi Spreckman and Kaye Switzer, helped launch her program more than two decades ago.

This case has been around for a long time. The producers have been trying to enforce their rights to the highly-lucrative program. The issue has been subject to various settlements and it even went to trial in

2000.

Spreckman and Switzer's estate filed a suit saying that they were denied their rightful 5% stake in the sale of the library. The controversy has now outlived Spreckman who died in 2009.

Sheindlin obtained the rights to the library in an earlier negotiation with Big Ticket Entertainment and CBS. Sheindlin shopped the rights around before selling the library back to CBS for the reported \$95 million.

The lawsuit seeks to recover the \$4.75 million; it names Sheindlin, CBS and Big Ticket as defendants.

There is also another pending lawsuit by Richard Lawrence, who served as the agent for Spreckman and Switzer. He argues that his share of the money dried up after 2010 because Big Ticket and CBS awarded Sheindlin an abnormally huge salary.

This case has been like a soap opera thanks to its many twists and turns. It will be interesting to see how it turns out for all the parties involved.

COURT OF APPEAL SUSTAINS AN INJUNCTION THAT ENDS RANDOM DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING IN ALBERTA

By Daniel Forrester

The Alberta Court of Appeal has upheld an injunction that seeks to stop random drug and alcohol tests at the Calgary-based Suncor Energy sites.

The appeal was filed by Suncor, it was of the opinion that random tests should be taken to boost safety at its projects near Fort McMurray. The court dismissed the appeal in a two-to-one decision.

In December, the injunction was granted by a Court of Queen's Bench

judge. The request was made by the union representing about 3,000 oil-sands workers in the region.

Ever since 2012, Unifor Local 707-A and Suncor have been battling over random testing with the union arguing that the tests are a violation of workers' rights and privacy.

This was followed by a long arbitration process. A judicial review ordered a hearing before a new panel and set aside an arbitration award. That ruling was previously upheld by the Ap-

QUESTION: WHAT DOES DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY REALLY MEAN?

Recently, an Ottawa landlord won a landlord and tenant board ruling that ordered a tenant to pay him \$8,625 in unpaid rent and legal fees.

But Rolf Baumann was probably surprised to get a response from the tenant's lawyer invoking diplomatic immunity and refusing to pay, calling her "an agent of a foreign state and as such enjoys immunity from civil matters throughout Canada," according to a letter from the tenant's lawyer Murray Snider.

Does diplomatic immunity really protect in this case? The case will head to Ontario Superior Court for a ruling in February but how often do diplomats behave badly on Canadian soil?

Under Canada's State Immunity Act, "a foreign state is immune from the jurisdiction of any court in Canada," according to a March 2014 litigation bulletin published by McMillan LLP in 2014.

However, the act also states any "commercial activity" is not subject to immunity, so perhaps the landlord has a good case to make.

Canada is also a signatory to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, which governs the rules for diplomats in foreign countries. The rules help "facilitate the development of friendly relations among nations, irrespective of their differing constitutional and social systems," according to a post from the Office of Protocol under Global Affairs Canada.

Link: http://www.international.gc.ca/protocol-protocole/vienna_convention-convention_vienne.

aspx?lang=eng

"The Convention requires diplomats to obey local laws; however, the only sanction permissible under the Convention, in the absence of a waiver of immunity, is expulsion. This prevents the potential abuse by local authorities of the power of a state's law enforcement system."

There is a special link to the office's policy on impaired driving and it promises to impose "zero tolerance" for that type of misbehaviour. If a diplomat is suspected of drunk driving — according to the policy — he or she is not allowed to drive for one year and on the second case, or on those involving injury or death, the diplomat is ordered to be expelled.

Link:

Probably the most famous case in this country occurred in 2001, when Russian attaché Andrei Knyazev drove his car onto an Ottawa sidewalk, killing Catherine MacLean and injuring her friend Catherine Dor.

While he remained at the scene, Knyazev invoked diplomatic immunity, despite him appearing to be severely intoxicated.

Information later surfaced that Knyazev was on his way home from an ice-fishing expedition. He refused to take a breathalyzer test at the scene and Knyazev blamed the weather for the accident, not his alleged drinking.

Knyazev was eventually sent home to Russia — without facing any Canadian justice — although he did serve four years in a Russian penal colony for the crime.

Findlaw.ca



peal Court.

According to Ken Smith, president of Unifor Local 707-A, they are hoping that the nation's Supreme Court will give its opinion on the case.

In his dissenting opinion, Justice Frans Slater said that Suncor's "concerns about substance abuse are not hypothetical."

He said that some workers have tested positive for drugs like opiates and cocaine. He also said that authorities have also come across weapons, urine tampering devices and fake urine.

Slater said he would have allowed Suncor's appeal and set aside the injunction.

Suncor spokeswoman Sneh Seetal said the company is reviewing the Appeal decision and assessing its options. It has been trying to address safety concerns posed by drugs and alcohol over the last 20 years, she said, but no other measures have appropriately mitigated the risk.

The court's move to stop random drug and alcohol tests will go a long way in ensuring that workers' rights are protected.

QUEBEC TO OUTLAW HIGH SUGAR, HIGH-ALCOHOL DRINKS FROM CONVENIENCE STORES AND GROCERIES



The Quebec government is planning on outlawing the sale of sugary, high-alcohol beverages in grocery and convenience stores.

This new ban is aimed at beverages that contain more than seven percent alcohol, it aims to make them available only at Quebec liquor commission outlets.

These alcoholic drinks have created a hot debate after the death of a 14-year-old who allegedly consumed drink called FCKD UP. FCKD UP is a malt-liquor drink that contains 11.9 percent alcohol. The manufacturers of this product have stopped production but the market is still flooded with similar drinks. As it stands, the authorities are still waiting for the release of a toxicology report so that they can continue with their investigations regarding the girl's death.

According to Martin Coiteux, the Public Security Minister, these kinds of drinks should be removed from the market because they fool young people with their sweetness; they even don't even feel the alcohol within.

Coiteux is intending to amend the bill that hopes to modernize Quebec's gaming and alcohol legislation. The measure would begin working after the law is adopted by the end of the current parliamentary session in June.

Coiteux said that the province will ensure that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Quebec authorities, and Health Canada will work together to guarantee the safety of various products in the market.

Moving into the fu-

ture, the Quebec government will embark on a general education and prevention campaign for substance abuse, this is according to Public Health Minister Lucie Charlebois.

In October, the government ordered a report when health officials noticed that the sweet alcoholic drinks were being associated with a spate of intoxication cases among young drinkers. The report was prepared by Quebec's public health institute.

The report revealed that out of 7,055 emergency room visits for intoxication between January and late November last year, 2032 cases involved people between the ages of 12 and 24. It also revealed that 484 of the people involved were underage drinkers.

According to Premier Philippe Couillard, the province is doing everything in its power to ensure that no other person suffers the fate of the girl who died of these high-sugar, alcoholic drinks. He also challenged the federal government to deal with issues of legal authorization, labeling, and distribution.

The Quebec government, public-health officials, and scientists say that the drinks are very deceptive because they get users drunk quickly while boosting energy and masking the taste and effect of alcohol. They say that the drinks are meant to entice young people.

The citizens of Quebec will be hoping that their leaders will come up with a permanent solution to ensure that these alcoholic drinks don't cause the death of another person.



FAMILY

KIDS STILL LIVING AT HOME? HELP THEM TAKE THE NEXT STEP



(NC) Between a competitive economy and an expensive housing market, today's young people are staying in the nest longer than ever before. In fact, more than a third of Canadian young adults live with their parents rather than alone or with a spouse or partner in their own household.

While this trend can offer certain benefits to parents and kids living under the same roof, there are positive ways you can encourage your children to take the next step in their lives and careers. Here are some ideas for parents of kids in post-secondary and beyond.

Create a realistic plan. Work together to set key goals and milestones that are achievable. For example, if their goal is to find a job, strategize on how to get the ball rolling. Career counselling available on campus or information interviews with professionals in their field are great places to start. If your son or daughter is hoping to move out, help him or her establish a budget and find ways to meet it. Even while still in university or college, a part-time job or on-campus research position can help.

Set clear house rules. You want to be your children's parent, not their

roommate. Set boundaries and responsibilities that help them understand exactly what goes into running a household, which will prepare them for when they do leave the nest. Decide who will purchase the groceries each week, set curfews and quiet hours, and establish what they need to do to contribute to certain expenses such as the Internet bill. Beyond doing their own laundry, make sure your kids are contributing to chores that benefit everyone in the household, like preparing dinner, shoveling snow or making repairs.

Encourage a working holiday or internship. Travelling and working abroad can help your child become more independent and confident while gaining international work experience that can be very valuable when they come back and start job hunting. A great resource to obtain work permits quicker and easier is International Experience Canada, a government program that allows youth ages 18 to 35 to travel and work abroad for up to two years in one of more than 30 partner countries and territories.

Find more information on work and travel abroad at Canada.ca/IEC

BEYOND DIVORCE

You've finalized your separation agreement and received your divorce decree. You begin to realize that life beyond divorce does indeed offer opportunities for fresh beginnings and the building of new memories. You are now learning to live independently, how to co-parent and how to juggle new

responsibilities that were once shared. Your children are, for the most part, beginning to settle into their new reality and so are you.

As you move on post-divorce you find yourself traversing a new learning curve. It is a time when, much as you'd like to move forward, you may find yourself feeling held back

BENEFITS OF RAISING YOUR KIDS BILINGUAL

(NC) As parents, we want to offer our kids every advantage for a happy, healthy and successful life. Many think this means ensuring our children do well in math and science and doing better in school overall. But did you know that learning a second language like English or French also offers many unique rewards? Here are some reasons to raise your kids bilingual.

A better, bigger brain. Research shows learning a second language actually changes the size and structure of our brains. Speaking two or more languages is like mental exercise that trains the brain, leading to improved attention, memory skills, problem-solving abilities and multi-tasking.

Greater empathy. Bilingual people also have better social skills, allowing them to be more empathetic towards others and read them better. Experts think this is because bilingual people are better able to block out their feelings and ideas, allowing them to focus on those of others more easily and accurately.

Protection against illness. Your kids will have plenty of reasons to thank you for encouraging them to be bilingual when they get older. Studies show that being bilingual can delay the onset of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, for an average of five years. Bilingualism can also protect against brain injury — bilingual stroke survivors



are twice more likely to experience cognitive recovery than monolingual people.

Practical benefits. Learning two languages when started early follows your kids in every sphere of their lives. Whether it's getting a good job, travelling to exciting destinations, experiencing more connections to different cultures and people, or contributing

to diverse communities, a second language offers enrichment for a lifetime.

Since English and French are Canada's official languages, why not start with those? And because our official languages belong to everyone, the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages is holding public consultations and invites you to share your ideas online at officiallanguages.gc.ca.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD TELL THEIR KIDS ABOUT STARTING A CAREER



(NC) Looking for a first job is a daunting endeavour. As a parent, there are ways you can help your kids manage the stress of the process but also set them up for success from day one. Here's how to get started.

It's about attitude.

by your past and present realities. What would you do with the opportunity to create a positive future for yourself? Give yourself and your children the gift of moving forward.

It's time to move beyond divorce

Engaging in post-divorce coaching, I work with clients who would like to:

- Bring co-parenting relationships to the next level;
- Learn to co-parent with a high-conflict ex;
- Reclaim self-con-

fidence;

- Prioritize self-care;
- Reenter the workforce;
- Organize a busy schedule;
- Date mindfully;
- Navigate new ages and stages in two separate homes;
- Return to the negotiating table;
- Blend families for lasting success

Are you past your divorce and feeling stuck? To arrange a free consultation, contact us: choicemediationandcoaching.com

kids to think about times when they've demonstrated their can-do attitude to use as examples.

Encourage networking. According to research conducted by Food and Beverage Ontario, 79 per cent of Ontario residents say the best way to learn more about an industry is to talk to someone who works in the sector. As your kids start to think about jobs and careers, encourage them to get to know people who work in the industry. Think about your own network — your extended family, neighbours, colleagues and others you can introduce them to — or suggest that they do some research about a company and ask for an information interview.

Think about your

personal brand. Doing a good job is not just about learning the trade or the industry, it is also about how you act on the job. Being positive, polite, on time and inquisitive is critical to getting hired and getting ahead.

Think outside the box. While an interest in graphic design might naturally lead to an advertising agency or an interest in finance to an accounting firm, companies in many other sectors also need those skills. Encourage your kids to expand their job search, scoping out growing industries like food and beverage processing, healthcare and technology which all have roles for designers, marketers, accountants, engineers, computer scientists and more. Find more information online at tasteyourfuture.ca.



REAL ESTATE

MOVING? HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT NEIGHBOURHOOD

(NC) The search for the perfect house begins with the search for the perfect neighbourhood, which can be daunting. Searching for something so open-ended and with so many variables can be an overwhelming task, but it doesn't have to be. You just have to know where to start your search and where you can take it from there. Get ready to find that dream neighbourhood.

Search yourself. You can't really know what to look for in a neighbourhood until you know exactly what you want. Make a list, take your time. Write down the things that really matter to you. Decide priorities. Order your list from most to least important. Moving in with your partner? Have them do the same, and see where your priorities line up and where you diverge. Now that you know what you want, it's time to go get it.

Search the streets. Don't underestimate the importance of this step. You really can't know a neighbourhood until you've walked its streets at several different

times of the day. Get a feel for the level of traffic and noise, decide if you're okay with it. See how the streets feel. Are they lit enough at night? Would it be nice to go for a run through your neighbourhood? Make sure you visit each of your candidate neighbourhoods.

Search the stats. While you hunt at street level, make sure you take your research to a bird's-eye view at the same time. You would be amazed at the kinds of things you can learn about a neighbourhood just from its census data. How old are people there? How many kids are in the neighborhood? How many people are homeowners? How much are the average monthly costs to live there? What languages are spoken in the neighbourhood? Combine your research with your street-level hunting and you'll soon find yourself walking through the perfect neighbourhood for you and your family.

Find more information at www.statcan.gc.ca/census.

TIPS TO BECOMING A REAL ESTATE INVESTOR. - Steve Ezeude

"Now, one thing I tell everyone is learn about real estate. Repeat after me: real estate provides the highest returns, the greatest values and the least risk." - Armstrong Williams, entrepreneur

The last one month was a month when individuals thought so much about ways of creating wealth through real estate investment. It came as a coincident for me that two investment groups invited me at different times to speak to them on how to become real estate investors. Why the 'sudden' interest in real estate? I guess the events in the Canadian real estate market in the last two years and specially that of 2017 have drawn people's attention to the benefits of real estate investment. The truth is that real estate all over the world has produced millionaires. According to Andrew Carnegie, "Ninety percent of all millionaires become so through owning real estate. More money has been made in real estate than in all industrial investments combined. The wise young man or wage earner of toady invests in

real estate."

The tips to becoming an investor here will zero in on how one should prepare to invest, ask the right questions and assess the right information. The media put up numbers and statistics that create confusion thus leaving some people to believe what isn't true. Fake news if you ask President Donald Trump. In other not to fall prey of misleading information, here are few tips that will make sense in becoming a real estate investor.

1. Commitment: Whether investing as an individual or as a group, there should be commitment. Set a goal and commit to it. Timelines should be respected. If you or your group, set(s) a goal to raise an amount of money within a time frame, ensure you stick to it. Do not procrastinate.

2. Be informed: You need to be knowledgeable and be open to resources that will help you in making good investment decisions.

3. Power team: There is need for you to surround yourself or your group with a team of professionals to guide you properly. Have

a real estate agent, accountant, lawyer, Mortgage agent to work with at all times.

4. Focus: Having a focus will be helpful. I have seen 'want to be' investment groups that have continually missed their focus. They want to make money and instead of raising capital for investment, they most of the time go to their meetings only to socialize. How can you make money when the focus is lacking?

5. Raise capital: Decide on how to raise the capital you need. Some save money to get started and some borrow to invest. Crowd funding can also be one way to raise the initial capital. I prefer borrowing to invest as it comes with its tax advantages and most importantly, the interest rate in Canada is low so take advantage of that and borrow to invest.

6. Seek for options: Explore investment options that are available. You have to decide if you want to invest in either real estate (rehabilitation, non performing or turnkey properties) or Mortgage or land development. Whichever one you



Steve Ezeude

decide to go with, ensure you understand the pros and the cons.

7. Tax implications: Knowledge of tax implications will be a helpful tip. Your tax bracket will determine if you want to use your name or use an incorporation to invest.

Finally, real estate is indeed a great vehicle for building wealth. To be an investor and become successful, think through these tips before hitting the investment road.

Steve Ezeude is a Realtor with Royal LePage Signature Realty and a Real Estate Investment Syndicator. For questions and/or feedback, please send email to steveezeude@yahoo.ca or call 6478608304. www.milontohomes.com

HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW HOME MOULD-FREE

(NC) Mould spores can be found virtually everywhere, both indoors and out. They can grow on almost any material, including wood, paper, drywall, carpet and food. All that spores need are dampness, a food source and time. This means the key to preventing mould is managing the moisture levels in your home.



You may think that if your home is brand new, you shouldn't have to worry about mould. But there are many reasons a new home might still develop mould. Many building materials contain organic material that mould spores can feed on, and if these materials are damp or wet at the time of their installation you may start to see some evidence of mould as they dry. Or you might have mould because moisture is getting into the house somehow, perhaps due to a plumbing leak, a crack in the foundation or missing flashing on the roof.

When you see mould, the first thing to do is determine the source of moisture and eliminate it. If you think it's the result of a de-

fect in your home, contact your builder.

If the cause of the mould is a warranted defect in your home, your new home warranty covers mould remediation for up to \$15,000 in addition to repairing the defect that's causing the problem to begin with. However, if the culprit is improper maintenance on the part of the owner, remediation isn't covered.

Once the moisture problem is resolved, if the area affected by mould covers less than one square metre, you can clean it yourself using an anti-microbial soap or detergent solution. Remember to use gloves, a respirator and eye

protection. After cleaning the area, dry it and remove any porous or damaged materials. Going forward, it's important to monitor the area to make sure the mould doesn't come back.

A little home maintenance can go a long way when it comes to mould prevention. As a new homeowner, it's important that you regularly inspect window and door surfaces for moisture and condensation; inspect plumbing fixtures and immediately repair leaks; use all exhaust fans, especially in the bathroom and kitchen; and inspect the foundation, roof, windows, doors and exterior cladding for moisture intrusion.

3 SIMPLE WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNITY

(NC) Creating a happier, healthier neighbourhood can help turn your community into a truly great place to live. Here are some little things you can do around the house and in your everyday life to make a significant difference.

1. Keep a courteous attitude when driving. Traffic jams and drivers who don't put their flashers on or cut you off without notice are all causes for the stress and frustrations that can build up on the road. Keeping calm

and acting with civility will lower your stress levels and those of other drivers, which in turn can lower accident rates.

2. Lock your doors. Locking the doors to your house, office, and car, and even locking your bicycle with a padlock, can greatly reduce theft rates. Make sure not to leave valuable objects in sights, such as your computer on the counter or your GPS or wallet on the dashboard.

3. Control the risk

of damage. Starting your dishwasher or laundry machines only when someone is at home keeping an eye on the devices helps reduce the risk of water damage or a fire hazard in your dryer. Removing softener sheets from your dryer and closing your washer taps after use can also save you serious headaches.

Communities are really at the core of SSQ Insurance's services because stronger communities make every person better. Find more useful tips at blog.ssq.ca/en.

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FOOD

QUICK TIPS FOR FUN AND EASY BREAKFASTS



(NC) Most parents have sleepless nights, hectic mornings and laundry that doesn't get folded. Cutting corners where you can means spending more time with family. But, serving quick, nutritious, home-cooked meals will improve your family's health and your budget.

Here, Tori Wesszer, foodie and registered dietitian, shares her tips and meal ideas to make busy mornings less stressful.

- Pull out the crock-pot before bed to make oatmeal for the morning. You can jazz it up with your family's favourite toppings.

- Freeze leftover smoothies in ice pop moulds. These are awesome in the summer for kids to eat for breakfast. They think they're eating a dessert rather than a mom-approved nutritious meal.

- Go for tried-and-true scrambled eggs with whole grain toast. It's an easy breakfast that takes minutes to make, and if you pair it with a cup of orange juice you get potassium, folate and 100 per cent of the daily quota of vitamin C.

- Prepare as much as possible the night before to leave more time for connecting with your family. This will set a

happy and healthy tone for the day.

This is one of her favourite breakfast recipes that can be made the night before in just a few minutes:

CREAMY ORANGE CHIA PUDDING

Serves: 6

Prep time: 5 minutes

Setting time: 4-24 hours

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/4 cups Florida Orange Juice
- 3 cups vanilla unsweetened almond milk
- 1 cup white chia seeds
- 3 tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 1/4 tsp vanilla
- thinly sliced Florida Orange peel for garnish (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

1. Whisk all ingredients together in a large bowl. Let stand for 10 minutes and whisk again.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight, then dish it up and serve. Garnish it with a fresh orange peel if desired.

Tori Wesszer is a registered dietitian and founder of the Fraiche Nutrition blog.

Find more recipes at www.floridajjuice.com/ca.

HOW TO COOK OKRA PLANTAIN PORRIDGE (OKRA PLANTAIN POTTAGE)

INGREDIENTS

- 2 unripe plantains
- 6 okra fingers
- 2 smoked mackerels (smoked titus)
- 2 cooking spoons red palm oil
- 1 red onion
- 1 bunch of Nigerian pumpkin leaves (ugu)
- 1 big stock cube
- Habanero peppers (to your taste)
- Salt (to taste)

NOTES ON THE INGREDIENTS

1. Feel free to adjust the quantities of the above ingredients to your liking.

2. I highly recommend red onion for this Okra Plantain Porridge.

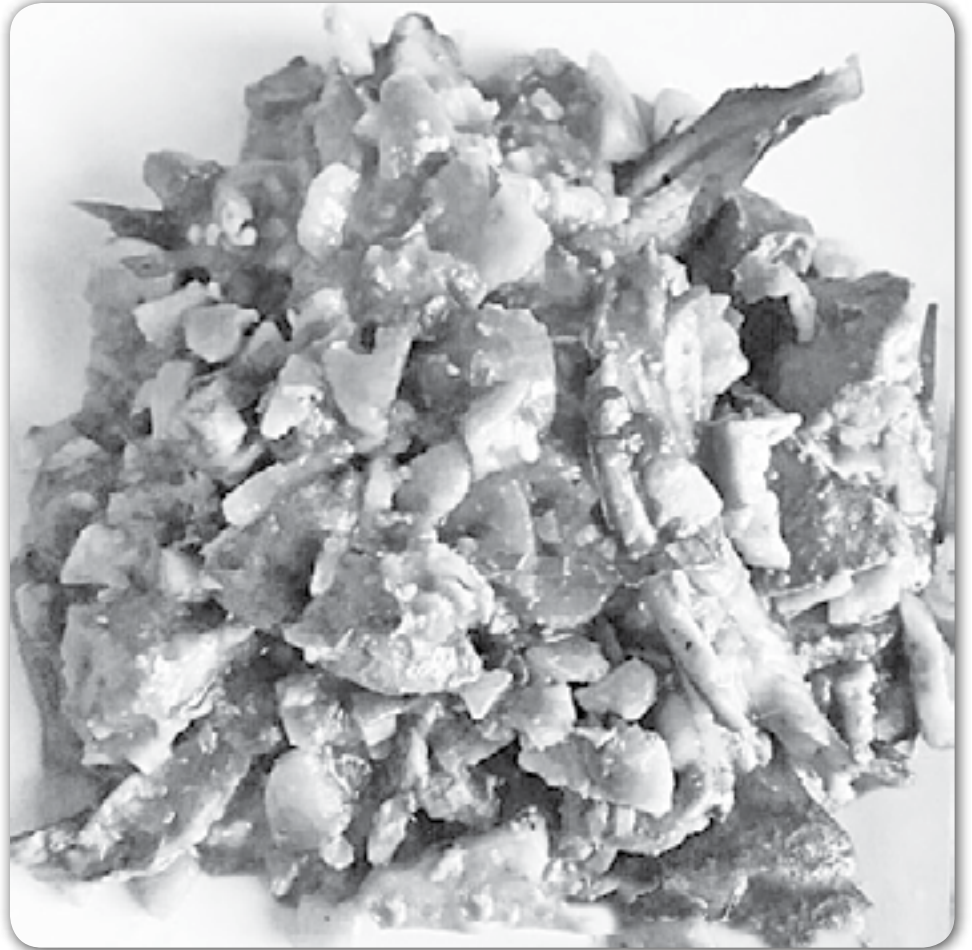
3. I did not add crayfish because two big smoked fish are more than enough. Adding crayfish will be an over kill on the fishy taste but you can add some if you wish.

4. Go easy on the salt when preparing this meal because the smoked fish, stock cube and crayfish (if you decide to use it) all contain salt. I wouldn't even add salt if I add crayfish to this meal.

5. If you do not have ugu, use one handful leafy spinach.

BEFORE YOU COOK OKRA PLANTAIN PORRIDGE

1. Wash, peel and cut up the plantain as shown.
2. Rinse and cut the



Nigerian pumpkin leaves or the spinach (if that's what you are using) into small pieces.

3. Debone the smoked fish and break into small pieces.

4. Cut the pepper and onions into tiny pieces.

5. Cut the okra as shown in the video below.

COOKING DIRECTIONS

1. Put the cut plantain in a pot. Add the

smoked fish, stock cube and the chopped onions.

2. Pour water to just under the level of the contents of the pot. Add palm oil and start cooking on high heat.

3. Note when it boils and cook for another 10 to 15 minutes or till some porridge starts to form. Keep an eye on it and reduce the heat if it starts burning.

4. Add the okra and habanero pepper and cook

for 1 minute or till it boils again.

5. Add the vegetable, stir and take it off the stove.

6. Cover and leave to stand for a few minutes before serving.

Serve with a chilled soft drink.

Read more at <http://www.allnigerianrecipes.com/plantain/okra-plantain-porridge>.

MUSHROOMS: THE ULTIMATE SUPERFOOD

(NC) Mushrooms are one of the greatest superfoods for a wide variety of reasons. Not only are they available and grown all year long, they are packed with essential nutrients, antioxidants and fibre.

Recent studies show that mushrooms can help with blood pressure, arthritis, diabetes, weight management and boosting your immune system. With their low calories and high nutrients, you don't have to sacrifice good taste for something that's good for you.

Mushrooms are so versatile that you can even blend them with your meat. If you cut out half the amount of meat your recipe calls for and replace it with finely chopped mushrooms, you'll get a serving of vegetables and lower the cholesterol, fat content and calories of the meal.



Blending mushrooms and meat together can lighten up your favourite recipes, like burgers, spaghetti and tacos. Finely chopped mushrooms look so similar and blend seam-

lessly with ground meat, so classics can be satisfying without sacrificing taste or texture.

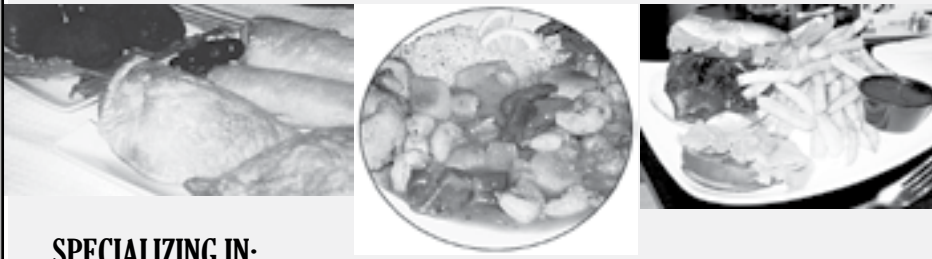
By using the blend-and-extend technique, you can also stretch your gro-

cery budget. Adding mushrooms to your meats can reduce grocery costs while expanding portion sizes.

Find great-tasting recipes online at mushrooms.ca.

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FANCY KITCHEN TERMS

Handling a knife requires a particular set of skill for the kitchen freaks, so how do we really handle this all-important tool?

Mincing: Involves cutting of food or any other object into small pieces. For instance, cutting vegetables in one direction and then cutting across the original slices to make it even tinier.

Dicing: This is cutting food items into small cubes like a dice. A potato, for instance, could have the sides trim off so that it forms a rectangular shape, then cut the rectangle by crossing it from the edge into little cubes.

Slicing: This is the simple act of cutting something into a thin, flat piece just like you have sliced bread.

Julienne: Chefs are skillful in cutting objects into thin strips or matchstick-like pieces just as the "julienne carrots".

Saute and deep fry

To saute something is to cook it in a pan, with a small amount of oil and then stir the food by tossing the pan in the air. It comes from the French word "jump". On the other hand, deep frying involves the use of oil just enough to cook in a way that it covers the food being cooked.

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AUTO & TECHNOLOGY

THE INVENTOR OF WIND-UP RADIO DIES AGED 80



By Julius Oyekunle

The inventor of the wind-up radio, Trevor Baylis, has died aged 80, the manager of his company has confirmed. According to David Bunting, Mr Baylis who hails from Twickenham, south-west London, died of

natural causes after a long illness.

Mr Baylis invented the Baygen clockwork radio in 1991 which he designed after seeing a documentary about Aids in Africa that suggested educational radio programs could help tackle the spread of the epidemic.

His wind-up radios were designed to function anywhere.

What made them important was that they were designed for a Third-World application despite huge sales in the UK. They were aimed at Africa and places where access electric power and batteries was a major problem.

The original one had a clockwork-like mechanism with a very ingenious double-spiral spring. It wound off one pulley onto another and would run for relatively short periods of time - about 15 minutes. Later versions lasted longer and were powered by rechargeable batteries. They were charged up with a crankable dynamo or could be plugged into the mains or solar energy pan-

els, if available.

He had said he received almost none of the profits from the invention because people took advantage of patent laws to sell other versions of it. He would later in life champion the cause for the protection of intellectual property. He has also advised inventors on developing their ideas, and campaigned against theft.

Mr Bunting, who runs Trevor Baylis Brands, said Mr Baylis had no living relatives. He was appointed CBE in 2015 after campaigning to make theft of intellectual property a white-collar crime. Mr Baylis had also worked as a film and TV stuntman and an aquatic showman. He had suffered from Crohn's disease, Mr Bunting said.

6 CLEVER CAR HACKS FOR SURVIVING SPRING WEATHER

(NC) Late winter and early spring mean slippery driving conditions, more pedestrians on the roads and dark, rainy skies. Rather than turning a blind eye to the changes ahead, these car hacks will prepare you for anything the warmer, wetter season brings.

1. Check your wipers. Over the winter, your wipers can become damaged by frost, ice and heavy snow. Keep your windshield clean and clear by installing a new pair of wipers after the snow melts away.

2. Show off your pearly lights. Visibility in the spring months can be bleak. To make your lights shine bright, simply brush them with toothpaste so your vehicle can stand out in a rain storm.

3. Keep your tires road-ready. Melting snow often unveils new potholes and cracks in the road. Save your car from major roadway damage by ensuring your tires are filled to the manufacturer-recom-

mended air pressure at the turn of the season.

4. Understand hydroplaning. Hydroplaning occurs when a layer of water builds up between the road and your vehicle's tires. It can impact the driver's control and ability to brake. Prevent the risk of hydroplaning by reducing your speed in rainy weather and safely avoiding large puddles.

5. Share the road. Warmer weather means there will be more pedestrians, construction workers and cyclists on the roads. Remember that speeding fines are often increased in construction zones, and you need to be vigilant at pedestrian crossings.

6. Rest assured with insurance. Is your vehicle covered should an emergency strike? Jump online and head to Esurance for your auto needs. It'll make your life easier by providing you with an online quote, claims information and policy management — available any time, anywhere.

10 DIY VEHICLE MAINTENANCE TIPS EVERYONE CAN HANDLE

(NC) Even if you're not the handy type, there are simple things you can do to keep your car in top shape all winter long.

1. Do what you can. Get acquainted with your vehicle owner's manual to see what needs to be done and when, even if you won't be doing the job yourself.

2. Pay attention to warning lights. Early intervention can prevent expensive repairs and breakdowns.

3. Focus on items that will keep your vehicle safe to operate, such as the brakes. Regularly check

your brakes' fluid levels and warning lights, and watch for signs of wear.

4. Checking the level of your antifreeze/coolant may deliver the best return on your effort. It's easy to do and can help prevent some of the costliest engine repairs. Simply look under the hood for the coolant reservoir; the correct level will be visible from the outside the tank. Top up if necessary.

5. Keep product choice simple. Facing a full retailer's shelf and not knowing what to buy can be intimidating. Stay safe by opting for trusted

brands with long track records. When it comes to performance chemicals like brake fluid and antifreeze/coolant, Prestone products deliver proven protection that is easy to choose.

6. Properly inflated tires are safer and will save you money at the pumps, so keep an eye on your tire pressure.

7. Use smartphone apps to keep track of your maintenance schedule and get reminders for when it's time to for oil and filter changes and fluid/belt service.

8. There's no need to

purchase vehicle-specific formulations of coolant and many other products for every car in your home, simplifying your choice and saving you money.

9. Changing your windshield wipers is quick and inexpensive — simply follow the instructions on your owner's manual.

10. Double check that your headlights and brake lights work. Limited visibility during shorter days and snow and ice storms means you need to do everything you can to make sure other cars can see you at all times.

RUSSIA NOW WORLD'S LARGEST OIL PRODUCER

For the second month in a row, Russia has maintained its status as the world's largest oil producer, ousting Saudi Arabia, official figures in December 2016 and January 2017 have confirmed.

Russia's daily oil output averaged about 10.8 million barrels in January, slightly more than 10.5 million barrels in December, according to data released by the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat).

Saudi Arabia trailed behind in these two months, with its daily output averaging 9.95 million barrels in January, the data showed.

Saudi Arabia ranked the world's No. 1 oil produc-



er in November, pumping oil at a rate of 10.6 million barrels per day compared to Russia's 10.4 million.

Crude oil accounted for nearly 30 percent of Russia's total exports in January, up from 25 percent in the same period last year, Rosstat data showed.

To shore up persistent weak oil prices, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and 11 non-OPEC producers, including Russia, agreed in November 2016 to trim production by a total of 1.8 million barrels per day.

The reduction deal

became effective on Jan. 1, 2017 and runs until July this year. Russia promised to cut its daily oil output by up to 300,000 barrels in a gradual manner.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said last week that he expected Russian companies to reach the reduction target by the end of April.

On Monday, rating firm Moody's raised the outlook for the global integrated oil and gas sector from stable to positive, noting that the production curb will allow producers' operating margins to improve as prices increase.

Pmnewsnigeria.com

POEM

AFRICA, MY AFRICA

By David Diop (July 1927-1960)

Africa of proud warriors in ancestral savannahs

Africa of whom my grandmother sings

On the banks of the distant river

I have never known you

But your blood flows in my veins

Your beautiful black blood that irrigates the fields

The blood of your sweat

The sweat of your work

The work of your slavery

Africa, tell me Africa

Is this you, this back that is bent

This back that breaks

Under the weight of humiliation

This back trembling with red scars

And saying yes to the whip under the midday sun

But a grave voice answers me

Impetuous child that tree, young and strong

That tree over there

Splendidly alone amidst white and faded flowers

That is your Africa springing up anew

Springing up patiently, obstinately

Whose fruit bit by bit acquires

The bitter taste of liberty.

REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

QUESTION

I'M NEWLY MARRIED BUT I DON'T LIKE SEX. WHAT DO I DO?

ANSWER (Pastor Taiwo Iredele Odubiyi)

I provided the basic answers to this issue in some of my novels, including *THEN CAME YOU*.

Here are some excerpts from the novel:

... Another question came to Fuoma's mind. Would she be able to satisfy him sexually if she married him? The bad experiences had made her dislike sex and mere thinking about the fact that sex goes with marriage almost scared her ...

... As she thought about these concerns, they grew in her heart and she decided that she would need to talk with Bode. She knew however that with God on their side and ... if Bode loved her as much as she loved him, they would overcome all the challenges and their differences would not matter. She took her phone and checked the time. Nine-fifty two. Bode should still be awake, she thought and called his phone ...

... After the call, she prayed and asked God to help them so they would overcome the challenges ...

... "I dislike sex." She blurted out.

He didn't flinch.

She continued. "Those past experiences have made me dislike it, and knowing that it comes with marriage is almost scary to me and I wonder - will I be able to satisfy my husband? Will I be able to respond to him? Will I ever enjoy it with my husband? And I'd like to know, are there books I can read that can help me overcome this particular challenge because I'd like to be the best wife to my husband?" ...

... "And about sex," he said and laughed.

She smiled and covered her face.

"Ufuoma," he called her gently.

She looked at him, still smiling.

"Do you love me?"

"Yes, with all my heart."

"When we get married, focus on that love. Let it rule your actions and body; not fear. In marriage, focus on us and the kind of future you want us to have, don't focus on your past. Alright?"

"Yes." ...

... As she wore the short pink silky gown she bought for her wedding night, she couldn't help wondering how the night would be. Would she enjoy intimacy with her husband? And more importantly, would she be able to please him?

A voice told her to get in bed and pretend to be asleep or tell him that she was too tired for intimacy.

What? This voice and idea cannot be from God, she realised and silenced it immediately, using the name of Jesus. She told herself that she had the mind of Christ and would do the right thing.

As she got in bed with the white Bible that Bode gave her in her hand, she asked the Holy Spirit to help her. She would not let her mind control her but the Spirit of God. She sat up in bed, rested against a pillow and thumbed through the Bible.

When she heard the front door open and close, she told herself - the time has come.

Soon, the door of the room opened and Bode entered. Fuoma lowered the Bible and smiled at him.

As he walked over to the bed, he said "Wow! We're married. You're now my wife."

"And you're my husband." She said.

She decided to go to him, after all, they were now husband and wife. She got down from the bed and came to him, to his delight.



Pastor Taiwo Odubiyi

What to do to overcome the challenge:

The following are some of the answers and lessons to be learned from the excerpts:

1) She realised that she had a challenge, and also knew that it would affect her marriage if it was not properly dealt with. You need to know that sex is an important part of marriage.

2) She decided to discuss with the man she would marry. Communication is important in marriage and when it comes to the issue of sex, it plays a major role. Learn to communicate well.

3) She was open and honest about the issue. You must be open to God and to your spouse. She knew that she would overcome if she involved God. Let your husband know what the challenges are.

4) She prayed. All these issues are not ordinary, satan can use them to destroy the home and lives, and as such, prayer is important. Ask God for help.

5) Fuoma said, "because I'd like to be the best wife to my husband?" To overcome, pleasing her husband must be important to the wife. This will strengthen you to work on yourself and be focused. A wife who takes her husband for granted will not realize she needs to change.

6) In the novel, the man told her, "Focus on the love you have for me. Let it rule your actions and body; not fear. In marriage,

focus on us and the kind of future you want us to have, don't focus on your past." This is the major one. Focus on your marriage and what you're supposed to do, not on your emotions. This will help you to respond appropriately.

7) In the novel, a voice told her to get in bed and pretend to be asleep or tell her husband that she was too tired for intimacy. What? This voice and idea cannot be from God, she realised and silenced it immediately, using the name of Jesus.

These wrong thoughts and feelings will come from time to time, it's your responsibility to shun and silence them.

8) Her spirit told her to make the first move and go to her husband, and she responded. If a wife has prayed, the spirit of God will tell her what to do. If she listens and obeys, and respond to her husband, she will overcome this sex challenge. People usually have problems because they don't know or respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

9) It helps if the husband works with his wife, but let's assume he is not very patient, I believe that if the wife works hand in hand with God, she will have victory.

10) In the novel, Fuoma released herself and enjoyed love making with her husband. Sex was ordained by God, to be enjoyed by a married couple. Keep this in mind, anticipate lovemaking with your husband, and things will change.

(To get the novel *Then Came You*, and others by the same author, visit: www.amazon.com/Taiwo-Odubiyi Or: www.okadabooks.com Website: www.pastortaiwoodubiyi.org



Pastor & Mrs. Ndy Onyido
TREM Brampton
Grace Sanctuary

sics like sending flowers and writing poetry. Women can do this for men as well. If you are a romantic then get creative and explore new ways to add a little more romance to your relationship. You don't have to engage in elaborate displays of romanticism to gain your partner's attention. It's the simple acts that mean the most.

BE SPONTANEOUS

By adding spontaneity to your relationship you can easily transform dull, rote routines into exciting romantic pleasure. Of course you can't disrupt your work routine or even your home routine when the children are involved by you can grasp moments for the two of you and take advantage of them. A few stolen moments here and there can add new dimensions to a relationship.

SHARE

Your relationship involves the deepest most intimate forms of sharing. Not only do you share your home, your possessions and your bodies with each other you need to share your heart, mind and soul as well. Some people find it difficult to commit on such deep levels even to someone they truly love. It can be difficult to open up completely. What we need to remember is that when someone truly

loves us he or she does so on all levels. They accept us for the person we are even with all of our imperfections. That is love. If you refuse to open yourself to your partner it can leave him or her feeling cut off or shut out from you emotionally. They may feel unloved and begin to doubt your true feelings. A good soul searching might help clear the air and set things right.

SHOW GENUINE INTEREST

There are times when your partner may want to talk to you but you are too busy to listen. If such lack of interest occurs often in your relationship it can create a rift of distance. Of course there are moments when you really don't have time to listen but there are other moments when you hide behind the newspaper. Put the paper down and really listen to what your partner is saying.

Enjoy a meal together and discuss your day. Take time in the evening to share your feelings and discuss events of the day. Learn to be a good listener as well. You can't expect your partner to listen to you if you aren't willing to do the same. Your relationship is a partnership. Treating each other with love and respect can go a long way in keeping a relationship strong.

TIPS TO KEEP YOUR PARTNER FAITHFUL

By Darlene Zagata

Some relationships are destined to last forever while others are not. Here are a few ways to keep your partner happy and faithful.

GOOD COMMUNICATION

Keep the lines of communication open. When two people don't communicate with each other the relationship often begins to deteriorate. Your partner

can't read your mind. If you don't express your feelings how do you expect your partner to know how you feel? Be honest with your spouse or partner. Yes, the truth can hurt and people often don't want to hear it but if you are unhappy or feel the need to discuss your feelings about a particular matter do so openly and honestly.

SEXUAL INTIMACY

Work related routines and family responsibilities can sometimes be overwhelming. They can leave us feeling drained both mentally and physically. People may find themselves exhausted and irritable at the end of the day. Some-time sexual intimacy gets put on the shelf. Couples often grow distant as the fires of romance dwindle. Learn to rekindle the flame. Make time for romance and sex-

ual activity. Surprise your partner. Do something out of the ordinary. A pleasant surprise can be beneficial for both of you. A person who has all of his or her needs met at home are less likely to look elsewhere.

BE A ROMANTIC

As mentioned previously romance is important in a relationship. If you're not the romantic type you can always use the old clas-



AFRICAN NEWS

BURUNDI'S RULING PARTY ADDRESSES PRESIDENT'S TITLE CONFUSION

By Julius Oyekunle

A new title bestowed on Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza is "visionary", and not "eternal supreme guide", the ruling party said in a recent chat with news men after confusion over the official translation from the Kirundi language.

Burundi's ruling CNDD-FDD had earlier announced President Nkurunziza — who critics claim is trying to hold on to power for life — would be known as Imboneza yamaha, which the press translated as "eternal supreme guide", while some officials spoke of "permanent guide".

The party's secretary-general, Mr Evariste Ndayishimiye, convened a press conference to address the issue of the translation of the president's title.

"After going over the



Pierre Nkurunziza - Burundi's President

immense works realised by his excellency the president of the republic, the value of his ideas, his teachings, advice and acts, (the party) found him to be an excellent charismatic leader and decided to raise him to the status of Visionary of the CNDD-FDD," he said.

The tiny central Afri-

can state was plunged into political crisis in April 2015 when President Nkurunziza announced his intention to run for a third term which he went on to win.

Post-election violence claimed at least 1,200 lives and displaced more than 400,000 people between April 2015 and May 2017,

according to estimates by the International Criminal Court, which has opened an investigation.

A constitutional referendum in May could allow President Nkurunziza to run in elections in 2020, paving the way for him to remain in power until 2034.

In July last year the International Federation for Human Rights slammed his "increasingly violent dictatorial regime". Mr Ndayishimiye also announced a party decision that, every Thursday, all supporters were to devote the day to "prayer, god, and fasting".

"This is a sign that President Pierre Nkurunziza is the uncontested master of the CNDD-FDD because he has always devoted Thursdays to prayer and fasting. The whole party now has to do as he does," a source close to the party said.

LIGHTENING KILLS CHURCH GOERS IN RWANDA

By Julius Oyekunle

Reports suggest that at least 16 people have died after a Seventh Day Adventist Church in southern Rwanda was hit by lightning and over 140 others were injured, two of them seriously, provincial governor Rose Mureshyankwano said.

Of those taken to hospital, 17 were kept in for treatment while the rest were discharged.

Local mayor Habitegeko Francois said 14 people died immediately after the lightning strike in Nyaruguru district, while another two later died of their injuries.

Mr Francois said there was a similar inci-

dent two weeks earlier, in which a student died after lightning hit a group of 18 people. Lightning strikes are not uncommon across Rwanda, with 18 people killed in different parts of the country last October. Lightning also killed 30 people and injured 61, according to the country's ministry of disaster management and refugee affairs in 2016.

Recently, authorities in Rwanda have closed more than 700 churches for failing to comply with building regulations and for noise pollution. Media outlets have reported that devices for the protection of a structure from lightning strike are non-existent in the churches closed.

JACOB ZUMA FACES CORRUPTION TRIAL

By Julius Oyekunle

South Africa's former President, Jacob Zuma, is to face prosecution for 16 charges of corruption, Chief Prosecutor Shaun Abrahams has confirmed.

Mr Abrahams said he believed there were "reasonable prospects of a successful prosecution".

The charges — which Mr Zuma denies — include counts of fraud, racketeering and money laundering.

Mr Zuma, 75, was forced to resign as president last month by his party, the ruling African National Congress (ANC). Although, a son of the former president says his father is being witch hunted.

He was facing his ninth no-confidence vote in parliament before he left office. The charges relate to a 30bn rand (\$2.5bn; £1.7bn) government arms deal in the late 1990s, before he became president.

Mr Zuma is alleged

to have sought bribes from a French arms company to support an extravagant lifestyle. His financial adviser at the time was found guilty of soliciting those bribes in 2005 and Mr Zuma was later sacked as deputy president.

He now faces one charge of racketeering, two charges of corruption, one charge of money laundering and 12 of fraud.

Shaun Abrahams, head of the National Prosecuting Authority, said a trial court was the appropriate place for the matter to be decided.

He dismissed representations made by Mr Zuma asking that the charges be dropped.

The former ANC chief had argued that the charges against him were characterised by misconduct, "irrational behaviour" and media leaks on the part of prosecutors, Mr Abrahams said.



South Africa's former President, Jacob Zuma

In 1999, the South African government announced its largest-ever post-apartheid arms deal, signing contracts totalling 30bn rand (\$5bn; £2.5bn) to modernise its national defence force.

The deal involved companies from Germany, Italy, Sweden, the UK, France and South Africa.

Allegations of bribery over the deal dogged the governments of both President Jacob Zuma and one of his predecessors, Thabo Mbeki.

Schabir Shaik was

found guilty in 2005 of trying to solicit a bribe from Thint, the local subsidiary of French arms firm Thales, on behalf of Mr Zuma. He was released on parole on health grounds after serving just over two years.

Another official, Tony Yengeni, who was chairman of parliament's defence committee at the time of the deal and chief whip of the ANC, was convicted of fraud in 2003. He was also freed on parole after serving five months of a four-year sentence.

KENYAN MINISTERS APPROVE THE AFRICA FREE TRADE TREATY

By R.Njeru

The Kenyan cabinet recently rubber stamped the Africa Continental Free Trade treaty. The bill will now be forwarded to parliament.

The bill seeks to make trading easy in Africa. It was signed in Rwanda by 44 countries. Kenya will become one of the first African countries to adopt this agreement. The treaty will come into effect after it is ratified by 22 countries.

The cabinet released a statement stating that this treaty will provide a great opportunity for businesses and governments to export goods and services across Africa.

The Cabinet meeting was chaired by President Uhuru Kenyatta in a meeting that was also attended Deputy President William Ruto. President Kenyatta challenged stakeholders in the private sector to take advantage of the treaty so that Kenya can spread its foothold in all the 54 nations of Africa.

The trade deal will spur industrialization by creating a single liberalized market. It will also help improve economic diversification and infrastructure development.

When the deal takes off, it will improve trade and social relations in a continent that is home to more than 1.2 billion people.

The agreement also aims to enhance regional value chain development, industrial development through diversification, food security and agricultural development. When it gets actualized, the treaty will enable the citizens of all the member countries to enjoy a single currency and passport.

All state parties have been bound by the trade deal; they have eight objectives that include non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and the progressive elimination of tariffs.

The signatory parties are also expected to progressively liberalize trade in services. The member countries will set the rules that govern them so that they can effectively deal with disputes concerning their rights and obligations.

The Kenyan Cabinet also approved for ratification the tripartite free trade pact.

This new treaty is a step in the right direction for Kenya and other African nations. If it is actualized well, it will help boost the economies of the member states.

TWO PERSONS CONVICTED FOR SLAVERY IN MAURITANIA

By D.Forrester

Mauritania government has jailed two slave owners. The country's conviction of arrested slave owners is uncommon ultimately leading to the prevalence of the menace. They were sentenced to 10 and 20 years, the toughest ever for the crime in the coun-

try. The court sentenced Saleck Ould Oumar to a 20-year jail even though he died before the case was concluded, and his son.

They were accused of "reducing to slavery" a family, two of whom were children.

Although, slavery became a criminal offense in 1981 but 1% of

the population are still enslaved according to human rights group. Many blacks are often enslaved and made domestic workers by lighter-skinned Mauritians, in a country which has jailed more anti-slavery activists than slave owners.

The two cases were brought by anti-slavery activists in the northwest-

ern town of Nouadhibou to a special court which delivered its verdict.

In 2015, the country declared slavery a "crime against humanity" punishable by up to 20 years in jail. It also set up specialized anti-slavery tribunals in Nouadhibou, the capital Noukachott and in Nema in the south-east.

IGAD ORDERS FOR THE RELEASE OF RIEK MACHAR

By R.Njeru

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has announced that it would like to see Riek Machar freed from his house arrest. The South Sudanese rebel leader is under house arrest in South Africa.

The East African bloc said that they would love to see him free on condition that he renounces violence.

According to the bloc, Machar should be allowed to relocate to any country outside the region as long as it isn't close to South Sudan. This move is meant to mount diplomatic pressure on the Juba government. Machar has been held in South Africa since late 2016.

According to Stephanie Sullivan, the US State Department's acting principal deputy assistant secretary for Africa, they have no problem with Machar being moved to another coun-



try. They insisted that they would like the warring factions to condemn violence in South Sudan.

South Africa's Foreign Ministry is yet to respond to this issue.

The South Sudan government has welcomed IGAD's announcement but have insisted that the rebel leader should not be part of the peace talks in Addis Ababa, this is according to the Juba government spokesman, Michael Lueth.

Machar's SPLM-IO rebel group has announced

that it was reviewing the statement by IGAD so that it can give a comprehensive response, this is according to the group's spokesman.

In 2013, the oil-rich South Sudan suffered from a civil war when forces loyal to Machar (then the Vice President) clashed with troops loyal to President Salva Kiir. This unrest has resulted in the death of tens of thousands.

A third of South Sudan's 12 million citizens have been forced to flee their homes and oil produc-

tion has also reduced.

A new round of talks is scheduled to happen in Addis Ababa after Machar's and Salva Kiir's people violated a ceasefire deal that was signed in December.

IGAD has referred the issue of violations to the African Union. They plan on imposing targeted sanctions on individuals violating the latest peace deal. According to Moussa Faki Mahamat, the head of the African Union Commission, they are willing to impose sanctions on leaders violating the ceasefire in South Sudan.

The United States imposed a unilateral arms embargo last month but has been unable to convince the 15-member UN Security Council to impose one.

The political problem in South Sudan has been ailing the nation for a long time and the citizens will be hoping that the leaders will agree to work together to provide a permanent solution.

GBAGBO CAN FACE TRIAL WITHOUT COURT APPEARANCE

By Julius Oyekunle

The hearing of former Ivorian first lady Simone Gbagbo who was charged for crimes against humanity can proceed without her. Disagreement over high-profile witnesses has altered proceedings against Gbagbo, wife of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo who was forced from power in 2011 by forces loyal to the incumbent Alassane Ouattara.

Simone Gbagbo is accused of involvement in the shelling of Abobo, a northern suburb of the capital Abidjan, which was a Ouattara stronghold, and of being a member of a "crisis cell" that allegedly coordinated attacks by the armed forces and militias in support of Gbagbo killing

hundreds of people including women and children.

She is already serving a 20-year sentence for "endangering state security".

Her lawyers have argued that the crimes against humanity trial, which began in May 2017, cannot continue unless witnesses including parliament's speaker, a former prime minister and a former army chief appear in court.

They have failed to turn up at previous hearings and have been criticised by Gbagbo's lawyers.

But judge Boiqui Kouadjo said the case would continue with or without Gbagbo — with court appointed lawyers representing her. The next hearing has been slated for the 28th of November.

PROTESTS EMERGE IN GHANA OVER EXPANDED MILITARY CO-OPERATION DEAL WITH THE U.S.

By R.Njeru

The streets of Accra were recently filled with angry protesters who were demonstrating against an expanded military deal between Ghana and the U.S.

The demonstrators could be seen holding placards, beating drums and blowing vuvuzelas as they expressed their disgust at their government. This is a rare public display of opposition to the growing foreign military presence in West Africa. The protesters

say that this deal threatens Ghana's sovereignty.

The streets were filled with riot gear police officers but luckily there were no ugly scenes. According to the officers, the demonstrators were around 3,500.

According to Gifty Yankson, he was in the streets to protect the peace and security of his country. He says that he is not ready to mortgage his security for \$20 million. The 49-year-old trader said that the American military causes problems every-

where it goes.

The U.S. and other international powers like France are looking to counter Islamic State militants and al Qaeda by enhancing their presence in areas like the remote Sahel region.

The deal will see the Ghanaian military receive around \$20 million in equipment and training from the U.S. in 2018. In return, the U.S. military will have free access to Ghana's radio spectrum, use an airport runway that meets U.S. standards and

get a green light to import military equipment tax-free as well as deploying troops. This controversial bill was boycotted by opposition lawmakers but it was approved by parliamentarians in the ruling party.

This problem with Ghana has emerged only a few weeks after the U.S. media announced that President Trump had allegedly referred to Africa as a continent of "shithole countries."

continued on p(39)

MOZAMBIQUE AND KENYA SCRAP VISA REQUIREMENTS

By R.Njeru

The Mozambican and the Kenyan governments have announced that their citizens will not require visas when travelling between the two countries.

The announcement was made by Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi together with his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta after they held a meeting at the Ponta Vermelha Palace, Maputo. The two leaders agreed to open their borders so that they can promote ties between their citizens.

President Kenyatta urged the citizens of Mozambique to take advantage of the open borders to do business, travel and intermarry with Kenyans.

This directive means that Mozambicans will be treated in a special way as compared to other African nationals who will still have to travel to Kenya to receive a guaranteed visa as he had directed in November last

year.

This development happened as President Filipe Nyusi and the First Lady of Mozambique, Isaura Nyusi hosted a State banquet for President Kenyatta and First Lady Margaret Kenyatta.

President Kenyatta said that his government will open a consulate in Maputo to nurture the cooperation between the two nations. He also said that Kenya is having a full mission during its next financial year.

During his speech, President Kenyatta emphasized on the need to continue with the dreams of the African forefathers who were staunch supporters of pan-Africanism. He said that it was up to the modern leaders to ignore the artificial boundaries created by former colonial masters so that the people can enjoy economic liberation without limitations.

continued on p(39)

ZIMBABWE ANNOUNCES NEW VISA REGIME

By D.Forrester

Zimbabwe is set to introduce a revised visa regime which will see 28 countries being moved from Category C to Category B (visa on arrival) as the country moves in to improve travel facilitation and take advantage of the ample economic potential of tourism.

Announcing the development during the Na-

tional Tourism Strategy Workshop held in Victoria Falls, Department of Immigration Principal Director Mr. Clement Masango said the changes are with immediate effect and are part of government efforts to improve travel facilitation and unlock the potential of the tourism industry.

Category B regime entails that tourists may be issued with visa on arrival *continued on p(39)*

TANZANIA LAUNCHES E-PASSPORT

By D.Forrester

John Magufuli announced recently that Tanzania has launched new electronic passports aimed at enhancing national security and controlling illegal migration.

"The travel document, among other things, will enhance national security, control illegal migrants and play a key role in revenue collection." He said this while speaking to foreign affairs officials in Daresalam. The president said the

e-passports will be available at the cost of 150,000 Tanzanian shillings (about 67 U.S. dollars) apiece and will be valid for 10 years.

The project to make the e-passports was jointly implemented by the government of Ireland and HID Company, a United States-based service provider, at the cost of 57.82 million U.S. dollars.

Paul Sherlock, the Irish Ambassador to Tanzania, said: "Tanzania has made a milestone in launching the e-passport

because many countries across the world are struggling to produce the state-of-the-art passports and many of them have failed."

Anna Makalala, the Commissioner General for the Immigration Services, said the project to produce the e-passports started to be implemented in September 2017, and the first phase was completed this month.

She said the old pass-

port holders should now start replacing them with the e-passports, adding that the old passports will remain valid until 2020.

Mwigulu Nchemba, the Minister for Home Affairs, said the government was determined to improve services rendered by the Immigration Services which played core role in maintaining peace and security of the country.

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CAC Bethel Toronto.... The church where the Lord answers prayer. come and experience salvation, restoration, deliverance, healing, impartation and more. O taste and see that the Lord is good. (Psalm 34:8). I have tasted and found that the Lord is good. I do testify that the Lord is good. Join me to taste him. Amos Dada

OPINION

FROM THE DOCTOR'S DESK

AFRICA HEIGHT OF IDIOCY

By Dr. Ignatius Odianosen Okosun (PhD)
From: Toronto-Canada.
Email: odyseries@gmail.com

Democracy, literally, rule by the people. The term is derived from the Greek *dēmokratīā*, which was coined from *dēmos* ("people") and *kratos* ("rule") in the middle of the 5th century BCE to denote the political systems then existing in some Greek city-states, notably Athens. Democracy is a model, process, transplant, organic and concept of bourgeois liberal democracy imposed by the West on the Rest. It is the struggles of the "rest" against the "west" and its local 'implants' to expand the sphere of human freedom and dignity.

Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope in 1492 and blazed the trail for Western invasion of Africa and Asia. Christopher Columbus landed in Hispaniola (modern day Haiti and Dominican Republic) also in 1492 planting the seeds of first genocide of the original inhabitants of the Americas, the so-called Red Indians, and the most gruesome trade: The triangular, Atlantic slave trade. Thus began the next five centuries of the development of the world capitalist system and Western civilization, with accumulation in the centre and dispossession in the periphery. The stories we tell our children and the history we teach them and the values we preach at the altar are spurned by the hegemonic West. This is called civilization, progress, universal human rights, development, modernization and now globalization. The process of resistance against dispossession is called barbarism, cannibalism, nativism, witchcraft, juju, tribalism and terrorism.

However, this grossly oversimplified introduction is meant to drive home the point that concepts and paradigms in our discourse on democracy cannot and ought not to be taken for granted. The discourse is contentious and that contention cannot be unravelled unless we locate it historically in social struggles. The liberal model of democracy which is the dominant political discourse in Africa today is an abstraction from the particular history of the struggles of the European peoples. That it is presented and accepted as universal is because the hegemony of the West over the Rest. And that hegemony premised on the capitalist system was attained through war and

violence and continues to be maintained through the same means.

The second wave of democratization in Africa, beginning in the 80s, and the gradual establishment of democracy as the new normal in the continent brought much hope and excitement. As we have seen in the recent intervention by the military in Zimbabwe, coup d'etats have become unpopular and unacceptable in the entire continent in deference perhaps to dominate global politics. In the past two decades, there have been many electoral transitions across the continent indicative of a pattern of democratic consolidation. In reality, however, mercenaries of democracy, dictators, and a military culture dominate African politics. The form of governance may have changed, but the form of politics has remained seemingly unchangeable.

Furthermore, we are forcefully reminded of this by certain recent developments across the continent. In Burundi, President Pierre Nkurunziza has just ensured that the officials of a football team, which rough-tackled him during a football match last year, have been sent to prison. Nkurunziza, a graduate of Sports Education (1990), loves to play football, even as President. He owns a football team, Haleluia FC, and a choir, "Kameza gusenga" which means "pray non-stop". President Nkurunziza is a member of his football team and he actually joins them to take part in tournaments, friendlies and other matches, fully attired in the club's colors. A day may well come when the President may decide to play for the national team, prompting concerns across Burundi that the President plays too much football, instead of attending to state matters. Nkurunziza had his day on the field when Haleluia FC met Kiremba FC. If in previous matches the President was treated with respect and even allowed to score, the Kiremba soccer team was not ready for that.

Moreso, the supervisor of Kiremba FC, Cyriaque Nkezabahizi, and his assistant, Michel Mutama are now in prison, having been charged and tried for a curious felony called "conspiracy against the President"! Nkurunziza may be a sports graduate, and even taught the subject for a while at the university level, but he is not in any way a sportsman. Like his other col-

leagues across Africa, he is a dictator who likes to have his way. Football is a body-contact sport, like rugby, boxing and wrestling. Not even the almighty Lionel Messi or Neymar or the skillful Cristiano Ronaldo, with all their accomplishments in the sport expect to be treated like royalty in a football match. Like Nkurunziza, most African leaders do not like to play by the rules. This same Nkurunziza who came to power in 2005, refused to go after the expiration of his constitutional tenure of two terms in 2015. He insisted on having a third term. Protests by the people were suppressed, media houses were shut down, journalists were detained, members of the opposition were harassed, after two months more than 200 persons had been killed and hundreds of thousands had fled into exile. Nkurunziza had his way. He likes jogging, but when members of the opposition also began organizing Saturday morning joggings, he placed a ban on jogging across the country.

He is not the only African leader however who has been able to get away with a third term in office through a violation and manipulation of the Constitution. To many African leaders, the Constitution does not matter at all. In Rwanda, Paul Kagame, President since 2003, completed his constitutionally stipulated second term in 2017, but the constitution was altered to allow him to serve for a third term, and now the constitution has been further altered to keep Kagame in power till 2034. The excuse is that he is doing a good job and that there is no alternative to him. The only person who summoned the courage to challenge Kagame in 2017, a lady, Diane Rwigara was harassed and detained. Her nude pictures were posted on the internet. This no-alternative thing is a dubious misinterpretation of democracy in Africa. And it is one of the stupid points being canvassed in Nigeria, currently, by those who want President Muhammadu Buhari to remain in office beyond 2019, despite growing protests that he should be a one-term President. Nigeria is a country of about 200 million people.

Moreover, Africa is not in short supply of mercenaries who mouth such idiocy and actively give effect to it. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, 46-year old Joseph Kabila whose two terms in office expired

close to two years ago has refused to organize elections. He negotiated a one-year extension till 2017, but despite protests, and international objections, he has extended the election time-table till December 2018 on the ground that there are "logistical problems". Now, the country's electoral commission has further announced that no Presidential election can possibly take place in the DRC before April 2019. Various militias, rebel groups, and civil society organizations, backed by the Catholic Church are insisting that Joseph Kabila will not be allowed to rule the DRC forever. Widespread violence has made the DRC politically unstable and fragile, but Joseph Kabila cannot be bothered.

The standard African response is to descend on the opposition, including political parties, journalists, writers, human rights activists and thinkers as harshly as possible. The African man of power does not understand that the right to protest, to differ and to express an opinion is part of democracy. In Togo, there is an ongoing popular protest titled "Faure Must Go". President Faure Gnassingbe has been in power since 2005. He succeeded his father, Gnassingbe Eyadema, who ruled Togo for 38 years. With the Constitution of Togo not indicating any Presidential term limits, the Togolese opposition has been leading a series of protests to demand for such term limits – a restriction to a maximum of two, five-year terms and a two-round voting system. Faure wants to rule forever like his father, and so, even in spite of mediation by Ghana and Guinea, he has been sending soldiers after the protesters. The opposition in Africa is probably the most abused in the world.

Furthermore, Egypt goes to the polls on March 26 but incumbent President Abdul Fattah el-Sisi does not want any opposition. He has taken every measure to scare away every person who has shown interest in competing with him for the office. One Presidential aspirant, Colonel Ahmed Konsowa was accused and convicted for "expressing political opinions as a serving military officer". Another, Lt. Gen. Sami Anan, after being detained by the Egyptian military, had to call off his presidential bid. He was accused of "blatant legal violations (and) a serious breach of the laws of military service." Other as-

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The Government of Quebec is proposing a series of updates to its Entrepreneur immigration category.

The changes would revise the two components through which entrepreneurs will be selected into one focused on startups supported by a business incubator/accelerator or university and the other on owner-funded and operated businesses.

Under the first component, Quebec's Immigration Ministry, the Ministère de l'Immigration, et de la Diversité et de l'Inclusion (MIDI), would select entrepreneurs who:

- Have a passing score under Quebec's Economic Class selection grid.
- Settle in Québec to operate an enterprise that the entrepreneur creates, alone or with other persons, and that has received an offer of service from an enterprise accelerator, an enterprise incubator or a university entrepreneurship centre.

The second component concerns the operation in Québec of an enterprise that the foreign entrepreneur creates or acquires. Under this component, MIDI will select a foreign entrepreneur based on the following criteria:

- Holds and controls, alone or with the ac-

companying spouse or de facto spouse, at least 25% of the equity of the enterprise he or she creates or at least 51% of the equity of the enterprise he or she acquires. The value of that participation must be equal to or greater than the amount that must serve to start up the business project;

- Manages the enterprise himself or herself or participates actively as an associate in the management and daily operations of the enterprise;
- The enterprise does not carry out a restricted economic activity;
- Provides a start-up deposit and performance guarantee security deposit; and
- Obtains a passing score under the Entrepreneur program selection grid.

A key change between this last component and the current Acquisition of a business in Quebec component is candidates would now have to pay a performance guarantee deposit that is refundable if certain conditions are met.

Quebec has not yet detailed the financial requirements, such as the deposit or net worth required of applicants to the Entrepreneur program.

Source: www.cicnewsupdates.com

pirants – Mortada Mansour, Khaled Ali and Mohammed Anwar al-Sadat have all dropped their presidential ambitions because they could not stand the climate of fear imposed by President Sisi.

Only one aspirant is still standing, Mousa Moustafa Mousa and he is, because the court saved him. The ruling party had asked for his disqualification on the grounds that he does not have a certified university or higher education degree. This is a minimum requirement for the Presidential office in Egypt. I hope some Nigerians would take special note of this! The Supreme Administrative Court has now ruled that Mousa Mousa indeed holds an MA in Architecture from a French University, and the National Electoral Authority has certified this, thus putting paid to the orchestrated possibility of President Sisi getting a second term unopposed. Still, Sisi is not prepared to lose. He has declared that

anybody or "forces of evil" who defame the country's security forces through "the broadcast and publication of lies and false news" would be charged for "high treason." He is, of course, referring to himself and not necessarily the military operation in the Northern Sinai Peninsula.

Absolute power corrupts and so it is also with Cameroon's Paul Biya and Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo. Cameroon has been battling a secessionist rebellion in North West and South West parts of the country. The Biya government has done everything possibly negative to suppress the people of the proposed Ambazonia Republic including detention, police brutality, internet black-out, curfews, arrests and intimidation. When about 50 of the rebels, including their leader, Sisiku Ayuk Tabe fled across the border, they were chased all the way to Nigeria, where they were

continued on p(39)

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2/ FEBRUARY

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3/ MARCH

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4/ APRIL

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5/ MAY

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6/ JUNE

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CALENDAR 2018
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This perception is reinforced by the detailed guide on study permits on the government website, which along with the document checklist, creates the impression that securing a study permit is all about filling the visa form, submitting the necessary documents, providing additional clarifications, if so required by the immigration officer, and receiving the permit.

In reality, applying for a study permit can be a very complicated process involving confusing rules and regulations, subjective interpretation by immigration officers, and a cumbersome and expensive appeal process coupled with lack of transparency throughout.

WHERE TO FIND REASONS FOR STUDY PERMIT REFUSALS

With the detailed guide on the government website not listing all the reasons for rejection of the study permit, students seeking to study in Canada often feel very optimistic about their prospects, especially upon fulfilling the academic and other admission requirements of the Canadian educational institution.

A lot of information

related to study permits is detailed in the Program Delivery Instructions—guidelines that immigration officers follow when processing study permit applications. These Instructions are not a part of the official guide and are not even linked to the Study Permit section on the government website.

These difficult-to-find Instructions are shared as a courtesy to stakeholders without any emphasis on the extent of vital and useful information that study permit applicants can find in the document.

TOP REASONS FOR STUDY PERMIT REFUSALS

Some common reasons for rejection, often overlooked, include:

1. Insufficient Family Ties to the Home Country

Absence of adequate ties to the home country can impact chances adversely as this may raise doubts on the applicant's intent to return home after completing his or her studies. Normally, having a family established in the home country with ownership of properties and other assets may be enough to prove family ties. The applicant must take care to avoid financial transactions and other decisions that may raise doubts about ties with the home country.

2. No Job Prospects in the Home Country

A letter from the current employer indicating that the applicant is assured of a job in the home country after completing his or her education ought to be adequate to prove employment prospects. Applicants without a job in hand can submit proof that the study course they intend to join will help them qualify for jobs in the home country. Else, the immigration officer may conclude that the study permit is intended

to help the applicant settle permanently in Canada.

3. Inadequate Travel History

This reason often impacts those who have just completed high school and have limited traveled abroad in the past. While this point is not considered in isolation and authorities must take other relevant factors into account, not having travelled outside the country or never having travelled by air may cause your study permit to be rejected.

4. Financial Insufficiency

The Program Delivery Instructions clearly states that the applicant is required to provide proof of adequate finances only for the first year of the course. Yet, applications often get rejected because the immigration officer suspected financial insufficiency. Hence, merely focusing on the first year may not suffice. Ideally, you can minimize chances of rejection by showing proof of adequate finances for more than 1-year, even though this is expressly indicated as not being required for acceptance.

5. Dual Intent

A study permit or a work permit is a temporary residence permit that requires the applicant to intend to leave Canada upon expiry of the permit. Yet, the doctrine of Dual Intent, as defined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, permits such individuals to intend to eventually become permanent residents. A cursory reading of the Doctrine clearly shows that temporary residents are permitted to do their utmost to become permanent residents, provided they intend to leave if the permit expires before they succeed in obtaining PR status. Whether working towards PR automatically indicates

intent to overstay in Canada is questionable and Dual Intent doctrine, prima facie, does not permit any such automatic inference. Yet, study permit applications are rejected, even for those with a good record of compliance, because the applicant showed intent to seek permanent residence in the country. What complicates the process of applying for a study permit is that applications can be rejected on grounds or reasons not listed or identified in the guide. The evaluating officer may choose to reject your application without seeking any additional documents, information, or clarifications. Further, complying with the guide and the Delivery Instructions too does not guarantee approval.

Complying with the financial proof requirement for only the first year of your study, as required by the Instructions, could actually contribute to your application's refusal.

APPEALING AGAINST STUDY PERMIT REFUSAL

Finally, tackling the rejection of the study permit is difficult due to absence of a speedy and efficient system for appealing against such negative decisions. A study permit applicant has three options after his/her application has been rejected.

1. Request a Reconsideration

This involves requesting the immigration officer to reevaluate and reconsider the original decision. The offer is no obligated to entertain such requests, which means there is very little scope for a reversal of the rejection, even if the request is accepted in the first place.

2. Appeal to the Federal Court of Canada

Although this option

offers better scope for impartial assessment of the decision and reversal of a rejected based on flawed or wrong interpretation of the law, this is a time-consuming and expensive process. It can take up to twelve months for the matter to be finally heard and decided by the judge. Even then, the judge does not have the authority to modify the decision or approve the study permit. If the applicant gets a favourable ruling, then the application will be taken up by a different immigration officer who must consider the judge's views when deciding upon the application. While the original mistake won't be repeated, there is no assurance that the new officer won't interpret another rule or requirement in an unfavorable manner. Practically the opportunity to study at a particular institution may have passed. Apart from the Federal Judge, the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration has the authority to send the case to a different officer. Yet, there is very little awareness about this option and it is difficult to access. The decision, ultimately, will be made by the immigration officer, which means the risk of flawed interpretation of the rules remains.

3. Submit a New Application.

Of the three options, this is probably the least advantageous for the applicant. Reapplication causes the refusal to become a part of the record, which means a wrong rejection can become the basis for rejection of future applications too. The new application must explicitly rectify the reason for which the first application was refused. If the rejection communication does not indicate the reason in detail, then the application can seek the reasons in

writing through an Access to Information and Privacy (ATIP) request. Officially, these requests must be processed within 30 days, although it can take much longer than that. Even then, there is no guarantee that the officer's written reasoning will be detailed enough to assist the re-application process.

CONCLUSION

Between 2009 and 2013, nearly three out of every four study permit applications were approved. While significant proportion of applicants were successful in obtaining the study visa, yet a 25-27% rejection rate means near 100,000 students are denied the opportunity to study in Canada. Canada will admit nearly 400,000 students on study permits in 2018.

A rejection becomes a permanent blemish on their record and may complicate attempts to obtain any other visa in Canada or even in other countries that attach importance to visa rejection by Canadian authorities.

Further, there is just one real appeal against a flawed rejection—a judicial appeal to the Federal Court. This is a time-consuming and expensive process. Reapplication is the preferred option because is less cumbersome as compared to an appeal, although it does not, in any way, reduce chances of another rejection.

Applicants must realize that the process is not as simple and easy as described in the guide. There is a detailed criteria indicated in the Instructions, which, due to its complexity, is best complied with through the assistance of a professional immigration lawyer.

Source:
www.cicnewsupdates.com

UK'S FIRST BLACK FEMALE CAREER DIPLOMAT APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER

The Foreign Office has appointed its first black female career diplomat as a high commissioner as it steps up efforts to change the overwhelmingly white, male face of the diplomatic service.

NneNne Iwuji-Eme, who has spent 16 years in the Foreign Office, will take up her role as British high commissioner to Mozambique in July, taking over from Joanna Kuenssberg.

Iwuji-Eme said it was "an honour and a privilege" to be appointed to the role and that she hoped she would inspire others to pursue their ambitions.

"I hope my appointment as the first British black female career diplomat to this position will inspire young talent, regardless of race or background, to pursue their ambitions in the Foreign Office," she said.

"I look forward to forging even stronger connections between Britain and Mozambique – two close members of the Commonwealth family."

The foreign secretary, Boris Johnson, said Iwuji-Eme has "vision, experience and energy" for the appointment.

He said: "As the country heads in a new

and exciting direction, it's important that we have the brightest and the best battling for Britain. Our great diversity is an invaluable asset on the global stage, and it's only right that at all levels [of] the FCO reflects this.

"As a continent with some of the world's fastest growing economies, Africa is an important partner post-Brexit. NneNne has the vision, experience and energy to take our relationship with Mozambique to the next level, and I congratulate her on her appointment."

Women now head up 32% of missions, up 200%

since 2008, while 13.4% of Foreign Office staff are from ethnic minorities.

The Foreign Office said it was making "huge strides" in improving diversity and work had been done to improve career prospects including tailored training and mentoring programmes.

A schools outreach programme aims to highlight the diplomatic service as an attractive career prospect to those who wouldn't otherwise consider it

Iwuji-Eme previously worked as an economist in the Department for Environment, Food and Ru-



ral Affairs and for Royal Dutch Shell.

Since joining the Foreign Office she has held a range of positions from economic adviser for Africa to chief press officer

to the Africa minister. Her most recent posting was to Brazil as first secretary prosperity and acting prosperity consul.

Source:
www.theguardian.com

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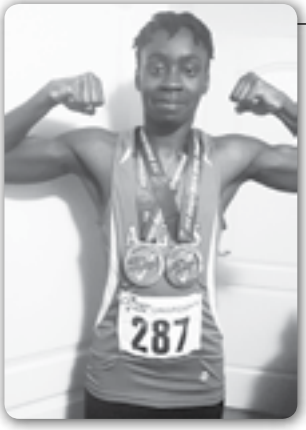
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MARCH 25, 2018 - THANKING GOD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS



YOUTH CORNER



OLUCHI UGOH

Your children need your presence more than your presents" - Jesse Jackson

BE GOOD

A big thank you to all my readers. I have a lot of information on this issue again, they say I am getting better. Good. The publisher is happy about the progress. I am happy too because I learn new things when putting together the information. To all my young readers, please, be grateful for little things. Do not be in a haste and select your friends wisely. Work hard, study hard and have time to play too. SUCCESS is sure. Respect your elders and stay away from crime. Respect! er is happy. I am happy too because I learn new things when putting together the information.

QUIZ

1- Which part of the body secretes the hormone insulin?

- (a) The Kidneys (b) The pancreas

2- To expectorate

- (a) cough (b) spit

3- In which country is Timbuktu?

- (a) Mali (b) Egypt

4- Which is the largest City

- (a) London (b) Paris (c) Toronto
(d) Tokyo

5- Continent

- (a) Austria (b) Europe (c) Asia
(d) Africa

6- Which part of Africa do most Hutus and Tutsis Live?

- (a) Horn of Africa (b) Central Africa
(c) Western Africa

7- Which river delta is the homeland of the Ogoni people?

- (a) Benue Delta (b) Mississippi
(c) Niger Delta

8- In which country is the Yellow River?

- (a) China (b) U.S.A (c) Hong Kong

9- The Nile is the longest river in the world – True or False

10- Gold, Silver, and Copper are all types of this

- (a) Iron (b) Metal

11- How many gallons are in a barrel of crude oil?

- (a) 52 gallons (b) 32 gallons
(c) 42 gallons

answers on page (39)

WORD SEARCH

CAR BRANDS

G O B M W L O Y F W Q C Z U J B D V
C H A S I Q A C U R A P W S M E F I
D L Y D W A G J F S A Z L C W N O F
O U N C O R V E T T E L G H K T V E
D F Q O C J I C T E T Q F R T L E R
G O Y H C A D I L L A C N Y F E S R
E B A U D I Z J D S L Q Y S T Y B A
V U J P P V H B O Q C K E L F O T R
J I B U G A T T I A Z B L E R O G I
I C M D J P Q R Q Y R Y O R U Z R R
M K J J C D F Z U Z Z W H J E E P D
A R U A N F X N G M C I I O P V Y C

ACURA

AUDI

BENTLEY

BMW

BUGATTI

BUICK

CADILLAC

CHRYSLER

CORVETTE

DODGE

FERRARI

FORD

GMC

JEEP

answers on page (39)

CIRCLE THE CORRECT SPELLING

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Mississippi | (b) Misisippi | (c) Mississeepei |
| 2. Borruded | (b) borowed | (c) borrowed |
| 3. Communication | (b) comunication | (c) communicatoin |
| 4. Quiet | (b) Queit | (c) Queite |
| 5. Quarel | (b) Quarrel | (c) Quarrele |
| 6. Questionnaire | (b) Questionare | (c) Questionaire |
| 7. camoflage | (b) camouflage | (c) comouflage |
| 8. vacumm | (b) vacuum | (c) vaccumm |
| 9. congradtulate | (b) congratulaite | (c) congratulate |
| 10. relevante | (b) relevant | (c) relivante |

answers on page (39)

“ONLY THE HEART KNOWS HOW TO FIND WHAT IS PRECIOUS.” – Feodor Dostoyevsky

WEIGHT CONVERSION HEIGHT CONVERSION

100 – 50Kg.	5”	152 cm
105 – 48kg.	5’1”	155cm
110 – 50kg.	5’2”	157cm
120 – 54kg.	5’3”	160 cm
125 – 57kg.	5’4”	163cm
130 – 59kg.	5’5”	165 cm
135 – 61kg.	5’6”	168 cm

SECRET OF SUBTRACTION

Solve the subtraction problems. Use the code to find the secret

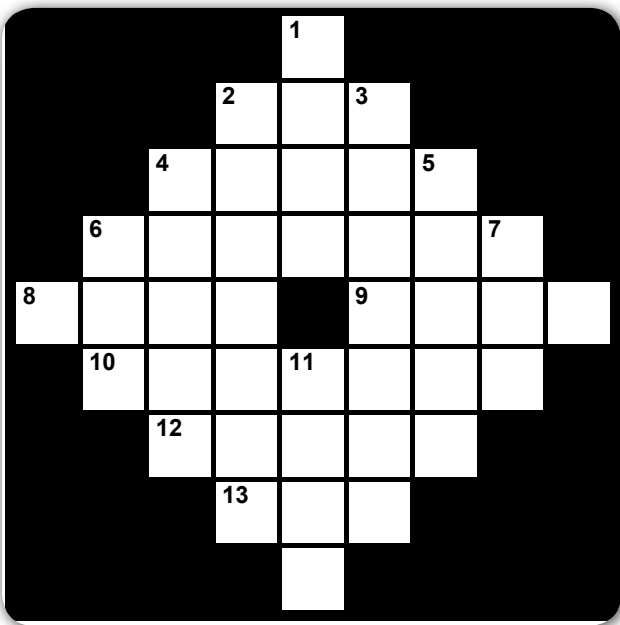
40	15	19	35	50	20	8	24
J	A	S	G	B	U	E	T

39	48	60	16	65	50	25	70
-19	-24	-20	-8	-15	-30	-10	-35

HINT - CONTROL

answers on page (39)

BLACK DIAMOND



- Across**
- 2. Colorful flower, for short
 - 4. ___ Major (southern constellation)
 - 6. Little skippers
 - 8. Bridle strap
 - 9. "The Man In The ___ Mask" DiCaprio film
 - 10. Between the thorax and pelvis
 - 12. Deceptive scheme
 - 13. Hoop
- Down**
- 1. Fish
 - 2. Mutter
 - 3. Least possible
 - 4. Plagiarizes
 - 5. Antibiotic target
 - 6. Drink that can be hot or cold
 - 7. "My boy"
 - 11. Symbi___

solutions on page (35)

SUDOKU

by Myles Mellor and Susan Flanagan

Each Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9X9 grid that has been subdivided into nine smaller grids of 3X3 squares. To solve the puzzle each row, column and box must contain each of the numbers 1 to 9. Puzzles come in three grades: easy, medium and difficult.

	1	5	3			4		
	2				4			3
	9				6	5		
					3	7		6
6			7	5	1			8
9		7	8					
		8	1					4
4			6					2
		9			5	6	1	

answers on page (35)

WORDS OF THE MONTH

ABORTIVE - Fruitless

DID YOU KNOW...

Rodent teeth never stop growing so they have to chew on things to wear them down

A well-mated and well-fed queen of quality stock can lay about 1,500 eggs per day during the spring build-up — more than her own body weight in eggs every day. The queen bee is able to control the sex of the eggs she lays. The queen lays a fertilized (female) or unfertilized (male) egg according to the width of the cell. (Google.com)

A rat can fall from a five-storey building uninjured

Just like humans, giraffes have same amount of bones (seven) in their neck.

A bird chews and breaks down food in its stomach

RIDDLES

1- If you look at me I'll look at you
If you grin at me I'll grin at you
I dance, you also dance
But if you shout. I cannot shout
WHO AM I?

2- Before Mt. Everest was discovered, what was the highest mountain in the world?

answers on page (39)

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Readers are leaders. Happy reading.

BEDTIME INSPIRATIONAL STORIES: 50 AMAZING BLACK PEOPLE WHO CHANGED THE WORLD

By L. A. Amber

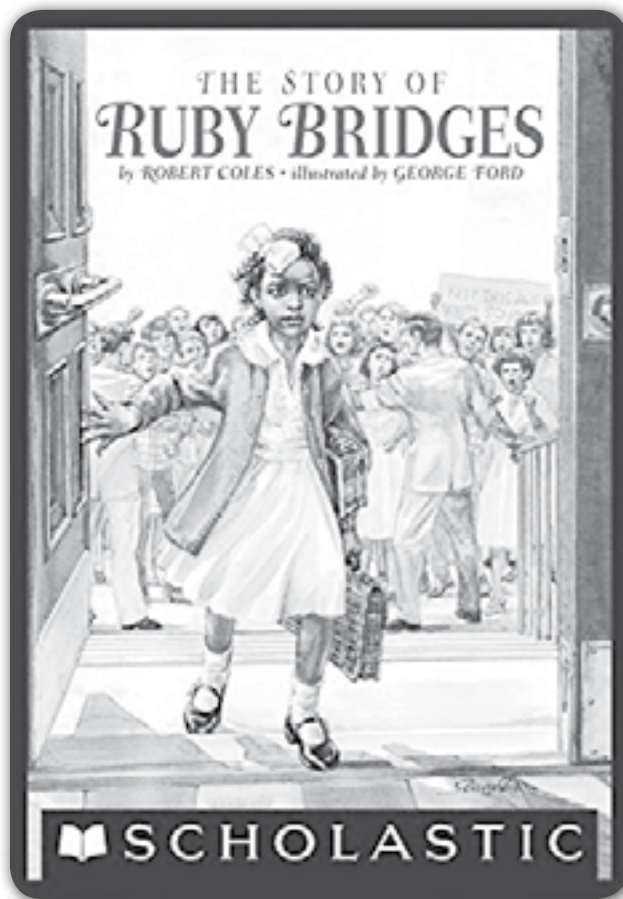


Despite the challenges of their time, their persistence and courage helped them prevail. Find out their stories and be inspired.

From Martin Luther King Jr to Malcolm X and several other men and women who have impacted our world. They fought and struggled for the black race against injustice, yet little did we know that their lives are an aura of sweet fragrance, worthy of emulation for aspiring leaders.

THE STORY OF RUBY BRIDGES

By Robert Coles



The story of integration cannot be well documented without paying tribute to the first African-American child who bore it all in New Orleans with a paperback reissue.

Its been over 50 years and six-year-old Ruby Bridges and her family have recently moved from Mississippi to New Orleans in search of a better life. Ruby would have to attend first grade at William Frantz Elementary, an all-white school and face angry mobs of parents who refuse to send their children to school with her. A dramatic twist to a historically relevant detail of racism and the ultimate battle to survive and win.

BUSINESS

WOMEN-ONLY RIDE-SHARING SERVICE DRIVEHER LAUNCHES IN TORONTO

Aisha Addo created DriveHer after an experience with a taxi driver left her uncomfortable.

It's a story many women can identify with. Aisha Addo says she was in a taxi from a friend's house to her home in Mississauga when her cab driver started asking her uncomfortable questions.

"He was asking me if I lived alone, and for me that was a bit triggering, because I happened to," she said. "Then he started asking if I had a boyfriend, and then [there] just started to be some really weird sexual innuendos. I became a bit guarded."

Addo says she called a friend who she asked to stay on the phone with her for the rest of the ride. While she made it home safe, the experience left her anxious to get into taxis.

"It sort of got me thinking later on, 'What about the people whose phones are off, or they don't really have anyone to call?'" Addo added.

That taxi ride, along with nights as a designated driver for her friends, inspired her to create DriveHer, a ride-sharing service only for women. It launches Friday in Toronto.

'CREATING AN EQUITABLE SPACE'

Addo says it has been a long process getting the company off the ground, but news of women getting assaulted and harassed shows a need for her service.

"Funny enough, the moment we sort of brought out the concept or idea of DriveHer, I think within that week there was five or six incidents of women that have been assaulted



or women that have experienced some sort of violence," she said.

While Addo commends other ride-sharing services for allowing riders to specifically request female drivers, she says DriveHer goes above and beyond existing options.

"There's so many ride-sharing services, let's not get that wrong, and that's amazing, but then there was never really any option for women and people that identify as women," Addo said. "What DriveHer is, is providing an option and creating an equitable space where women and people who identify as women have that option."

To create that "equitable space," the app doesn't allow male passengers or drivers. Even before its official launch, some on Facebook have criticized DriveHer as being "sexist" and "dividing"; however, Addo doesn't view her service as

discriminatory.

"People need to calm down and look at this from not only a safety perspective and an empowering perspective but then also an empathetic perspective," she said of possible critics. "Instead of complaining about it, have conversations about it. Be an ally. Stand in solidarity with the women in your lives and really try to understand where we're coming from."

EMPHASIZING SAFETY

The drivers go through the police and criminal background checks that are standard for other ride-sharing services and training specific for its service.

"We are doing the whole 360 in terms of checking and then they also get training in terms of training on anger suppression and training on gender," Addo said. "We do ensure that our drivers are

well equipped to get on the road before they actually do so."

Uber spokesperson Jean-Christophe de le Rue told CBC Toronto that it welcomes the competition from DriveHer and that Uber already emphasizes safety for both its drivers and users.

Uber also notes that its drivers go through a thorough screening process, that it has built in safety features into its app and has a Safety Advisory Board that covers everything from sexual assault and road safety.

'ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT'

Addo says her service also provides "economic empowerment for women" in addition to providing an alternative to traditional ride-sharing services like Uber, Lyft and Instacart.

DriveHer driver Jordyn Samuels also drives for Uber and Lyft and says the service gives her another opportunity to drive.

"I wanted to drive for DriveHer because one of the most common comments that I get is, 'I'm so happy to see a female driver,'" she said. "I can also put my driving skills to good use at all times on the DriveHer app."

There are more than 100 other drivers like Samuels for DriveHer's launch day Friday and the company hopes to expand here in Toronto and in other markets.

"We do want to expand this across Canada within the coming months. We want to provide a service for women," she said. "Literally the entire premise of this is to serve women. As long as all women are using it, we're cool."

<http://www.cbc.ca>

REMEMBERING VIOLA DESMOND'S FIGHT FOR CHANGE



On a fall evening in 1946, one woman's act of courage and resilience in the face of racism would prove to be a pivotal moment in Canada's history.

Viola Desmond was a successful Black Nova Scotia businesswoman who defiantly refused to leave a whites-only area of a movie theatre on November 8, 1946, and was subsequently jailed, convicted and fined.

While she was unsuccessful in her subsequent efforts to quash her criminal conviction, her story resulted in a milestone human rights case in Canada.

Desmond's court case was one of the first known legal challenges against racial segregation brought by a Black woman in Canada. It was an inspiration for change and part of a wider set of efforts toward racial equality across the country.

The case touched a nerve within the Black community and added to the growing consciousness regarding racial discrimination in Nova Scotia.

Desmond eventually received a posthumous free pardon from the Nova Scotia government on April 15, 2010. It was granted by then-Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, Mayann Francis, the first Black Nova Scotian and only the second Black person to hold such a position in Canada.

The premier at the time, Darrel Dexter, issued a public declaration and apology, saying charges should never have been laid and that Desmond's conviction was a miscarriage of justice.

In 2018, the theme of the Government of Canada's Black History Month campaign is Black Canadian Women: Stories of Strength, Courage and Vision. Viola Desmond's courageous stand and ensuing fight for justice is one such story and is about to make history once again. Later this year, Viola Desmond will become

the face of Canada's new \$10 bank note, becoming the first Canadian woman to appear on a regularly circulating note.

The Bank of Canada is proud to feature Viola Desmond as the portrait subject of this human rights-themed note. This note will gradually become available to the public starting at the end of this year, alongside other \$10 bank notes already in circulation. The reverse side of the new \$10 note will depict symbols and images that complement Viola Desmond's achievements and reflect the broader themes of social justice and the struggle for rights and freedoms.

Viola Desmond was named as the portrait subject following an open nomination process that called on Canadians to suggest who they thought should be on the next bank note.

The excitement surrounding the new \$10 featuring Viola Desmond provides an opportunity to break with tradition once again with the next \$5 note, which will feature another prominent Canadian nominated by the public who has made a mark on the history of our country.

In due course, the Bank will launch another consultation process to seek input from Canadians on the portrait subject and design of the new \$5 note, building on the successes of this most recent process.

Visit bankofcanada.ca to learn more about the design and security of Canada's currency and stay tuned for the launch of the next bank NOTE-able campaign. Follow the Bank on Twitter (@bankofcanada) for the latest news about Canadian bank notes.

The Bank of Canada Museum is on Facebook! Follow, like and share the latest information about Canada's new \$10 bank note and much more: @BoCMuseum

NATIXIS ACQUIRES STAKES IN 3 M&A BOUTIQUES

Natixis will purchase a 51% stake in Fenchurch Advisory Partners, which offers insurance, asset and wealth management and specialty finance services. The British firm will continue to be managed by its existing partners in a sweeping move for a more global impact.

Natixis will acquire a majority stake in Vermilion Partners, which facilitates cross-border transactions between China and the rest of the world.



Vermilion Partners, which has offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, London, and Munich, will also retain its existing management team.

Natixis, through its affiliate Natixis Partners, will also acquire a minority stake in Clipperton that focuses on high-growth tech-

nology, especially in the long term.

Natixis expects the three deals to impact its CET1 ratio by nearly eight basis points. Financial terms of the deals were not disclosed.

The company's senior management committee member and global head of corporate and investment banking Marc Vincent said: "These strategic investments are a key milestone in the implementation of the New Dimension plan

and in the development of Natixis.

"Our unique multi-affiliate M&A advisory model has proved its worth, allowing us to expand our advisory capabilities by combining with firms with very specific areas of expertise.

"The acquisition of key expertise in Financial Services, China, and European Tech is complementary to our existing franchise and will strongly enhance our strategic dialogue with clients." Marc stated.

LOOKING TO START YOU OWN SMALL BUSINESS? USE YOUR EXPERIENCE

(NC) If your goal is to open your own business venture, but you are lacking ideas for a brilliant market game-changer, remember that there are a lot of factors to consider when coming up with a great one. Should the business be in the technology field? Should it be a retail establishment, a service-based or an online business?

There are so many options and so many products and services available in today's market that it can be

difficult to decide which type of business you are best suited to create.

You can start the process by looking to your own customer experiences and creating solutions to a problem you have experienced first-hand. Do you know of an existing product that could be improved? Can you think of a way to improve a process or activity you are familiar with?

Using a common problem as inspiration could

lead you to have an "aha!" moment that leads you to a new business idea. Make sure that you do your market research to see if other people have this same problem and would be willing to pay for a solution.

There are government services that can help you along the way. Visit canadabusiness.ca or call Canada Business Ontario at 1-888-576-4444 to speak with a business information officer in English or French. They

are available weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Canada Business Ontario is part of the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario). For further information on FedDev Ontario programming and services for southern Ontario, please visit www.feddevontario.gc.ca, email us at fdo@canada.ca or call toll free at 1-866-593-5505.

BRITAIN TO ADD NAIRA TO LIST OF ACCEPTED TRADE CURRENCIES

By Julius Oyekunle

Naira is one of three West African currencies that UK Export Finance had pre-approved for its programme of funding transactions that promote trade with Britain.

Paul Arkwright, British High Commissioner to Nigeria affirmed that Nigerian firms taking out a loan in the local currency could benefit from a UK Government-backed waiver.

The director, who agreed with Arkwright's submission, said trading in Naira meant that there would be demand for the Naira, to pay for what was

being bought from Nigeria.

According to him, "As a result of that, it will not only boost the value of the Naira but can also help us provide more foreign exchange for our local businesses.

"That statement is quite right but my worry is that, if you look at the volume of transaction between Nigeria and UK, what are we giving them? What are they giving us?"

"What are their qualities in terms of transformation that will now determine the game?"

"Whether it will be more beneficial to them or to

us, but I know it is going to be more beneficial to them."

It is hoped that this new policy will help boost the Nigerian economy and increase the value of the Naira.

On the UK providing up to 85 percent of funding for projects containing at least 20 per cent British content, most economists are of the opinion that there would be stringent conditions.

"They give you something, they take it away from one side; it means that even if they are financing that project, the financing must be tied to their own

products.

"They said, at least 20 percent British content, which means that even the money they are giving to you to finance part of it will go back to them," Onuchukwu, a Professor of Economics noted.

"For you to get something that is British content, you have to get those facilities from them."

While Britain seeks to review its economic policies after exiting from the EU, the Nigerian government is aiming to inject more foreign exchange into the economy after a chaotic economic climate.

CLAIRE'S MAKEUP PRODUCTS UNDER SCRUTINY BY HEALTH CANADA

By Julius Oyekunle

In a swift move to ensure all safety standards are met, Health Canada is reaching out to the retail giant, Claire after reports that its makeup products are likely to contain asbestos.

By the end of 2017, reports had suggested that Claire's makeup were safe. The company reacted to the latest health concerns in a

statement made available to the press, "

"Upon learning of the initial report, Health Canada contacted Claire's who confirmed that the products had been removed from retail outlets until the completion of a further investigation by the company."

"Test results provided by Claire's, along with Health Canada's own

continued on p(39)

MANITOBA REPEALS PROVINCIAL HEALTH-CARE COVERAGE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The Province of Manitoba announced today, March 27, that it is repealing health-care coverage to post-secondary international students in Manitoba, effective Sept. 1, 2018.

The University of Manitoba values international students and is committed to providing them

with supports to help them succeed in their chosen programs. The university continues to assess the implications of the government's new policy. At the same time, University of Manitoba staff are exploring new options to support international students, including

continued on p(39)

ONTARIO LIBERALS TO EXPAND PHARMACARE TO SENIORS

By Julius Oyekunle

Senior citizens in the province of Ontario are about to experience a huge health care package, as

Premier Kathleen Wynne is hoping an expansion of the free pharmacare program to them will be the prescription for what ails her Liberal government.

In a recent announcement, signalling a campaign tune at Leaside Curling Club in her Don Valley West riding, Wynne stated that OHIP+ would be expanded to include everyone 65 and over.

"We all want to do best for our parents and grandparents and I believe government needs to do more," the 64-year-old premier told reporters after curling for the media cameras.

Finance Minister, Charles Sousa will announce the prescription drug plan available to those 24 and under will be extended to seniors in a decisive budget plan.

"Everybody in the province, no matter their age, deserves the chance to lead healthy, happy lives," said Health Minister Helena Jaczek.

While seniors are al-

ready eligible for coverage through the Ontario Drug Benefit, they must pay deductibles and co-payments based on their income and the new change will put a stop to that.

The change, which would take effect on Aug. 1, 2019, will save seniors an average of \$240 a year in medication costs.

Wynne said boosting OHIP+ will ultimately cost \$575 million per year by 2020-21.

Elections come up on the 7th of June and Liberals will hope to be elected in order to execute this plan.

WORLD'S YOUNGEST BILLIONAIRES 2018

Meet 10 of the world's youngest billionaires and how they made the list according to recent 2018 Forbes List.

1. Mark Zuckerberg, 33
Worth: \$56 billion
How he made his billions: Facebook.

At an age when many people are still drowning in student debt, some millennials already have serious money.

We looked at figures from Forbes and found that Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg remains atop the list of the richest individuals under 35.

2. Lukas Walton, 31
Worth: \$11.3 billion
How he made his billions: After his

father, John Walton — son of Walmart founder Sam Walton — died in 2005, Lukas Walton inherited a sizable portion of the estate. Most of this fortune was once thought to belong to his mother, Christy Walton, but recent information reveals Lukas Walton was the beneficiary with the higher share.

3. Dustin Moskovitz, 33
Worth: \$10.7 billion
How he made his billions: Moskovitz

worked on Facebook in its early stages with Zuckerberg. He went on to co-found Asana, a maker of project-management software for business.

4. Scott Duncan, 34
Worth: \$5.7 billion
How he made his billions: Duncan inherited

his money from his father, who started energy pipeline company Enterprise Products.

5. Bobby Murphy, 28
Worth: \$4 billion
How he made his billions: Murphy is the

co-founder and chief technology officer of the social media company Snap Inc.,

which includes Snapchat. Murphy became a billionaire when Snap had its initial public offering.

6. Evan Spiegel, 27
Worth: \$4 billion
How he made his billions: Spiegel is the

co-founder and CEO of Snap Inc. He also became a billionaire when Snap had its initial public offering.

7. Nathan Blecharczyk, 34
Worth: \$3.8 billion
How he made his billions: Blecharczyk

is co-founder and chief strategy officer of Airbnb. He has a 13 percent stake in Airbnb, according to Forbes.

8. Caroline Hagen Kjos, 33
Worth: \$2.5 billion
How she made her billions: According to

Forbes, Hagen Kjos became chairman of the family's private holding company, Canaca, in 2014 and assumed 97.5 percent ownership at that time.

9. Tatiana Casiraghi, 33
Worth: \$2.4 billion
How she made her billions: Casiraghi is a

billionaire heiress of her grandfather Julio Mario Santo Domingo, who owned the Colombian brewery Bavaria, one of the largest breweries in South America. Casiraghi, born Tatiana Santo Domingo, joined Monaco's royal family when she married Andrea Casiraghi in 2013.

10. Julio Mario Santo Domingo III, 32
Worth: \$2.4 billion
How he made his billions: The brother of

Tatiana Casiraghi, Santo Domingo III inherited an equal portion of his grandfather's beer fortune. Santo Domingo III is a DJ in New York City.

Cc: bankrates.com

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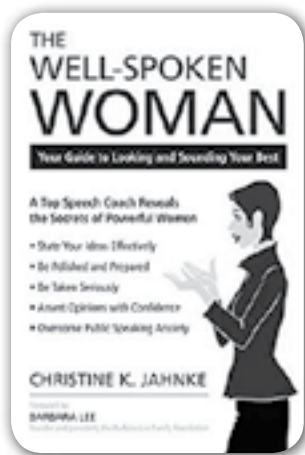
BOOKS - EDITOR'S PICK

FICTION & NON FICTION BOOKS

We hope the month of February was a super-exciting month. It was a valentine month and black history month, you can't afford to get carried away in the month of March. From inspirational bedtime stories for children, amazing fiction for adults and spiritual books for those who yearn for it, there's enough to choose from our book collection this issue. Let's march through knowledge and have fun together

THE WELL-SPOKEN WOMAN: YOUR GUIDE TO LOOKING AND SOUNDING YOUR BEST

BY CHRISTINE K. JAHNKE

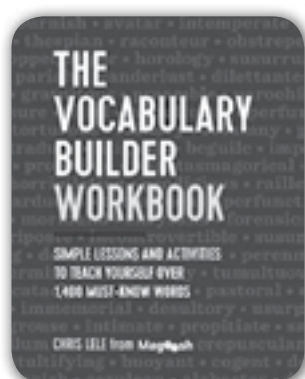


You'll learn strategies that will help you present your best self in forums from PTA meetings to TV studios, conferences to classrooms, boardrooms to YouTube.

In this book, women can learn to look within to realize their full potential. Effective communication skills is at the heart of information dissemination which all women must learn. Mixing beauty and confidence is a great deal for womanhood.

THE VOCABULARY BUILDER WORKBOOK: SIMPLE LESSONS AND ACTIVITIES TO TEACH YOURSELF OVER 1,400 MUST-KNOW WORDS

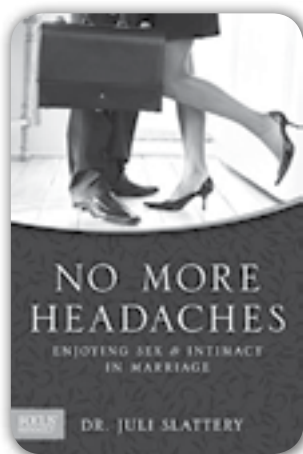
BY MAGOOSH AND CHRIS LELE



The English language has grown in leaps and bounds, yet it is deep in meaning and expansive. No need to get lost in search of

NO MORE HEADACHES: ENJOYING SEX & INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

BY JULI SLATTERY



There are questions you may never get answers to on the pulpit. In this book, you will get the uncensored truth about sex and intimacy.

Married couples start with the hope of a happy ever after in all aspects of life. However, they often seem frustrated by their inability to effectively communicate their sexual needs. Sexual intimacy is a life long course, as resentments and ill-feelings could result in strife and a feeling of guilt or rejection.

Ultimately, asking questions that border on sex isn't a bad thing. It could be the very tonic you need for a healthy relationship.

Both husbands and wives can be extremely frustrated by the differences in sexual needs and expectations between them. This frustration manifests itself as fighting, resentment, feelings of either guilt or rejection, and general marital strife. There are few safe and appropriate places to ask the questions about sex that frustrate and confuse women most.

words, this book will help you locate the words that you need in your day to day activities.

Several thousands of words are collected in this book which are simple and explicit. The author explains the use of such words in illustrative daily expressions that will aid one's grammar and ultimately impact communication skills. It contains lessons and to do list that will also ensure it sticks permanently to your brain.

THE EVERYTHING SOAPMAKING BOOK

BY ALICIA GROSSO



Learn How to Make Soap at Home with Recipes, Techniques, and Step-by-Step Instructions - Purchase the right equipment and ... and sell your creations.

Alicia Grosso has been creating handmade soap and toiletries for more than a decade. She has effectively done this masterpiece in order to help people become self-sufficient.

Alicia provides a step by step guide to soap making, including the science involved. Whether you are a novice or professional, there's always the edge of professional competence to learn from.

AM I GOOD ENOUGH TO LOVE

BY BRIANN DANAÉ AND DOMINIQUE THOMAS



The most sincere answers to issues that affect our relationships come from acknowledging our own weaknesses as you're about to find out.

Love isn't an abstract thing. It is basically rooted in reciprocal relationship. Being psychological ready to give and sacrifice according to Briann matters. At what point is there a space ready to be filled? Readiness comes with peace, an inner assurance that silences all doubts. There are more questions to be answered than you can imagine.

BELIEVE IN ME

BY ALEXANDRIA HOUSE



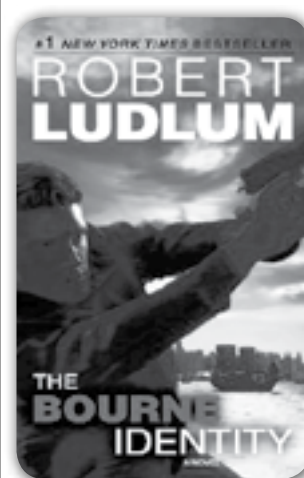
Confidence matters, especially in decision making. You'll soon learn from this book that whatever does not give peace isn't worth risking.

Refusing to let go is what Renee Mattison's greatest undoing as her husband's infidelity becomes a torn in her flesh. The fear of losing Lorenzo, a handsome and hardworking man must be fought with all zeal.

However, Renee's stunning beauty is another temptation to fight. What else will hold this hitherto once glorious family? Perhaps, what is required is confidence and belief that will ultimately win the heart of a lost mind.

THE BOURNE IDENTITY: JASON BOURNE BOOK

BY ROBERT LUDLUM



When all you've got is to succeed, then this book reminds us of the inner strength we have to do unimaginable things.

The story of a man (Matt Damon), salvaged, near death, from the ocean by an Italian fishing boat. When he recuperates, the man suffers from total amnesia, without identity or background... except for a range of extraordinary talents in fighting, linguistic skills and self-defense.

THE STORYTELLER'S SECRET: FROM TED SPEAKERS TO BUSINESS LEGENDS, WHY SOME IDEAS CATCH ON AND OTHERS DON'T

BY CARMINE GALLO

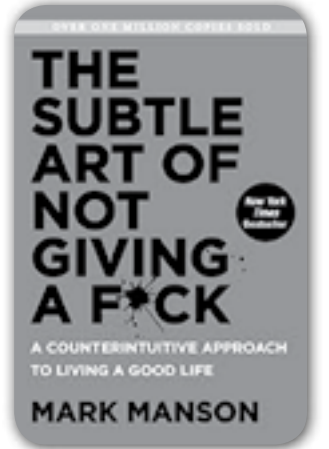


This is a book that tells the brilliant stories of successful businessman and women. You can't have enough of this masterpiece.

In The Storyteller's Secret, Gallo explains why the brain is hardwired to love stories - especially rags-to-riches stories - and how the latest science can help you craft a persuasive narrative that wins hearts and minds. How did an entrepreneur who started in a garage create the most iconic product launches in business history? A Pastor's son's secrets about how he won the hearts of thousands of crowd at a Yankee stadium despite the evident flaws of self-doubt and disbelief. How did a human rights attorney earn TED's longest standing ovation? It's simply about the "hows".

THE SUBTLE ART OF NOT GIVING A F*CK: A COUNTERINTUITIVE APPROACH TO LIVING A GOOD LIFE KINDLE EDITION

BY MARK MANSON



Have you ever been burdened by the need to please others at the expense of your joy? This is the book for you. It will reveal the true meaning of staying true to oneself.

In a very succinct and definitive approach, Mark Manson has gone all out to break the cords of social definitions by revealing practical ways of ensuring that we don't lose the very essence of living. Learn how to aggregate to others respect and love without being hurt. According to Mark, living good is an art that must be learned and that includes never getting hurt in the process.

TO THE RESCUE

SAY NO TO CORRUPTION

By Pastor Dele Dada

Continued from the last issue.

Mr. Harrah put his hand in his pocket and brought out his pack of cigarettes. "Do you smoke, sorry I did not offer you yesterday? Harrah said stretching the pack of cigarettes toward Paola. "No thanks" "Now you seem to know this route better than myself.. So what is the way forward? How do we ensure we get this contract?" Asked Paola eagerly.

"Your brother seems to have all things figured out. The only meeting I will attend is the one your



brother has proposed tomorrow with the minister. After that I will be paid and you will figure out the details" he said confidently

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FIRM DEMANDS N2 BILLION FROM ETISALAT OVER COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

A mobile finance technology firm, V-Exchange Ltd has demanded for N2 billion from Etisalat as compensation for an alleged infringement on its product's copyright.

V-Exchange which specializes in providing instant finance solutions to individuals and corporate entities via intelligent data driven platform claimed that the 'Kwik Cash' loan service which Etisalat offers to its customers was allegedly a stolen product.

Speaking at a media conference, co-founder of V-Exchange, Samuel Ajiboyede claimed that on November 23, 2016, he met with representatives of Etisalat regarding his company's product and for the purposes of partnering with the same for mutual commercial benefits.

Ajiboyede stated that at the meeting, the loan service product was showcased to Etisalat officials who upon being impressed by the demonstration asked to be furnished with more details.

He also said he was advised by Etisalat officials to obtain the Nigeria Communications Commission, NCC Short Code being the

only thing remaining for a deal to be sealed between the two entities.

Ajiboyede further stated that subsequently requested for a Memorandum of Understanding from Etisalat to enable his company acquire a Value Added Service (VAS) license to get the Short Code approval from NCC but that the request was never accented to.

The company co-founder said he was however shocked when it heard that Etisalat had gone ahead to launch the instant loan service without its approval.

Also speaking at the media briefing, Chief Executive Officer of the firm, Mrs Kemi Ayinde noted that well wishers had called to congratulate her on the successful launch of the product not knowing that her firm was not involved with the launch.

This publication sighted a letter written by the law firm of Ubani and Co to the Chief Executive Officer of Etisalat Nigeria dated January 10, 2017 demanding N2billion as compensation for the alleged copyright infringement.

The letter reads in part: "Our client has tested your product on several custom-

ers of your company and confirmed that the said product was the exact product for which it has exclusive right

"that this abysmal unlawful conduct of your company as highlighted above has infringed our client's products for which copyright subsisted despite the caveat by known owners being 'our client' that no part of this shall be reproduced or copied in any material form with its prior authorization.

"Moreover it is arguable that the product reproduced in writing by your company were exact replica of our client's products which were earlier in time protected by the copyright law.

"In conclusion let it be stated that aside the civil action for infringement of our client's copyright, we shall be constrained to simultaneously instigate and initiate a criminal action with its attendant legal consequences against your company for exploiting our client's copyright as provided by the act.

"Therefore your company is hereby warned very sternly to refrain forthwith from further infringement of our client's by itself or through its agents or privies

and monetary restitution in the sums demanded above of its unlawful exploitation of our client's products which copyright subsisted in order to mitigate the loss thus far."

In its response to the demand for compensation, Etisalat via a letter dated February 21, 2017 acknowledge having had discussion with V-Exchange over its product but denied infringement of any patent belonging to the firm.

The letter signed by Vincent Eromosele, Etisalat Head, Legal Operations and Litigation and Chimeka Garricks, Manager, Legal Services claimed that 'Kwik-Cash' is owned and operated by an undisclosed financial institution and that Etisalat followed due process in acquiring the right to use the product on its network.

Etisalat further claimed that KwikCash service was already in existence and operational prior to its meeting with V-Exchange.

The telecoms firm in the letter denied any infringement on V-Exchange's purported patent and insisted it cannot pay compensation for infringement.

www.pmnewsnigeria.com

ESSOZINAM ASSALI KILLED BY BOYFRIEND IN ONTARIO

Essozinam Assali, a 27-year-old woman who was confirmed dead by Police was killed by her boyfriend in a murder-suicide. The deceased was said to have suffered from signs of trauma inside a North York condo apartment on March 6. She has been described as caring and kindhearted by family and friends.



Police was called over by neighbors after a man was heard screaming on a balcony at the building on Graydon Dr., near Don Mills and York Mills Rds.

Assali, a bilingual sustainability marketing intern studied at Seneca College and overseas at England's Oxford Brookes University and was hoping to get married to her Nigerian boyfriend. She died from injuries sustained after efforts were made to save her.

Her boyfriend, Onose-ta Oribhabor, 30, of Edmonton was also found dead on the balcony by Police.

"Martine" is fondly called by friends and her death is the city's 10th homicide out of 14 so far this year.

It doesn't seem there

was a friction between the two lovebirds as a close friend revealed,

"The last time I saw them was in December at a wedding. They seemed happy and they were dancing. He told me that he was planning on proposing to her." said Chuks Okeleke a childhood friend of the deceased.

Cases of gender-based violence have been on the increase in Ontario this year. One of the worst in decades.

Meanwhile, tributes have continued to pour in for the departed Assali, as friends and families continue to remember her affectionate heart. She has since been buried on the 17th of March.

ZIMBAWEAN-CANADIAN FIRST FEMALE BLACK POLICE INSPECTOR



Granger is now the first African-Canadian woman to serve as the police inspector of the Ottawa police force. She was also the first black officer of a heavily segregated police force dominated by whites in her native Zimbabwe. In 1989, she emigrated to Ottawa and was hired as one of the first black policewomen of Canada's capital city.

Despite the milestones, Granger insists all of her accomplishments are not just for her benefit. She stated to CBC's Radio's Ottawa Morning Wednesday, "It's never been about me; there's always a bigger picture, and I know that as I go forward, others see that they can."

She goes on to say, "When I move forward, I don't look at moving just

myself forward, but how can we bring us all forward."

Granger's new position will demand a wider eye as she now manages multiple teams and will have to be adept at global issues and challenges affecting her local community. The role of police inspector is just two notches below chief inspector.

Teaching while protecting her community

Granger has found that her life has followed a path of overcoming obstacles while being an agent of educating the masses.

She recalled, "I see myself as a connector and helping to facilitate conversations because a lot of things that happen are because of a lack of communication and a breakdown of communication." She continued, "What I learned about people is that people are sometimes really intimidated and afraid of what they do not know, so you can actually stand up and fight and become adversarial and combative, or your life can become a life of edu-

NIGERIA LAUNCHES 48-HOUR ONLINE VISA APPLICATION SYSTEM

Nigeria has launched an online system aimed at enabling business executives to apply for a visa online and collect it on arrival 48 hours later, its immigration service said on Thursday.

The move to ease visa rules in the West African country follows complaints from foreign executives that obstructive embassy officials made it difficult to enter the country, Reuters reports.

Under the new system, travellers must register with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and provide details including travel document information, after which a letter of approval may be issued and the visa collected on arrival.

Granger has worked in the force's youth section, race relations and diversity unit, as well as led an outreach group geared toward

Mohammed Babandede, comptroller general of the NIS, said the facility was in line with the government's "policy on creation of a conducive environment to attract foreign high net worth investors and professionals into the economy".

Overseas investors have mainly stayed away from Africa's largest economy after being put off by a gap of around 30 percent between the official rate of the naira currency, controlled by the central bank, and rates on the parallel market.

Nigeria, an OPEC member, is in recession for the first time in 25 years largely due to low oil prices.

www.pmnewsnigeria.com

Somali-Canadians; this was in response to the death of Abdirahman Abdi, following a violent confrontation with law enforcement. Source: CBC.com

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BLACK DIAMOND

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

POLAND BANS SUNDAY TRADING

By Julius Oyekunle

A new law in Poland banning almost all trading on Sundays has taken effect. Supermarkets and most other retailers closed for the first time since liberal shopping laws were introduced in the 1990s after communism's collapse.

The change has stirred up a range of emotions in a country where many feel workers are exploited under the liberal regulations of the past years and want them to

have a day of rest.

But many Poles also experience consumer freedom as one of the most tangible benefits of the free market era and resent the new limit.

Meanwhile, Hungary, another ex-communist country, placed a ban on Sunday trading in 2015 even though it became unpopular that authorities repealed it the following year.

The law was proposed by a leading trade union, Solidarity, which said em-

ployees deserved Sundays off.

It found the support of the conservative and pro-Catholic ruling party, Law and Justice, whose MPs passed the legislation.

The influential Catholic church, to which more than 90% of Poles belong, has welcomed the change.

The law is seen by many Poles as a good step toward returning a frazzled and overworked society to a more traditional lifestyle. However, opposition parties

view the change as an attack on commercial freedom and warn that it will lead to a loss of jobs, and in particular hurt students who only have time to work at the weekends, thereby affecting the economy negatively.

Even the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions opposed it, arguing that it would just push employees to work longer hours on Fridays and Saturdays and that the work would be harder because there would be more customers.

INSIDE DONALD TRUMP JR. AND VANESSA TRUMP'S DIVORCE

It is no longer news that Vanessa and Donald Trump Jr. are divorced, but some details into the couple's troubled marriage are already emerging. Sources have disclosed that Trump Jr. "treats [Vanessa] like a second-class citizen" and provides her with little financial support.

"He gives her very little help and has been keeping her on a tight budget," one source said. "She doesn't live a lavish life and can very rarely pick up a check at dinner."

Another friend told Page Six that Vanessa has had to turn to her mother for money toward her personal expenses.

And though Vanessa Trump did not come from the same kind of wealth as the Trumps can claim (or even the wealth they actually possess), she was accustomed to a high-flying lifestyle. The former model grew up on the Upper East Side in Manhattan and found herself occasionally making it into the tabloids for her possible romance

with Leonardo DiCaprio.

According to the Page Six sources, the couple had faced relationship problems before they wed in 2005, with friends telling Vanessa not to go through with the marriage. The election of her father-in-law had only added to their problems, specifically her husband's social-media habits. There was also the anthrax scare, which couldn't have helped.

"She was interviewing divorce lawyers before [Trump's presidency]," a source said. "No one



thought he'd win. He won and she decided to stay until his term is over. But she just couldn't stand it anymore."

Cc. Vanityfair.com

FBI INVESTIGATING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY VIDEO BEING SHARED ON FACEBOOK

Law enforcement officials want to warn you about a disturbing video circulating on social media both nationwide and here in Alabama. You may have seen it in your feed, but the frustrating part for investigators is you might have also shared it. This is very important: They want you to stop.

Law enforcement says this particular video depicts a minor performing a sex act on an adult. It is child pornography and shows assault according to officials.

Authorities tell us people are sharing it online with good intentions. The people who share it want to see the person in the video caught and get the child help, according to Tony Garrett with Central Alabama CrimeStoppers. But, he told WHNT News 19 by phone that this is actually doing way more harm than good.

DO NOT SHARE

Sharing that type of post could land you



on the wrong side of the law. Downloading it, saving it or sharing it in any way could result in felony charges.

"If you saved it, if you posted it to your page, if you sent it to someone else," Tim Gann, Madison County Chief Trial Attorney explained, "you're disseminating child porn and that's a felony. If you are in possession of it, no matter your good intentions, that is also a felony. So, in this case, it's very disturbing that people feel like it's ok to post something awful happening to a child on social media."

Gann says sharing it also creates another problem for the victim.

"Every time it gets posted, the victim in this case gets re-victimized for more people to see what they have been subjected to. It's an awful thought that people can't understand that that's wrong," he stated. "To have it blasted over social media — it shocks the conscience, for me. It really does."

"We can not have child pornography going viral," Jay Town told WHNT News 19 by phone.

SUSPECT TURNS HIMSELF IN

U.S. Attorney for the Northern District, Jay Town, tells us the FBI and federal prosecutors are on the case.

Lieutenant Brooke Walker, Alabama Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Commander, confirmed Friday that several agencies are combining resources for a "very active, very aggressive" investigation. She said she is unable to share more details about the case because it involves a minor.

Elmore County authorities said the man wanted for his suspected role in the investigation turned himself into authorities at 2:30 Tuesday morning. Germaine Moore, 44, is currently being held at Elmore County Jail.

Moore has been charged with four counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct — First Degree, two counts of Child Sexually Abusive Activity, one count of Computers — Using to Commit a Crime and one count of Children — Distributing Sexually Explicit, Visual or Verbal Matter.

Authorities say that from 2011 until 2017, the children involved — a nine-year-old, a 10-year-old and

HEALTH WORKERS SUSPENDED FOR USING PATIENT'S LEG AS PILLOW

By Julius Oyekunle

In the wake of recent shootings by a gunman in a high school in Parkland, Florida, and killed 17 students and faculty members, survivors and families of victims are now demanding a tougher gun control measures.

Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School teenagers have moved front and center in the gun control debate, organizing a national school walkout meeting with President Donald Trump, lobbying state lawmakers and participating in protests.

Since the Feb. 14 shooting, several ideas have been put forward by the two sides of the political divide, as well as, state officials to combat gun violence. Trump also hosted a group of bipartisan lawmakers at the White House to discuss reform.

Here are six measures lawmakers are now debating.

A school safety bill that, among other things, would allow up to 10 school personnel to be armed, narrowly passed the Florida state House in March, and Gov. Rick

Scott, a Republican, signed it into law.

On Twitter, Trump promoted the idea of having "highly trained, gun adept" teachers and coaches in schools who could confront a shooter before first responders arrived or serve as a "deterrent to the cowards that do this."

"History shows that a school shooting lasts, on average, 3 minutes. It takes police & first responders approximately 5 to 8 minutes to get to site of crime. Highly trained, gun adept, teachers/coaches would solve the problem instantly, before police arrive. GREAT DETERRENT!" Trump further stated.

He also reiterated on the need to go on the offensive rather than be on the defense. "If a potential 'sicko shooter' knows that a school has a large number of very weapons talented teachers (and others) who will be instantly shooting, the sicko will NEVER attack that school. Cowards won't go there...problem solved. Must be offensive, defense alone won't work!"

He also suggested the need for a strong federal background check for gun purchase.

a 12-year-old, all from Detroit — were in the care and custody of Moore, who is their paternal uncle, while their mother worked. It is alleged that Moore sexually assaulted the children at his mother's home in Detroit and at his home in Alabama.

Moore is expected to be extradited from Alabama.

Investigators tell us that child has been found and is not in danger. Details are limited as this is an ongoing investigation.

Montgomery police say they arrested another man, Jerrell Washington, in connection with this case Monday night. The U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force assisted with the arrest. Washington is charged with possession and dissemination of child pornography.

Authorities say he was not involved in the creation of the video, but that he shared it. He is being held in Montgomery County on a \$100,000 bond.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SEE IT?

Garrett at Central Alabama CrimeStoppers said if you see this video anywhere, report it to your social media platform and law enforcement.

Again, authorities urge you not to share it or the investigation could include you.

Officials could not confirm how much the video has been shared, but they tell us it has been shared so much that it makes the investigation difficult. While all involved say they appreciate that the public is trying to help, they say you don't need to interact with this video at all.

"When something goes viral," Gann said, "investigators have to track all that down. They need to see who's posting what and where it came from. It's an unbelievable task you're asking them to do just by posting. They need to be doing real work and putting people in prison from making these videos. But unfortunately because of the way it's being scattered out, their focus is being separated."

Source: wtkr.com

RUSSIAN DIPLOMATS HEAD HOME FROM BRITAIN AFTER SPY ATTACK



Nearly two dozen Russian diplomats headed back to Moscow after Britain's prime minister ordered them to leave because of a nerve agent attack on U.K. soil.

Several dozen people, including children, emerged from the Russian Embassy in west London with suitcases, bags and pet carriers. Some hugged before they boarded vehicles, including a white minibus, and were driven away.

On March 14, Prime Minister Theresa May gave the 23 diplomats — whom she said were undeclared intelligence agents — a week to leave Britain. That prompted Russia to retaliate with its own expulsion of 23 British diplomats, who has since left the country.

Tensions between the two countries have risen since the March 4 poisoning of ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Yulia, in the English city of Salisbury. They remain in critical condition.

Britain says they were poisoned with a Soviet-developed form of nerve agent known as Novichok. Western powers see the attack as a sign of increasingly ag-

gressive Russian meddling abroad.

Russia denied involvement, and President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, insisted Tuesday that "Russia has no stocks of chemical weapons of any kind."

Asked why Russia isn't showing proof of its innocence, he said, "Let's stay sober-minded and first of all wait for proof from Britain" that Russia was to blame.

Britain's National Security Council held a meeting recently to consider further measures against Russia. The EU on has condemned the poisoning and called on Russia to "address urgently" British questions about the Novichok nerve agent program.

The Russian Foreign Ministry accused Britain and other EU member states of developing similar nerve agents and said Britain's government is stirring up "media hysteria" around the case to distract attention from troubles in negotiating the country's exit from the EU.

Russia insists it gave up all its chemical weapons under international oversight.

FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SWORN IN

By Julius Oyekunle

Paula Mae Weekes, a retired Court of Appeal judge has been sworn in as the president of the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

With her inauguration, Trinidad remains the only nation in the region to have a woman as head of state after Chile's Michelle Bachelet vacated her posi-

tion on March 11.

She replaces an unpopular Anthony Carmona whose administration was bedeviled by high murder rate with about 400 homicide in 2017, according to the Trinidad Guardian. The new President will also inherit a staggering

unemployment rate, which rose to 5.3 percent in the second quarter of 2017.

KIM JONG UN MAKES HIS FIRST FOREIGN TRIP TO CHINA

By R.Njeru

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently visited China for his first foreign trip ever since he took up power in 2011.

Beijing officials confirmed that Kim had traveled via a mysterious armored train for a secret meeting with President Xi Jinping of China.

This trip to China comes ahead of another much-anticipated meeting later this year between Kim and President Trump. China's official Xinhua News Agency revealed that it was Xi Jinping who invited Kim to Beijing.

According to Xinhua, Kim said that his goal was to meet with Chinese officials, deepen the traditional friendship between the two nations and enhance strategic communication. He said he hoped to meet with Xi more often.

The China Central Television released footage showing a reserved Kim sitting at a long table with Xi. The North Korean state TV aired a 40-minute report on the summit between Kim and Xi on Wednesday;



North Korea's Kim Jong Un met Xi Jinping on surprise visit to China

however, it did not show any video of the meetings.

According to Xinhua, Kim revealed that he wanted to have a personal conversation with Xi because many important changes have been happening in the Korean Peninsula. Xi and Kim held talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, and Xi and his wife Peng Liyuan hosted a banquet for Kim and his wife Ri Sol Ju. They also watched an art performance together.

According to Sarah Huckabee Sanders, the

White House spokeswoman, Chinese officials informed the U.S. government about Kim's visit. She also revealed that President Xi had sent a "private message" to President Trump. However, she declined to reveal the contents of the message.

Sarah also said that the U.S. has been committed to its strategy of "maximum pressure" by being in close contact with Japan and South Korea. She stressed that their plan is creating the appropriate at-

mosphere for dialogue with North Korea.

Analysts say Kim would have felt a need to consult with his country's traditional ally ahead of his planned meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and, eventually, Trump.

North Korea's diplomatic outreach came after an unusually provocative year when it conducted its most powerful nuclear test to date and three ICBM tests designed to target the U.S. mainland.

According to the White House, Kim and Trump decided to meet in a few weeks to discuss denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. As part of the deal, North Korea agreed to not object publicly to joint military drills held by the U.S. and South Korea and to suspend missiles and nuclear weapons tests.

The meeting would be the first between a leader of the reclusive nation and a U.S. president. Delegates from the United States, South and North Korea met recently in Finland to discuss issues ahead of the proposed summit.

TRUMP ENDS TEMPORARY IMMIGRATION STATUS OF LIBERIAN IMMIGRANTS

By R. Njeru

U.S. President Donald Trump recently said that he will revoke the temporary immigration status of Liberian immigrants in his country. He said that he has given them a deadline of one year.

Thousands of these Liberian immigrants have been living in the United States for decades after escaping their country during a period of war. The president noted that Liberia had recovered from the 2014 Ebola outbreak as well as the civil war and therefore it was safe for the immigrants to return to their country.

This program was introduced by President Clinton, it permitted the immigrants to live and work in the U.S. It was established

in 1999 after the civil war erupted in Liberia.

Trump's announcement came just a few weeks after lawmakers from Minnesota asked him to extend the program. Minnesota hosts the largest Liberian population in the U.S. The immigrants will face the prospect of deportation if they don't comply with the president's directive at the right time.

According to the memorandum, some Liberians have been eligible for Deferred Enforced Departure or Temporary Protected Status since March 1991. The Liberians couldn't return to their country because of the Ebola virus outbreak, civil war, a poor economy and a fragile political environment.

According to the

memorandum, which was addressed to the US Department of Homeland Security, the 12-month "wind-down" period will allow Liberian nationals to prepare themselves and give the Liberian government time to plan on how to reintegrate their returning citizens. The 12-month period will end on March 31, 2019.

The new policy comes two months after the president announced that the nearly 200,000 people from El Salvador living and working legally in the U.S. under a humanitarian program must also leave the country by September, 2019. July 5, 2018, is the deadline for the TPS of some 57,000 Hondurans, 5,300 Nicaraguans and 59,000 Haitians will also

lose their status in 2019.

DHS officials declined to reveal the number of Liberians who will be affected by this new directive. The Liberian Embassy in Washington also refused to talk to journalists about the issue.

Many people will remember that President Trump was recently accused of describing El Salvador, Haiti, and African countries as "shithole countries." African politicians fought back, describing Trump as a racist. Trump came out to clarify the matter and he said that he never made that vulgar statement.

It will be interesting to see how President Trump goes about his policy without running the risk of hurting his nation's diplomatic ties.

The 59-year old had worked in both the public and private sectors after graduating from law school. She also worked in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for 11 years before going into private practice.

She became a judge at the Criminal Division of Trinidad's High Court in 1996, and in 2005 she was promoted to the

Court of Appeal. She also served as Justice of Appeal in Turks and Caicos for three years. She was also Chancellor of the Anglican Church, where she oversaw all finances. A devoted Christian, it will be herculean to overcome the challenges of the present times in the country, especially where the rule of law has become a tool by elites to further exploit the masses.



26-YEAR-OLD NNAMDI OGBA MURDERED IN TORONTO



In another case of murder and death which marred the month of March, most especially among families of African descent. In one of such dark incidents was the murder of a 26-year-old Nigerian. Nnamdi Ogba, a Toronto based man was gunned down by two unknown men in the northwest end of the city in what Police calls a random attack.

The deceased, who

lived in Brampton, was walking down to his car just after 11 p.m after visiting a soccer teammate when two male suspects approached him from behind and shot him multiple times in the back before the men fled on foot and escaped in a waiting SUV in the Scarlettwood Court community housing complex area. Some security operatives have tagged the incident a turf war.

However, Investiga-

tors are of the belief that late Nnamdi had never had any dealings with his killers nor have they anything in common to provoke them before carrying out the gruesome act.

TWO ARRESTS MADE IN TORONTO

Two men have since been arrested and charged with first-degree on Thursday, March 29th, 2018 in relation to the murder of

Nnamdi Ogba after police executed search warrants.

19-year-old Trev-aughan Miller and 22-year-old Abdullahi Mohamed both appeared in court recently and were denied bail.

Also, the alleged getaway driver has been identified as 27-year-old Abdurahman Islow through a CCTV camera at the scene of the crime.

Meanwhile, friends and associates have eulogized the late Nnamdi as a man to be with, and affectionate. Ogba's father Sylva Okzie did not hide his feelings at a news conference held recently. "Who did he offend? What is it that happened that cannot be resolved where you would be ready to take someone's life?" "We just want to know what happened. What did he do wrong?"

In the meantime, a candlelight vigil for the deceased was held on Friday, 23rd of March. He was buried on Saturday, 24th of March. Nnamdi is survived by grandparents, parents, and siblings.



1.5M USB CHARGERS RECALLED OVER SAFETY CONCERNS

Over 1.5 million USB chargers are currently being recalled by Canada's health agency over safety concerns. The chargers, according to Health Canada poses a great risk to users as they cause electric shocks.

The uncertified USB chargers were produced by different manufacturers and are deemed uncertified by the health agency.

Users are advised to return the product to the

place of purchase or dispose off the unit immediately.

Uncertified products are common in the Canadian market especially for small gadgets. Consumers have been warned and reminded on the need to ensure that only products that has passed regulatory tests and approved should be purchased. Such products can be identified by a certification stamp explicitly placed on them.

IGP WITHDRAWS POLICE ESCORTS FROM INDIVIDUALS

The Inspector General of Police has ordered the withdrawal of all police escorts attached to politicians and public office holders in the country as 2019 elections draw near and in the wake of present security challenges.

He said, "In view of the current security challenges in the country, it has become expedient for the Nigeria Police Force to streamline the deployment of its personnel attached to political and public office holders, aimed at enhancing effective and efficient policing of the country.

"To this effect, a memo will be forwarded to the President for ap-

proval which will serve as a guideline or template for deployment to VIPs, political and public office holders in the country. Accordingly, a directive for withdrawal of all police officers deployed to VIPs, political and public office holders with immediate effect, is hereby given."

Under the new directive, businessmen, corporate organizations, and individuals who need special police protection would have their applications approved by the Special Protection Unit of the force on the application for re-validation through the state Commissioners of Police where they are resident.

MANITOBA INTRODUCES NEW FINES FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING

The government of Manitoba has introduced legislation that will see an automatic three-day licence suspension for drivers whose distraction causes accidents.

The recent legislation by infrastructure minister Ron Schuler, seeks to introduce a seven-day suspension for second offenders. Accidents caused by distracted driving according to MPI in the province rose from 2,415 in 2011 to 11,086 in 2016.

"We have a problem. And we want to be very clear that as a government, we take distracted driving as serious as drinking and driving," said Schuler.

"It's not just young people," he added. "It's everybody, our generation included."

"This will be unique to Manitoba ... and it's going to work very well. We are going to treat it as serious as drinking and driving."

Distracted driving ticket in Manitoba comes with a \$200 fine and a loss of five merits.

According to Schuler, the new legislation will target those illegally using their cellphones, "grooming your dog, putting makeup on, reading a book, cramming for your exam on the way to university, that's all included."

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QUIZ

1- Answer (b); 2- Answer (b); 3- Answer: Mali; 4- Answer: d: Tokyo; 5- Answer: Asia; 6- Answer: (b) Central Africa; 7- Answer: c: Niger Delta; 8- Answer: (a) China; 9- Answer: True; 10- Answer: (b) Metal; 11- Answer: (c) 42 gallons

continued from p(31)

RIDDLE

1- Answer: MIRROR
2- Answer: Mount Everest. It was just not discovered yet.

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone".

Ronald Reagan



continued from p(30)

CIRCLE ...

1. (a) Mississippi
2. (c) borrowed
3. (a) Communication
4. (a) Quiet
5. (b) Quarrel
6. (a) Questionnaire
7. (b)camouflage
8. (b) vacuum
9. (c) congratulate
10. (b) relevant

continued from p(30)

WORD SEARCH

.	.	B	M	W	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	B	.	.
.	.	.	.	.	.	A	C	U	R	A	.	.	.	.	E	.	.
D	C	.	N	.	F
O	.	.	C	O	R	V	E	T	T	E	.	.	H	.	T	.	E	
D	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	R	.	L	.	R
G	.	.	.	C	A	D	I	L	L	A	C	.	Y	.	E	.	R	
E	B	A	U	D	I	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	S	.	Y	.	A
.	U	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	L	F	.	.	R
.	I	B	U	G	A	T	T	I	.	.	.	.	E	.	O	.	I
.	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	R	.	.	R	.
.	K	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	J	E	E	P	D
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	G	M	C	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

continued from p(33)

CLAIRE'S MAKEUP...

testing, did not identify any health or safety concerns regarding asbestos. In light of these new reports, Health Canada is contacting the company to determine if additional actions are warrant-

ed," the statement reads. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) had observed through investigations that the products contain the cancer-causing substance, leading

to further tests. 15 makeup products were tested and three were found containing the substance — a contour palette, shadow and highlight finishing kit, and compact

powder. The company has since reacted by stating that its primary concern is the health of its customers and will always ensure that its products are up to standard.

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AFRICA HEIGHT OF IDIOCY

arrested by the Nigerian authorities on Cameroon's request and repatriated. This couldn't have been a difficult request for the Buhari government to accede to, given the fact that it had also launched a military operation against would-be secessionists in the Eastern part of Nigeria. Paul Biya also probably learnt a lesson from Nigeria or perhaps it was the old fox just being himself. He has just appointed two persons from the aggrieved North West/South-West of Cameroon into his newly reconstituted cabinet to assuage fears of marginalization by the Ambazonians. One of the portfolios is that of the Minister of Interior. The average African leader is manipulative and tricky. In Biya's case, it is worse. He is 85, he has been in power for more than three decades, and he still plans to run for election this year. His opponent from the main opposition party,

the Social Democratic Front (SDF) is likely to be a 49-year old, Joshua Osih. Biya is Cameroon's Mugabe. Though, his sit-tight colleague in Equatorial Guinea is no better. President Mbasogo proscribed the main opposition party in the country, the Citizens for Innovation (CI) for allegedly undermining state security. In November 2017, there were clashes between CI supporters and armed policemen. Party leaders have argued that their supporters did not carry any arms and that they were only campaigning. Interestingly, 21 of them have been sentenced to 26 years imprisonment for sedition, and 10 years for breach of authority, and fined 210,000 Euros along with their party! I suspect that CI's main offense would be that of having the audacity to win one seat in parliament in that country's last elections, while the ruling party won 99 seats out

of 100 seats. That makes Teodoro Mbasogo uncomfortable: he cannot afford the growth of opposition in his country, or anything that would threaten his plan to hand over power eventually to his first son, 48-year old Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue who is currently the First Vice President in charge of defence and security and the oil and gas sector. Finally, first sons and first daughters are often part of the political equation. Togo's Faure, DRC's Kabila, Equatorial Guinea's Teodorin, and Angola's former first daughter, Isabel dos Santos. They share power with their father and possibly succeed him, and if not, they could become as wealthy as Isabel. The sad part of the African story is that even when you discover a President who seems to be doing well, he does well only for a while before he begins to misbehave like the rest.

Take John Pombe Magufuli, the developmental President of Tanzania, the "Bulldozer." In nearly three years in office, he has brought fresh energy and creativity to governance in Tanzania. He has waged war against indolence, incompetence, corruption, ghost workers, bad infrastructure, but he is also now waging war against democracy. His government has banned public rallies by the opposition. It has introduced a law, which criminalizes free speech on social and electronic media, and jailed at least two politicians for "hate speech". Magufuli has also banned the smoking of Shisha, and famously declared, that "no pregnant student will be allowed to return to school..." In Tanzania, it is a taboo to "annoy" the government, but acceptable to rape young girls! *Dr. Ignatius Okosun is a researcher, prolific writer and a social commentator.*

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MANITOBA REPEALS..

working with other post-secondary institutions in the province to obtain private health-care insurance coverage (prior to 2012, health-care coverage was offered privately to international post-secondary students in Manitoba). International students with current Manitoba Health cards will be covered until September 1, 2018. If you do not have a health card and have questions about your current eligibility for provincial health

coverage, contact the Province of Manitoba directly at phone: 204-786-7101 or Toll free: 1-800-392-1207 email: insuredben [at] gov [dot] mb [dot] ca International students at the U of M with questions or concerns can speak to an international student advisor at the International Centre, 541 UMSU University Centre in person, via email international [at] umanitoba [dot] ca or phone 204-474-8501. *Source: news.umanitoba.ca*

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PROTESTS EMERGE...

Many Ghanaian citizens have questioned their government's latest deal with the U.S although the two nations have a long-standing trade and military relationship. Responding to local press reports concerning the deal, the U.S. Embassy in Accra underscored that it had no plans to establish a military base in Ghana. In October, an Is-

lamist ambush resulted in the death of Niger troops together with four elite U.S. soldiers. The United States has about 7,200 U.S. Defense Department personnel, including soldiers, stationed in Africa. Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti hosts more than half of these personnel while the remaining are scattered across 32 other smaller locations.

continued from p(23)
ZIMBABWE ANNOUNCES...

while category C requires tourists to obtain the visa before travelling. Among the 28 countries moved from category C to B include Mexico, Ethiopia, Yugoslavia, Panama, Romania and Armenia among others. Zimbabwe is the first

and only SADC country to remove visa requirements for all (SADC) members. The move is coming after former president, Robert Mugabe's economic policies are seeing as unfriendly to foreign countries, hence the new administration seeks to open up the economy.

continued from p(23)
MOZAMBIQUE...

Kenyatta observed that the people of Mozambique and Kenya shared a common ancestry and culture. He said that there is plenty of evidence that shows interaction that dates back to the pre-colonial era although the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975. Underlining the close ties between Kenya and Mozambique, President Kenyatta said that the community of Makonde speakers, originally of Mozambican descent, now constitute

part of the Kenyan citizenry and are officially recognized as the 43rd tribe of Kenya. President Kenyatta argued that it was important to have a review of the Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) with the hope of elevating it to a Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) in the near future. This move means that Kenya and Mozambique have improved their bilateral cooperation and it is only a matter of time before it graduates into a more strategic partnership.

SPORTS

CANADA AIMS TO ACHIEVE 100 MEDALS IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES



By R.Njeru

Canada is aiming to achieve 100 medals in this year's Commonwealth Games to be held in Australia. Canada will be represented by 283 athletes who are ready to take on the world.

The games will host a total of 70 countries which will provide more than 6,500 athletes. The competition will cover seven para-sports and 18 sports.

The Canadian medal count will be boosted by new sports like women's rugby sevens, para-triathlon and Beach volleyball. Canada is not entered in netball.

Canada finished third in the 2014 games in Glasgow, winning 82 medals (32 gold, 16 silver, 34 bronze) behind England's 174 (58-59-57) and Australia's 137 (49-42-46). This year, Canada plans to remain competitive by finishing in the top three.

The Gold Coast promises to be a spectacular setting for this year's Commonwealth Games. After a grueling Canadian winter, the athletes will certainly enjoy the fifty-two kilometers of sand and surf as well as 300 sunny days.

The sports will be contested in 18 venues on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane. On the other hand, Cairns and

Townsville will host the preliminary basketball games.

Canadian chef de mission Claire Carver-Dias, has praised Australia for preparing world-class venues on time. Claire said that the venues have been perfected to suit this class of competition. She highlighted the outdoor Gold Coast Aquatic Centre as one of the top-notch venues. On the other hand, Canadian women's sevens coach John Tait was full of praise for the Robina Stadium which will be hosting the rugby sevens.

The nation's spectacular beaches have also made the temporary venues that will host beach volleyball look attractive.

Traditionally, the Commonwealth Games have been a stepping stone to the Olympics.

Brilliant Canadian athletes

Some 53 per cent of the 265 athletes who represented Canada four years ago in Glasgow went on to be part of the Rio Olympic team. This year's Commonwealth Games team includes four Paralympic medalists, 10 Olympic medalists and 21 para-athletes from Rio 2016.

Marquee Canadians who will participate in Australia will include Paralympic swim cham-

MAN UTD SUBMIT APPLICATION TO ESTABLISH WOMEN'S TEAM



Manchester United have submitted an application to the English Football Association with hopes that they will be granted permission to start their own women's team.

If the proposal is approved, the Red Devils' ladies would enter the second tier of the Women's Super League, beginning in 2018-19, and would offer a career pathway for players who graduate from the Girls' Regional Talent Club.

The club has already seen upwards of 15 of its

graduates playing international football in the 2017-18 season alone.

Should the application prove successful, the women's team would be based at United's long-serving training centre at The Cliff.

Announcing the move in a recent interview, the club's executive vice chairman, Ed Woodward, said: "We are pleased to announce that the club intends to establish its first ever professional women's team and has submitted an application to enter WSL2."

MOROCCO, N.AMERICA SUBMIT BID FOR 2026 WORLD CUP

By R.Njeru

Morocco has submitted a bid to host the 2026 World Cup, the country will be competing with a joint bid by Canada, Mexico and the United States.

As it stands, no other country is allowed to make a bid since the deadline has elapsed. Football world governing body FIFA is set to make a decision in June.

According to FIFA president Gianni Infantino, they will employ a

task force that will visit the venues to examine the two bids. The congress will have to make the final decision if they establish that the two competitors meet the minimum requirements.

The digital bid submission is approximately 1,000 pages. According to executive director John Kristick, the hosting documents can make the pages reach tens of thousands.

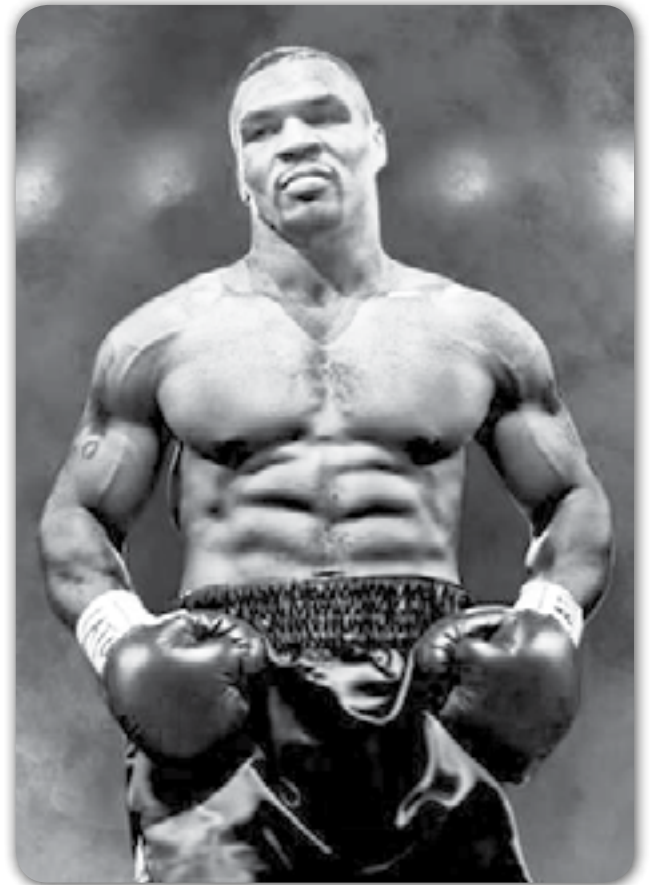
The rules of the bidding process have changed as compared to previous

pion Aurelie Rivard, mountain biker Emily Batty, Olympic wrestling champion Erica Wiebe, Commonwealth Games champion decathlete Damian Warner, quadruple Olympic medalist swimmer Penny Oleksiak as well top beach volleyball pairs Sam Schachter and Sam Pedlow and Sarah Pavan and Melissa Humana-Paredes.

Canada sent 255 athletes to the 2010 games in New Delhi and 253 to Melbourne in 2006.

Canada goes to the Games, with a mission to accomplish. The goal is to bring the centennial 2030 Commonwealth Games back to Canada, site of the first British Empire Games in 1930 in Hamilton.

TYSON TO RETURN TO WWE



Former undisputed World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson has hinted he could stage a return to the World Wrestling Entertainment after his last appearance in 2010.

Tyson revealed this to WWE.com at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards recently.

The boxing legend made headlines in 1998 when he helped Stone Cold

Steve Austin beat Shawn Michaels for the WWE title as a special enforcer at WrestleMania 14, a match which has remained controversial.

He returned as the guest host of RAW 12 years later when he knocked Chris Jericho out.

"I'm always willing to come back, I love the WWE", Tyson stated when asked about if he would stage a comeback.



times. It is no longer the role of top FIFA executives to vote for the better option, rather, it is now the role of all eligible FIFA countries. The 2026 World Cup bid will also see those votes made public for the first time.

Morocco is arguing that it offers the better option because of its "sweet spot" time zone and its compact size. On the other hand, the North American bid is banking on its in-place infrastructure, world-class, large-capacity stadiums and "proven experience."

According to ESPN, Morocco is currently leading the race because of the shorter distances between stadiums among other factors. Some people even ar-

gue that President Trump has made the U.S. unpopular with the rest of the world because of his polarizing statements against different countries and races.

Morocco's committee said it would go through its submission although few formal details of their bid have been made public.

The North American committee decreased the potential host cities to 23 candidates. The joint bid recently underwent a setback after Vancouver, Minneapolis and Chicago claimed that FIFA was making "unacceptable demands."

The war for the right to host the 2026 World Cup is getting juicier by the day and many football fans will be hoping to know which bid comes out on top.

BLESSING OKAGBARE SHATTERS 20-YEARS AFRICAN RECORD



By Julius Oyekunle

It's been a long time running as finally, the reigning Commonwealth double sprints champion, Blessing Okagbare-Ighotegunor opened her 2018 season on a record-breaking note, shattering Mary Onyali's 22-year old 200m African Record of 22.07 in the process, with a new mark of 22.04 (+0.5) at the ACU Wes Kitley Invitational in Abilene, Texas in March.

She had to overcome her own personal best of 22.23 which was set back in 2014, and now stands as a new Nigerian record and a 2018 World Lead, making her the fastest 200m runner in the world so far this year.

Former Nigerian and African record-holder and Olympic 200m bronze medalist from Atlanta 1996, Mary Onyali has poured out encomiums on the athlete for the laudable fit.

"Thank you, God, for

answered prayers. I am happy that Blessing made my prayers to come to pass because I had always wanted a Nigerian to break my record. May God bless your heart my dearest sister and friend," Onyali said.

All eyes will now be on her to make the country proud at the ongoing Commonwealth Games. She is going to be facing stiffer opponents such as Jamaica's Elaine Thompson and Dina Asher Smith of Great Britain.

Meanwhile, the 2018 African senior championships in her home state of Delta this August will also be a captivating championship to watch out for, where Okagbare will have the Ivorian duo of Murielle Ahoure and Marie-Josée Ta Lou and South Africa's Carina Horn to contend with over the 100m and 200m. Evidently, the Sprinter is not done yet as she hopes to take her place among the best of the best.

'I'M TRULY BLESSED': ZIMBABWE-BORN EDMONTON BOXER BOUND FOR NATIONAL

"I never settle. I've just got to keep working hard!"

The first time Phillip Matombo sparred with his Edmonton coach, a few jabbing punches left him defeated, in tears.

But Matombo has learned, champions don't cry — and they don't quit.

The 18-year-old high school senior describes the sport as a blessing.

"It saved my life," Matombo said in an interview with CBC Radio's Edmonton AM. "It made me more responsible. It made me watch what I'm doing. It made me more careful with the people I'm surrounding myself with. It made me wiser."

"It makes me think twice ... is this going to affect my boxing career? Because boxing isn't guaranteed."

Matombo grew up in Harare, Zimbabwe's capital city, before immigrating to Montreal to live with his grandmother at age 7.

But it was a struggle to get settled and he was shuffled from place to place, staying with relatives and then friends.

Eventually, he was sent to live with his older brother in Edmonton.

Before he found Cougar Boxing Club a year ago, he was living with a co-worker from Chili's, where he works part time.

Since then, the club, hidden in the basement of a building in Giovanni Caboto Park in downtown Edmonton, has become a second

home for Matombo.

'THAT'S NOT WHAT CHAMPIONS DO'

He walked into the club last year, looking for "something better," and got into the ring with coach Alberto Jerez, known in the boxing world as Chico.

"He's like a father figure to me now. I sparred him and he made me cry," Matombo recalled.

"I left and I was crying and my other coach came and grabbed and told me, 'That's not what champions do.'"

Matombo took that advice to heart.

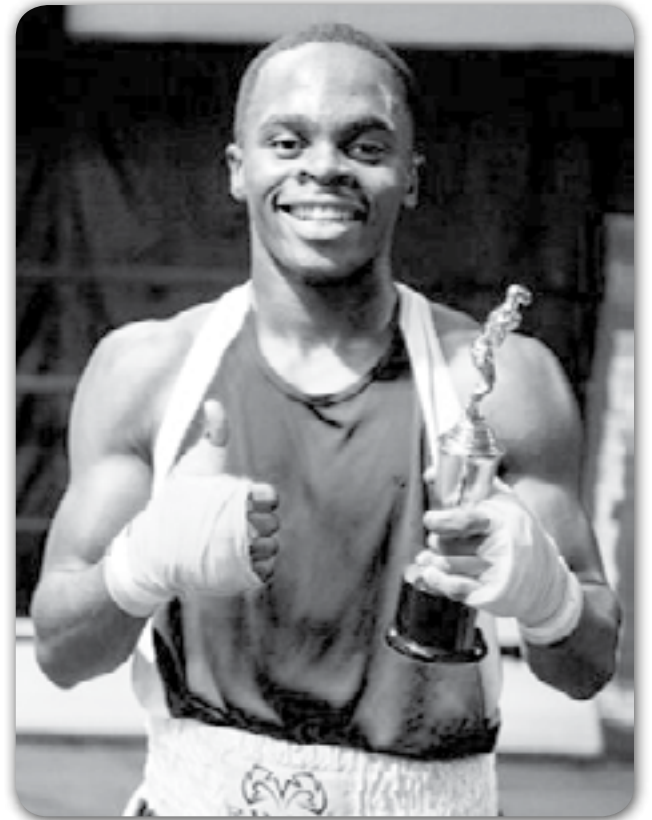
Despite the rough introduction, Matombo decided to train with the club full time. He now sits at 7-1 in his amateur boxing career.

"Ever since then, I come to the gym every day. I try to work hard," said Matombo. "I'm truly blessed. God does everything for a reason."

'HE TOOK IT BY STORM'

The club is buzzing with activity, preparing for the 2018 national championships being held in Edmonton.

Matombo is representing his club in the Elite Men's 49 kg weight division, going toe-to-toe against some of the best young athletes in the country. His Cougar Boxing Club teammate, Ethan Pasek, will compete in the Junior Men's 70 kg division over five days of intense compe-



tion.

Matombo has made his mark, impressing staff and coaches across Boxing Alberta. Rick Jamerson, the director of coaches at Boxing Alberta, has high hopes for Matombo.

"He's quite a boxer that's new on the stage here in Edmonton, but he took it by storm," Jamerson said. "He's quite exciting to watch. He's definitely one that has an opportunity to place for a medal."

The National Championships is an important step in any Canadian boxer's career, Jamerson said.

The competition gives

young athletes like Matombo an opportunity to make the National team and fight internationally at major tournaments like the Commonwealth Games and — hopefully — the Olympics.

For Matombo, that's the ultimate goal, but he's not taking anything for granted.

"My ultimate goal is to go to 2020 Tokyo and my coach Chico is going to take me there. As long as I keep listening to him and the things that he tells me to do, I know I'll get there."

"I never settle. I've just got to keep working hard."

<http://www.cbc.ca>



ADIEU MODINAT

By Oluchi Ugoh

Modinat Taiwo Olanunke Williams passed at the age of 45 years after a long battle with cancer.

She was the daughter of Alhaja Sherifat Sekoni an active member of Nigerian Canadian Muslim Ass. Toronto, Canada.

Modinat was married with children. She was buried on the 24th of March, 2018. May her soul rest in peace.



ENTERTAINMENT

TIM MCGRAW COLLAPSES ON STAGE



Country star Tim McGraw collapsed at a recent performance in Ireland.

A statement from his publicist said that McGraw suffered from dehydration during a C2C Concert in Dublin. "He was attended by local medical staff on-site and he will be fine," the statement read. "McGraw and Faith want to thank everyone for their love and support and look forward to seeing their Irish fans again soon."

Singer Faith Hill also told the crowd that McGraw was suffering from dehydration and had personally made the decision

to put him off stage.

"I apologize, but I made the decision that he cannot come back out on-stage," she said in a video posted by fans on social media."

McGraw, who was performing as part of the Country to Country festival in the U.K., had performed in London before heading to Glasgow as part of C2C, a three-day, three-city country-music festival.

The duo is scheduled to begin their 29-city Soul2Soul tour in the U.S. on May 31 in Richmond, Virginia.

TREVOR NOAH KEEPS WINNING

As if having a film done based on his name is not enough, the comic and host of famous United States television programme Daily Show, the South African-born and raised Trevor Noah, recently inked a deal with leading media giant Viacom to produce content on a long-term basis.

Through his Day Zero Productions, Noah is poised to create movie, television and shortform projects for Viacom. The partnership will see Viacom, which is the parent company for Comedy Central, invest in Noah's company.

"I've found a strong and incredibly valuable partnership in Viacom. Our shared vision of bringing



diverse cultural conversations and exciting creative projects to the forefront of the entertainment industry and to our constantly expanding audience continues to strengthen our relationship," quipped Noah on his newly minted deal.

The deal is a breakthrough deal for an Afri-

MO ABUDU'S EBONY LIFE TV SIGNS DEAL WITH SONY PICTURES



Mo Abudu's EbonyLife Ltd, and Sony Pictures Television (SPT), has announced that they will co-develop three exciting new scripted TV projects, with SPT set to distribute internationally.

The three-project deal will be the first of its kind between SPT and a Nigerian production company. It will also include a TV series inspired by the Dahomey Warriors. The action-packed series, inspired by true events that took place in the West African Kingdom of Dahomey, will tell of the historical events especially that

of the all-female Warriors. The show will reveal the ultimate strength of women coming together, fighting to protect and honour their people. Development on the Dahomey Warriors project will start immediately with further details of the two additional projects to follow.

The news follows EbonyLife's recently announced unscripted deal with SPT, where they will be exclusively adapting the hit game show 'The Dating Game' for Nigerian audiences, most especially the youths.

www.bellanaija.com

can comedian and quite possibly the first one of its kind. Ghanain-Liberian stand-up comedian Michael Blackson has come closest to Noah in getting high-profile media attention for his US exploits.

In related news, a South African filmmaker Liesl Tommy has been tapped to direct the Noah biopic, *Born a Crime*, based on Trevor Noah's book of the same title, which was famously touted by billionaire Bill Gates as a must-read.

Lupita Nyong'o, who recently starred in the *Black Panther* movie, is set to star as Noah's mother, Patricia.

The beauty of the

deal for Noah is that his production company will co-produce the film together with Mainstay Entertainment and Nyong'o's own company Eba Productions. Liesl Tommy is a Tony-nominated director, having worked with Lupita in *Eclipse*.

Viacom's chief executive Robert Bakish is reportedly thrilled to partner Noah because "working with the best, most versatile talent in entertainment is a strategic priority for Viacom".

Noah is a shining example of a talent that has been exported right out of Africa. His comedy transcends race and culture.

Source:AllAfrica.com

UNKNOWN AFRICAN



Rebecca Enonchong

Born in Cameroon 1967, Rebecca Enonchong was named by Forbes on a list of female tech founders to watch in Africa. The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers' Women in Engineering also named her to their Power 60 list.

Rebecca is the founder and CEO of AppsTech a global provider of enterprise application solutions

with presence in over 50 countries of the world. Rebecca is also the chairman of ActivSpaces; a Cameroonian tech hub with co-working space and incubator. The African Business Angels Network (ABAN) also names Miss Enonchong as co-founder and treasurer, as well as a mentor and adviser to several African based technology startups.

She is also the co-founder of I/O Spaces in Maryland USA.

CELINE DION THANKS FANS FOR 50TH BIRTHDAY WISHES

Celine Dion is feeling 50 and fabulous, and she's sharing that feeling with her devoted fans.

The legendary singer shared a stunning slideshow of never-before-seen family portraits dating from her earliest years to recent family photos featuring her late husband Rene Angelil.

Set to a mashup of her hits "I Drove All Night", "It's All Coming Back to Me" and "Where Does My Heart Now", the Canadian music icon lets fans look back at some of her fondest memories.

"From the very first song written with her mom and brother," reads the note captioning the video, "we take a look back at some of the precious moments in Celine's personal and professional life."

She later thanked her fans for their birthday messages. "I want to thank all of you for the wonderful birthday messages and videos. They touched me deeply. I celebrated this day surrounded by family while feeling the spirit of your presence," Dion posted on social media.

"Thank you for your



love and support and for being such a big part of my life for all these years. I can't wait to get back to being 100%, and to see you all again!" the icon concluded.

"I'm not a birthday girl, not even when I was 20," she recently told *Stellar Magazine*. "To be honest, I'd rather be doing a show. But five is my lucky number, so I'm quite excited to turn 50."

Happy birthday, Celine!

etcanada.com

ADICHIE WINS BARNES & NOBEL AWARD



Award-winning Nigerian Author, Chimamanda Adichie, has received the 2018 Barnes & Nobel 'Writers for Writers' award.

The award was presented at Poets & Writers' annual dinner, In Celebration of Writers, in New York City.

The Barnes & Noble Writers for Writers Award celebrates authors who have given generously to other writers or to the broader literary community.

The award, which is presented each year at Poets & Writers' annual dinner, is named for Barnes & Noble in appreciation of its long-standing support.

Adichie was honoured for her work with the Farafina Trust Creative Writing Workshop in Nigeria.

The Nigerian author was honoured alongside other writers, Steve Cannon, and Richard Russo.

Susan Isaacs is the chairman of Poets & Writers' Board of Directors and also the chair of the committee charged with selecting the honorees.

She said, "We receive nominations from writers, publishing professionals, and others in the literary community. From the information about the nominees and their accomplishments, we select three writers and an editor who exemplify Poets & Writers' core values: service, integrity, inclusivity, and excellence."

"This year's honorees are models of those qualities. The Board is delighted to be able to honour them. Their work makes me proud to be part of this community."

Poets & Writers adds, "The three writers we honor this year have not only expanded our horizons through their own writing, they are dedicated to supporting other writers and to bringing diverse voices into the literary conversation."

Adichie, who has been championing a "Wear Nigerian" campaign, was clad in a black and yellow outfit from Nigerian brand Muse Factory.

Source: AllAfrica.com

POPULAR BLOGGER LINDA IKEJI 'ENGAGED'



Popular Nigerian blogger, Linda Ikeji, is finally off the market as she got engaged to her ex-boyfriend on Wednesday.

Her sister, Sandra Ikeji broke the news on Instagram on Wednesday.

Congratulations @officiallindaikjeji So happy for you sweet sis! This tells me that sometimes the wait is worth it. Can't wait to plan your special day!@events-bysi are you readyyyyyyy? #it'sagetaway - A post shared by sandraikjeji (@sandra_ikjeji) on Mar 28, 2018 at 4:40am PDT

It has also been reported that Linda's ex-boyfriend recently relocated to Nigeria where the lovebirds decided to rekindle their affair.

Also, Nollywood actress, Toyin Aimakhu, took to Instagram to congratulate her.

She wrote; "Congratulations to our very own Linda Ikeji for ticking one of the important boxes every woman has piled up on her list; as she got engaged to her heartthrob!"

"I can't wait to fill my tummy up with the rice o, so don't keep us waiting too long... We just can't wait!!!NB:FAM I'm next".

As one of Nigeria's most eligible celebrities, the 37-year-old blogger had been under pressure from fans to get married in recent times.

Source: www.premi-untimesng.com

undertaker nondescript — professional and proper, disclosing just so much without disguising anything, a hint of British lilt to leave one wondering.

Then they come in to make arrangements to bury a loved one and, ah, she is, oh, yes, Black.

"I researched it and there's never been a Black funeral home in our country, in history," Jones says. "So, I'm like the Harriet Tubman of funeral services. Others will come after me but that history can't be changed. I'm the first."

It's not a boast; it's delivered in mortician monotone, yet with a twinkle. Twenty-two years in the industry and Jones is nowhere near a dead end. Rather, she aims to expand Covenant into a series of funeral homes across the GTA.

Who's to tell Jones she can't. That's what she heard and disregarded from those in the know in the industry.

"You'll never get in," they told me. "Nobody gets in on the first try," others said when she applied to the funeral services program at Humber College in 1997. The college gets 800 applicants, accepts 200 and graduates fewer than 150 then. And Jones was looking to enroll after being out of school and work for eight years.

Jones considered being an airline attendant but "didn't make the height restrictions," since relaxed.

When she submitted her application for funeral services at Humber she scanned the framed wall photos of the recent graduating classes. She had to go back five years to find someone who looked like her.

"Persistent as I am, I did get in on the first try. Out of the tribulations I have gone through — single mom, two sons, wanting something better for them, juggling school, parenting, waking up at 2 and 3 a.m. to do my studies . . . I made it."

Side glances, quizzical looks and furrowed brows are regular responses to someone's declaration that undertaker is a chosen career choice.

Jones is more than

mortician. She is counselor, mediator, baby sitter, medic, priest, neutralizer in the midst of family fights. "You have to pick people up off the floor when they pass out. I've done mouth-to-mouth resuscitation," she says. "For some directors they say this not my job, but I'm a jill of all trades, and master of some."

Rarely does someone talk about the dead with such, ah, respect and regard.

Some bodies arrive at her mortuary without having had a bath in months, Jones says. "I bathe them and it's an honour and a privilege. Families have built a lifetime of relationships with the deceased and I get to serve them and look after their loved ones for a few hours. This is what I was called to do — and I absolutely love it."

"Each body gets my personal stamp of approval. They don't go out if they don't look right."

Jones wasn't finished. "I'm a perfectionist. It's all about the fine details" — the preparation of the body for final viewing. "This is the last time (families will) have the experience of seeing their loved ones. It must be pleasing and comforting."

I almost wanted to observe her do a preparation — the bath, make up, dressing and presentation for final viewing. Readers with weak stomachs or cultural and childish fears and superstitions about the dead are probably feeling queasy about now. But I left Covenant, went home and told my wife I found the person I want to prepare my body for burial . . . in time, of course.

Strange, I know. Jones' parents left Guyana for England before landing in Toronto in 1977. They lived in the Annex, Oakwood and Vaughan Rd. and then in Mississauga. Young Luann was a high school sprinter, lifted weights in the off season and was working for a graphic arts company when an accident forced her to re-bust her life.

"I told God if he would bless me I would be a blessing to others. It was my covenant."

A career counselor suggested her aptitude *continued on p(47)*

MEET LUANN JONES, DYNAMIC BLACK OWNER OF A TORONTO FUNERAL HOME

The owner of Covenant Funeral Homes is used to the double takes from prospective clients and after 22 years in the business she is nowhere near a dead end, Royson James writes.

You may have heard that one of Toronto's early Black settlers was likely the city's first cabbie. Or that Blacks in the 1950s flocked to the railroad as porters — not because they loved train travel but because that's where Black

workers didn't face a shut door. Or that thousands of Black women started arriving here in the late 1950s — because that's who the government let in as immigrants.

But a Black funeral director?

Correction. Make that, Black owner of a funeral home — because that's what I discovered during Black history month. In Toronto, 2018.

She's barely 5-foot-2, elegant in her navy blue

and white uniform topped with silver gray and blue striped necktie, hair tightly braided, not a strand out of place, resting on top of an exquisitely disarming half smile as she welcomes the reporter into Covenant Funeral Homes, at the corner of Eglinton Ave. E. and Midland Ave.

Luann Jones is used to double takes from prospective clients she is about to engage face-to-face at a pre-funeral arrangement.

On the phone she's



RELIGION

THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS

Pastor Amos Dada PhD;
P.Eng

The story was told. A young boy was lost. He sat on a bench in the park lonely and dejected. Passers-by alerted the police. When they arrived, they did all they could to figure out where the boy came from. 'Do you know the name of the street your parents leave?' 'No' was the reply. 'Do you know the name of the school you attend?' 'No' was the reply. 'Do you live close to any hotel?' He just shook his head. Then one of the police officers said, do you by chance live close to the big church with the big cross in the centre of the town? 'Yes,' was the relieving reply. 'Take me to the cross and that will lead me home.'

Today a cross-section of the society argue that Easter is mentioned once in the bible and for some people for this reason, it is not worth celebrating. It is also like the issue of Christmas, some people argue that since we are not sure of the exact date Jesus Christ was born, there is no point celebrating it. Some argue that both Easter and Christmas were replicates of worship of Sun god or other gods that some nations worshipped centuries ago and because of this, they miss out on the beauty and purpose of the person in the centre of both Christian festivals. Some politicians will even argue that people can be given holidays during these seasons but they should never refer such holidays to the personality of Christ, his doings, or legacies. The joy of it is the more I hear about this argument, the more I am driven to find out more about Christ with respect to these holidays and issues surrounding them. I am driven to find the purpose for which Christ was born and for which he had to go through the cross, crucifixion, death, and resurrection to achieve his purpose. Though nobody paid me to do what I am doing, I read about some people that were paid to come up with a predicted result that Jesus never went to the cross or arose. The same people wrote a book to show that resurrection was real. As for me, finding a purpose for a cause is a lifelong desire. I wrote a book titled: *Understanding Principles, Purpose, Power and People of vision*. I wrote in that book that when purpose is unknown, abuse is inevitable. Whether you are a Christian or not, I urge you to help in continuing with this research, why did Jesus go to the cross? Or why did God choose the mysterious and



Pastor Amos Dada
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complex process of redeeming mankind from their sins through the cross? You will either face the reality of the cross here on earth and resolve it in your favour or find out about the cross where it will be too late.

The truth most be said, we don't know it all. This article is to create more of curiosity than provide a solution. It is to push you to read the bible more, brainstorm with your pastors and other christians. Ask the hard questions. This article will give some direction and also help us to know more about Jesus Christ the anointed one. I also want you to pay attention to some vocabularies, their meaning and differences, words like atonement, redemption and propitiation, what is the difference in these terminologies? They are not the same.

Why discuss the Cross?

A story was told about a young man who went to visit Billy Graham. Call it a mentee meeting a mentor. He spoke about how Billy is known for preaching about the cross like a butterfly looking for nectar. He now asked, "if you are to give a piece of advice from a big Billy to a young Billy who is just planning to go to ministry what will that be?" Billy Graham answered "you need to preach on the Cross and the Blood, because that is where the power is". The issue of the cross is the process for humanity breakthrough.

What does Cross reveal about God?

The cross reveals that God is sovereign and just. The cross reveals that God is demonstrably righteous. The cross reveals that God is omnipotently merciful, that is God treats you better than you deserve. The cross reveals the graciousness of God that is why he offered grace to replace law. That is why God accepted the blood of his son as a substitute to the blood of animals.

What is the Cross?

To a literary reader the cross as we know it today is a pendant made with various items in form of a plus sign with an unusual longer vertical part than the width.

The cross is an object, or figure formed by two short intersecting lines or pieces. I read of a story of someone who went to a store to buy a cross but was describing to the store owner, "I don't want the one with the figure of a person on it." So we have crosses that do not show that someone died on it. The cross as we know today is one wooden huge structure placed on the church building or fellowship centres. The cross is that frame in front of a church or inside a church. That is not the cross! What we have and carry about is a symbolism of the original cross, upon which Jesus was crucified at Golgotha, the place of the skull in outside the city of Jerusalem.

What is not the purpose of the Cross?

The purpose of the cross is not for it to be worn around your neck or wrist, or tattooed on your body, or worn on your dress or T-shirt to show that you are a Christian. How many armed robbers wear the cross on their neck and yet go and steal. Some even wear it in that manner so that it will protect them from being caught in their nefarious activities. Just as some people put on wedding rings and still sleep with concubines, mistresses and sugar daddies. Some put the cross under their pillows to protect them from witches and wizards, just as some put bibles under their pillows to wade off demons. These are not the reasons for which the Son of God was crucified on the cross. They are cheap misuse of the cross.

What is the purpose of the Cross?

1. **The cross of Jesus Christ is central to the Christian faith.** The cross reveals to us the character of God: His love for lost sinners and His perfect justice meet at the cross. If we want to grow in our love for God, which is the first and greatest commandment, then we must be growing to understand and appreciate the cross, which shows us His great love. If we want to grow in godliness, we must grow in understanding the significance of the cross, which confronts the most prevalent and insidious of all sins, namely, pride.

2. **The place where God demonstrated his love.** The cross is a place where the love of God for humanity is perfected. How? A place where God sacrificed his only begotten son for humanity, to redeem us from our sins. How many of us reading this

article are willing to give away one of our children to die for human beings? It is easy to read and recite "for God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life." As I commonly say we all know John 3:16, but do not know 1 John 3:16. "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." How many of us want to lay down our material, property and money for the gospel not to even talk about blood for other people. The love of God for humanity is perfected in allowing his only begotten Son to go to the cross to die for you and I.

3. The cross is the heart of redemption.

Every organ in the body is important, but the most important is the heart. The day the heart stops pumping blood around the body that is when that unusual announcement comes, "He is dead." The issue, quarrel, separation with man and God started in Genesis Chapter Three, where the greatest separation took place, where man died. The cross is where Jesus died for man to experience redemption for their numerous sins, past, present and future. Through the cross, Christ has paid the ransom for us and redeemed us from the devil and sin.. "He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption." *Heb 9:12* "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." *Matt 20:28*

4. **The cross was a place of forgiveness.** Yes, Jesus proclaimed to those Romans and Jews crucifying him that "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing". Yes, Jesus said to the thief on the right hand, "Today you will meet me in paradise." But beyond that momentary forgiveness, is the great forgiveness that God brought on humanity. Recall when Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he provoked God's wrath, (and if you care to know the greatest human problem is the wrath of God) to rain curses, on humanity. That curse was not reversed until Jesus was crucified on the cross. Paul made us to know: "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a

A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

By Ibukun Ogunsina

Sometimes, you get a chance to taste the goodness of God in human beings. You see evidence of the loving hands of the Lord Almighty. It is possible to catch a glimpse of Heaven, here on earth. Personally, I don't like interviews. I never have. They have a way of making me nervous. But there are times when I have no other option.

On this particular day, I sat down in the beautiful reception of an embassy. I had to renew my visa. There were many people being interviewed. I could hear some of the numerous questions being asked by the embassy staff. Some were quite personal. Some questions were ... blunt and embarrassing.

Questions like "Why are you going?", "What do you need the visa for?" and "Are you sure you will come back?" were flung at the applicants seeking visas.

I continued to listen as I waited for my number to be called. A few minutes after a member of staff declined someone's visa application, the mood in the room changed. Some people became apprehensive.

I made my way to the ladies' and said a few

words of prayer. I asked The Lord to show me His Favor. When I got back to my seat, my number was called. Shortly after, I was standing before a smiling member of staff. This was how the interview went:

Staff Member: Wow ... so you have four kids ...

Me: Yeah ... I do.

Staff Member: I have 4 too. 3 girls and the last one is a boy.

Me (smiling): So do I. Staff Member: Wow ... make sure your boy does not get spoiled.

Me: Thank you.

Staff Member (looking surprised): You have a degree?

Me: Yes, ma'am. I have a Bachelor's in Computer Science.

Staff Member: You also have a Master's Degree!

Me: Yes Ma ... in Information Technology

Staff Member: Hm-mmnnn, wow! Your visa has been granted.

Me: Thanks a lot, Ma.

That was it.

I saw the windows of Heaven open slightly and after the prayers I offered, I caught a glimpse of Heaven through favor. In this month of March, may you enjoy God's unmerited favour in all areas of your life.

pole."[h] 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit." Gal 3:13-14. Forgiveness is a perfect word to replace redemption in that passage, because forgiveness is the basis for redemption and redemption is the outcome of forgiveness.

5. The cross is a place of reconciliation.

Though implied in some of the points mentioned above, but it stands out, that it was the cross that midwifed humanities reconciliation to the Trinity. Through the cross, Christ has reconciled us to God and restored our relationship with Him. "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation." *Rom 5:10-11* "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, with-

out blemish and free from accusation "Col 1:21-22. While reading this article, you can lay your hand on your sick child and healing will take place. You can make a request through prayer and God will answer. The cross brought that new relationship.

6. The cross was a place of substitution?

Through the cross, Christ died as our substitute taking the punishment of our sins. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." *Isaiah 53:5-6* "For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit." *1 Peter 3:18.*

7. The cross is a place of responsibility.

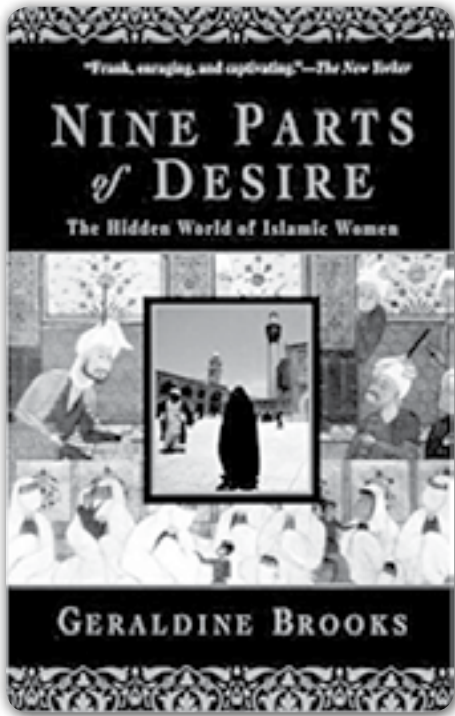
It was at the cross that Jesus showed not just emotion for the vessel God used to make the 'Word to become

continued on p(47)

RELIGIOUS BOOKS EDITOR'S PICK FICTION & NON FICTION BOOKS

*Get inspired by spiritual insights and deep meanings to questions that seem unanswered in the array of religious books this edition.
Get hope and strength that will keep you going.*

NINE PARTS OF DESIRE: THE HIDDEN WORLD OF ISLAMIC WOMEN BY GERALDINE BROOKS

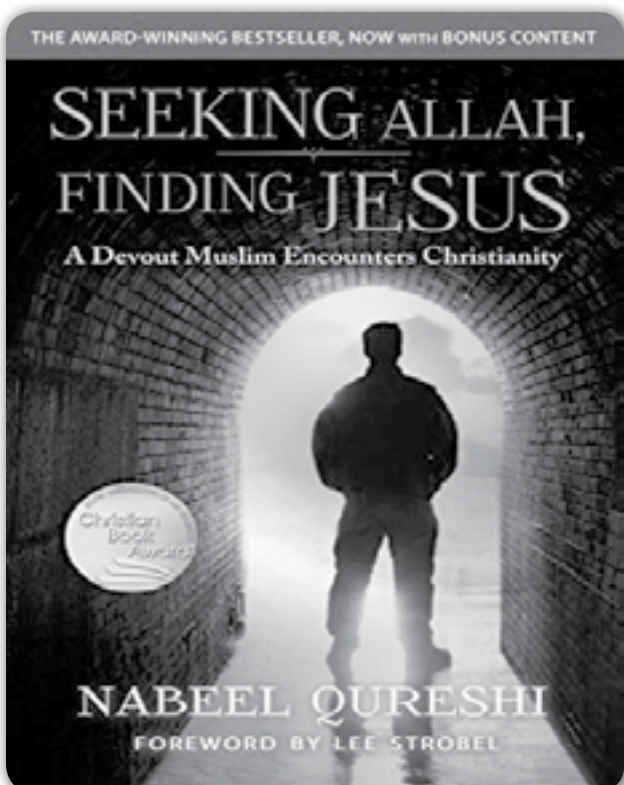


When religious identity is in conflict with modernity, there's more to life and the choice is ours.

Geraldine Brooks found herself confined to the corridors of high-level offices, shunned by Muslim men, and prohibited from the more adventurous stories her husband, a freelance writer, had no trouble getting.

When her secular, Western-educated Egyptian translator suddenly adopted the Islamic veil, Brooks' gender became an asset. She set out to understand why a modern woman would embrace a restrictive, seemingly sexist religious lifestyle. The result is an insightful, witty, and rare glimpse into the lives of Muslim women.

SEEKING ALLAH, FINDING JESUS: A DEVOUT MUSLIM ENCOUNTERS CHRISTIANITY KINDLE EDITION BY NABEEL QURESHI



Finding a new faith can be dramatic. Many times, our stance which marked the point of significant reference for disagreement soon becomes why we believe. Learn how a once avowed Islamic fundamentalist became a Christian.

Nabeel's extraordinary journey from Islam to Christianity is described in a very interesting way. The intrigues aren't just about the quest for the light, but a pre-destined arrangement which later manifests in the sequence of events leading to his conversion. In the final analysis, as Nabeel wants readers to know, it is God who searches out His own and He does that in mysterious ways.

THAT CHURCH LIFE BY TERESA HOWELL

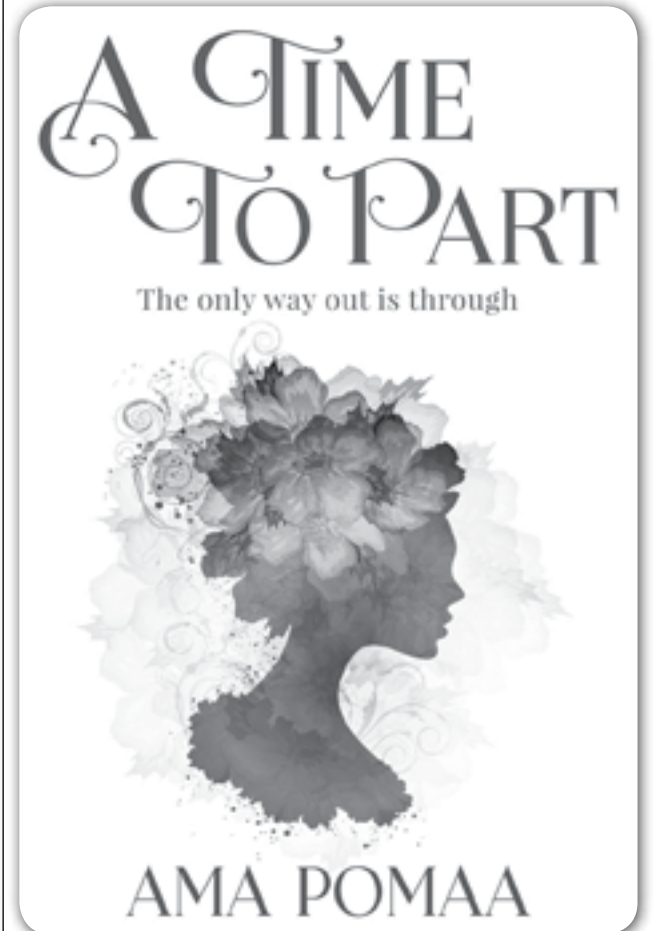


You'll learn to acknowledge the disciplined life as a Christian, yet sometimes we feel like making changes. Teresa shows us how to balance up.

Natalia Freemon is rebellious and outspoken, she has no problems challenging the church status quo. Years later however, her loss of faith will tragically impact her life.

Michelle Hanks, a country girl from a hardworking farm family is the peace maker and "soul" of the crew. Although struggling with self-confidence she is wise beyond her years and can't wait to escape the farm life and find success; even if it costs her soul.

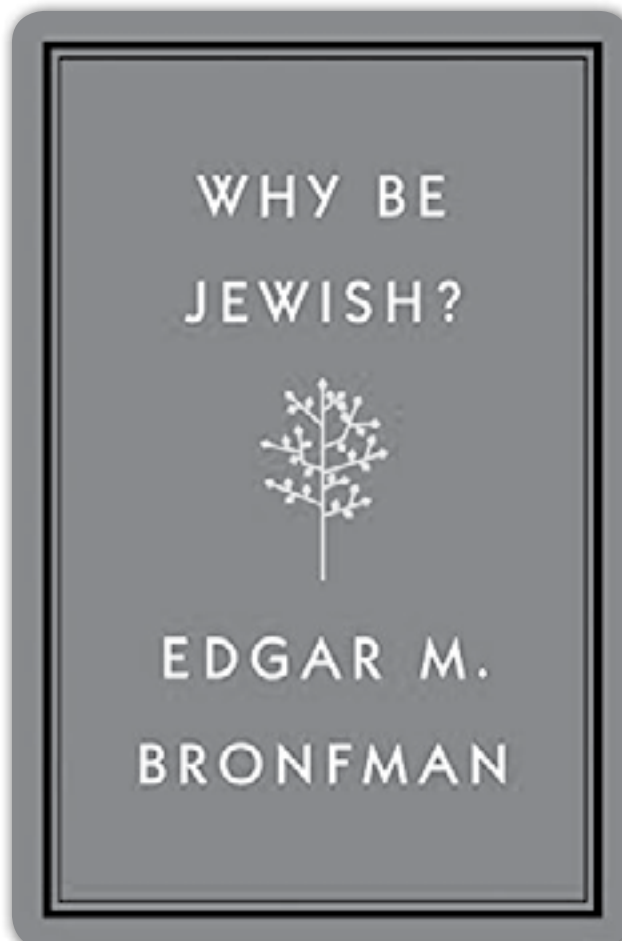
A TIME TO PART BY AMA POMAA



The decisions we make that matter most may be painful, however, the sacrifices we make are what makes the difference.

Jasmine left home in an attempt to escape her abusive father and her sordid past. But with the memories imprinted on her mind, her attempts to start over prove futile. On a day she plans to end it all, a tragic incident calls her back into her past. The events that follow throw her into the tangle of everything she left behind; an estranged brother, an old flame she left wounded, and the life of a girl living the nightmare she escaped. Faced with a second chance, she has to decide if letting go of the past is too high a price to pay for a chance to live again.

WHY BE JEWISH? A TESTAMENT KINDLE EDITION BY EDGAR BRONFMAN



Finding answers to life's most pressing issues especially regarding the Jewish faith is the utmost concern of this Jewish teacher. He reveals some deep truths about some beliefs we hold in doubt.

Judaism, just as other religious beliefs seek to understand truth by unleashing spiritual insights to physical things. Edgar Bronfman, just before his death in 2013 perused through some notable Jewish practices, while making use of his experience as a devout Jew to teach and appraise practices that have been long debated. In a world going secular, he addresses the future of Judaism, observance of norms and an autobiography into a life consumed in tradition without any form of regret.

SOURCE: AMAZON.COM
BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE TORONTO & MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC LIBRARIES



NIGERIAN CANADIAN NEWSPAPER, CANADA

Celebrating Super Working Mothers

Presents

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MEET LUANN JONES..**

pointed to nursing, social work and funeral directing. She had never been to a funeral but remembered her elementary school guidance counsellor pointing in that direction.

To gain her funeral director's licence (1999) she had to embalm 100 bodies, direct five funerals and do five pre-arrangements, plus an internship, write the board exams and complete an embalming in front of a licensed funeral director.

Race was never an issue for young Luann. She grew up in Italian neighbourhoods, picked up Spanish and Italian from the area kids to go with her British brogue. Not until she graduated from the funeral director's course did she feel the sting of exclusion.

She'd done well in the course with the help of supportive instructors, but didn't get a placement for months. And even when she did, her bosses would carefully script which clients she would serve — reserving her for Black families or social service burials or children.

"I was told I don't look like I sound. My manager told me, in an awkward way, that I 'don't fit'."

She added a funeral consultancy agency to her work, delivering clients to established funeral homes. But they often complained about Black funerals being too long, starting late and not paying on time. Jones had her own beef with her industry.

Too many of her col-

leagues did not know how to make up a Black corpse with the right shade and tone to make the deceased look just right, instead of a pasty pale. So she took to carrying her own special makeup kit for people of colour.

Jones does all races, all clients, indigent funerals, unclaimed bodies. Last week she was priest, and grieving family, and funeral train as Covenant buried an unclaimed body, sent her by social services.

"It was just me, my funeral guys and the cemetery workers. I do give them a dignified committal. This is what I was called to do" — her covenant.

Credit:www.thestar.com

**continued from p(34)
TO THE RESCUE**

as he took another deep inhale from his cigarette and blew the smoke to the room while putting the stub on the ash tray on the transparent table in the center of the hotel suite.

The phone in the room rang and Mr. Harrah picked it. "Hello! "Okay. In the Minister's house in Lekki?"

"That is okay. I know the place." Shaking his head to every conversation.

"Confirm 6 pm prompt. Sure. No Problem Mr. Michael. Thank you for the opportunity. Do you want to speak with your brother? I understand. Sorry about that. Bye for now." Dropping the phone. He looked at Paola, saying "that was your brother. The meeting will be in The Minister's private residence tomorrow by 6pm. Your brother did not want to speak with you. He said they have no clue about your relationship and he wants to conceal that secret as much as he could."

Paola's guess was confirmed. When he saw his brother's house, he knew it will be a child's play compared to that of The Minister. They passed through a swimming pool to the main entrance. This is the first time he is seeing a swimming pool in a private house in Nigeria. His brother has warned him about this attitude of behaving as if he has never seen wealth before telling him. "In another month you will begin to build your own mansion. Stop looking stupid. You are supposed to be a Civil Engineer of repute with many spectacular buildings your company has constructed as Mr. Harrah showed yesterday during your presentation" Michael told Paola when they were having late dinner yesterday. The meeting was for the four of them. The Minister, Michael, Paola and Mr. Harrah. The minister cleared his throat (it seems it is his trade

mark) and said; "Gentlemen welcome. I have good news for you. You have potentially been awarded the 200 million naira contract. Subject to your playing ball. Mr. Michael will tell you the next terms. Turning to Mr. Michael "over to you." Gentlemen once again congratulations. To win a contract of 200 million naira is not a joke. It is based on your competence thus far. Now what we want you to do is this. Out of this 200 million The Honorable Minister will take a lion share in the total sum of 100 million naira, when all money is fully paid. The Directors represented by me will take 50 million naira and you will have 50 million naira. Paola shouted, Mr. Minister how is that possible. How can we build the office complex with only 50 million naira and we are also expected to make some profit . . ." The minister cut him short.

"Who is asking you to build an office complex? Queried the Minister

Paola still enraged. "Mr. Minister sir, what is the contract, for, is it not to build the complex?" The Minister looking at him with disdain "Who is asking you to build complex, Mr. Michael did you not brief this man properly. Nobody wants you to build anything my friend. We shall pay you seventy five percent as mobilization fee upfront. And you will also pay seventy five percent to all the people as mentioned. But for the question you are asking, you will go to bank and get loan to pay us and we shall issue your cheques in your favour I will not want you guys to mess me up" he said with a tone of finality.

Michael decided to explain further. "Gentlemen what the Minister is saying is that Seventy five percent of 200 million will

be paid to you as mobilization fee. Out of that money you will also pay seventy five percent to minister of his own, which in this case is seventy five percent of 100 million naira when you are paid that money. You will also pay seventy five percent of 50 million, which is thirty seven and a half million naira to me for the other directors. Seventy five percent of 200 million naira is 150 million. Seventy five percent of 150 million is one hundred and twelve and a half. So your company will take thirty seven and a half million naira. You will show that you have a contract on site. I hope this is very clear. What the minister said because of your lack of understanding is that, you will source for a loan of 112.5 million from bank and deposit it in the account numbers I will give you and immediately you have done that a total sum of 150 million naira will be paid to your account. I hope that is very clear now.

Paola looked at Mr. Harrah in the face and said "kind of" The minister sounding furious, what do you mean kind of; we are giving you 37.5 million tax payers money free of charge you are complaining. If you go and work at 30,000 naira per month how many years will it take you to make that? This is the problem with this country some of you are unnecessarily greedy and ungrateful. Mr. Michael I am out of this meeting if you know these people will give us problem please get people who will play ball."

"Sir they can handle it." and turning to Paola and Mr. Harrah "can you?"

Michael asked the duo. The two of them looked at each other—and chorus together. "Yes, we can." In a telepathic manner.

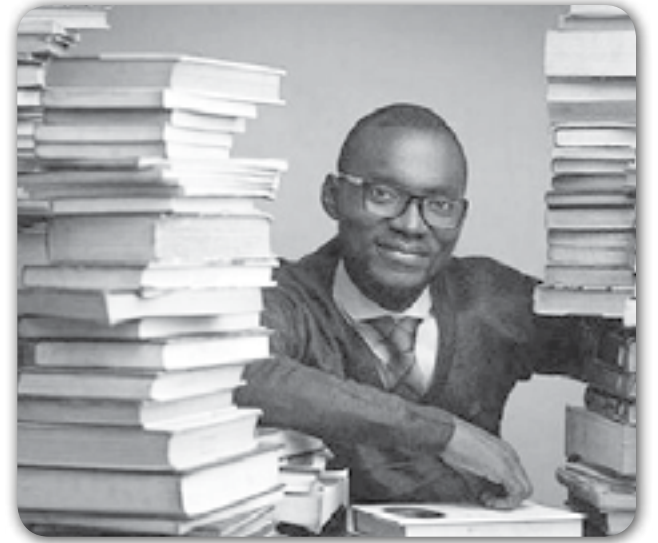
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The now second-best record was set by a Nepalese who read a total of 17 books aloud in 113

hours 15 minutes. In his case, Boyade read for 122 hours over a five-day. www.africanews.com

**continued from p(1)
NIGERIAN BORN CHILE OSUJI...**

University in Montreal, Canada, and doctor of laws degree from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. He was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1986 and practised briefly there.

After achieving his Master's degree from McGill in 1991, he worked as a barrister in Canada. From 1997 to 2005. During his stay in Canada, he worked as a barrister and law lecturer.

Judge Eboe-Osuji worked at the International Criminal Tribunal

for Rwanda as prosecution counsel and senior legal officer to the judges of the tribunal. From 2005 to 2007.

Working for the Special Court for Sierra Leone as senior prosecution appeals counsel in 2007/08 and returning to the ICTR from 2008 to 2010 as Head of Chambers, he became the Legal Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2010.

He has authored two books and numerous law journal articles in interna-

tional law. On 16 December 2011, he was elected as a judge of the International Criminal Court. He won the office in the fifteenth ballot in the Assembly of States Parties with 102 votes.

The Nigerian born judge in 2014 recused himself as a member of the bench that tried the case involving Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta who was standing trial with his vice William Ruto for crimes against humanity following Kenya's post-election violence in 2007.

**continued from p(44)
THE PURPOSE OF THE CROSS**

the Flesh' or for 'God to become human' but to show that he cares. And through that singular act he gave the body the charge to care by taking care of others. He gave John the disciple a responsibility: "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, [b] here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19:26-27.

Conclusion:

The cross is a place of paradox. An anticlimax for the wickedness of Satan who led humanity to depravity and put him under the wrath of God, but it is also the climax for the mercy of God where humanity experience restoration of fellowship. Calvary shows how far man will go in sin, and how far God will go for man's salvation. The cross says that God especially loves those who are hurting--those who are un-

der the penalty and power of sin. If you will turn to Jesus Christ and put your trust in what He did for you in taking your just penalty for sin on the cross, He will deliver you from sin's penalty and from its power. He wants to be your Shepherd and Overseer. He loves you just as you are, but He loves you too much to leave you that way. He wants to heal you from the devastating effects of sin. Will you turn to Him?

The challenge of the cross is no more of what Satan did or what God has done it is in what will be your response to what Jesus did on the cross. Let the cross lead you to accept God's graciousness, righteousness and his mercy. Let the cross help you to resist and repel every temptation to sin. Let the cross help you hate sin. Let the cross help you choose who to be your friend and how to live your life.

Let the **cross** help you to make a declaration like Paul: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I

live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.21 I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain"

Pastor Amos Dada is an author and a notable conference speaker, he is the Senior Pastor and District Superintendent Christ Apostolic Church Bethel Toronto. He is the Convener of International Gathering of Eagles (IGOE) Conferences and President of the Canadian Institute of Leadership and Development. Invite him to your next event and do your best to attend IGOE 2018 from September 13-16. Save August 11, 2018 for Canada Return to Your Maker Prayer Summit, in Toronto, Canada. You can also subscribe to his channel on YouTube, join him on Facebook and follow him on Twitter.@amos_dada

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