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Meet Liz Akano, Black Star Who Rebuilt Her Childhood School In Nigeria

By Stanley Ugagbe

Alarmed by the deteriorating state of her elementary school in Nigeria, a retired London, Ontario, teacher and vice principal Liz Akano swung into action to rebuild the school.

Harping on how she achieved the feat, Liz, who

■ Meet Liz Akano see page 29



Brampton Mayor Honours Ngozi Ugoh With Social Impact Award

By Stanley Ugagbe

Publisher of The Nigerian Canadian Newspaper, Ngozi Ugoh has been honoured by the Mayor of Brampton, Patrick Brown, as he presented her the prestigious Social Impact Award during this year's Mayors Making Black History Awards.



The Social Impact Award recognizes Black volunteer who has demonstrated all-round community involvement, inspires unity and builds Brampton's diverse mosaic.

According to the organizers, she was recognized as a Black volunteer who has demonstrated all-around community involvement, inspires unity and builds Brampton's diverse mosaic.

The award was given to her on February 1, 2023 during the Black History Month Kickoff at Brampton City Hall, Brampton, Ontario.

After receiving the award, Lolo Ngozi Ugoh thanked the Mayor for the honour and those that came to support her.

She said: "I am honoured and extremely humbled to receive the 2023 Mayors Making Black History Award today for the contributions of Nigerian Canadian Newspaper to the

service of humanity.

"This award recognizes Black volunteer who has demonstrated all-round community involvement, inspires unity and builds Brampton's diverse mosaic.

"I thank the Mayor of Brampton for this recognition and honour and I appreciate the efforts of all those that believe in me and continue to walk with me on this journey. Big thank you to those that came out tonight especially from our community to celebrate with me and congratulations to other outstanding recipients."

The NCNC Boss has been a recipient of many awards of different categories, a clear indication of her immense contribution to nation-building.

Meanwhile, other winners at the event include Grace Newsome – Legacy Award, Daniela Adu-Boateng – Youth Empowerment Award, Maryam Muritala – Innovation Award, Steffanessea

Brown – Advocacy in Action.

In the dignitary-laden event, residents were thrilled with several performances, talks and sumptuous meals.

The theme for Black History Month 2023 is "Black Resistance," which explores how African Americans have resisted historical and ongoing oppression in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial pogroms and police killings, since the nation's earliest days.

The city's aim was to raise awareness of the many achievements and contributions of Black Bramptonians, who have contributed to making the city livable, compassionate and prosperous.

My friend might be the father of my child
 see page 9

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John Tory
 see page 6

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A message from the Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

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Honouring The Legacy Of Our Heroes Past

Without mincing words, the historical trajectory of Canada is an intriguing one; it tells a story of struggle in the face of adversity, bringing out the beauty of the nation. Remarkably, Black Canadians and their communities have been integral to the formation of Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a translator of African heritage who arrived with European explorers in 1604.

It could be recalled that Canada started celebrating Black History Month in 1996. This month recognizes and celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of Black Canadians. This year's theme is "Ours to tell," which represents an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their successes, sacrifices and triumphs.

The month offers an opportunity to reflect on the labour of Blacks who

fought to ensure that the nation gained independence; those who put their lives on the line to establish the formidable entity we see today.

In commemoration of this year's Black History Month, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, said in a statement: "As we celebrate the beginning of Black History Month, we reflect on the rich history of Black communities in Canada and commit to building an equitable future for all. This is a time for Canadians to honour the legacy of Black communities from coast to coast and celebrate the contributions they have made across the country. From scientists to artists, from business owners to philanthropists, Canadians from Black communities continue to shape our country each and every day".

According to the PM, "One of the many stories we celebrate this February, as part of this year's Black History Month theme, 'Ours to tell', is that of the Honourable Jean Augustine. Thirty years ago, she

made history as the first Black Canadian woman to be elected to the House of Commons and later when she became the first Black Canadian woman to be appointed to the federal Cabinet. Her advocacy led to the national recognition of Black History Month, and she continues to be a beacon of excellence for communities across Canada, and for others to follow in her footsteps. From Jean Augustine to medical pioneers like Dr. June Marion James, athletes turned successful entrepreneurs like Donovan Bailey, scientists and comedians like Boucar Diouf, and artists like Dionne Brand, this year's Black History Month theme celebrates stories that are worth telling".

Trudeau revealed that "Last year, the Government of Canada committed \$1.5 million to support the ongoing activities of the Jean Augustine Chair in Education, Community and Diaspora at York University, which works to address systemic barriers to improve educational outcomes for Black students. We also provided funding through the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative to support Black community organizations across Canada, while the Black Entrepreneurship Program continues to offer Black-led businesses, organizations, and financial institutions across Canada the financial resources to succeed now and into the future. These investments are

key pieces to making sure we're building an equitable Canada".

In his statement, the nation's leader noted that "Canada has a history of anti-Black racism, and communities continue to face the impacts of systemic racism today. It is our collective responsibility to end it by listening, learning, and taking action. That is why in 2018, Canada officially recognized the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent, which provides a global framework for recognition, justice, and development for people of African descent. Building on this framework, our government will continue to address the unique challenges that Black communities face".

He admitted that "More work still needs to be done, and the Government of Canada will continue to support the advancement of Black communities. This includes our ongoing efforts, working closely with provinces, territories, and Black communities, to develop Canada's Black Justice Strategy, which will help address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of members of Black communities in our criminal justice system. And through Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, we will continue fighting anti-Black racism, eliminating inequities, empowering communities, and chang-

ing attitudes by building awareness.

While urging Canadians to listen to and actively share the stories Black communities have to tell, the PM called on residents to celebrate their many past and ongoing contributions. "Together, we will continue to build a stronger and more resilient country, where all Canadians can succeed, thrive, and have their voices heard," he said.

As a people-oriented paper, we align our thoughts with that of the PM and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians who labored to build the formidable entity we enjoy today. Meanwhile, we strongly call on the government to intensify efforts to develop Canada's Black Justice Strategy, which will help address systemic discrimination and the overrepresentation of members of Black communities in the nation's criminal justice system.

Deliberate concerted efforts must geared toward ending anti-Black racism, eliminate inequities, empower communities, and change attitudes by building awareness. We have always maintained that irrespective of tribe, background or colour, there is only one race – the human race. Hence, there is no basis to treat anyone as an inferior. This is especially so because in the sight of God, no human is more human than other humans.

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Mayor of Toronto steps down after affair with ex-staff



John Tory

By N.Ugoh

The Mayor of Toronto, John Tory, has stepped down after acknowledging he had an affair with former staff.

The Mayor announced during a recent news conference that he developed a relationship with an employee in his office.

After Toronto Star reported the affair, Tory said: "I recognize that permitting this relationship to develop was a serious error in judgment on my part.

"It came at a time when Barb, my wife of 40-plus years and I were enduring many lengthy periods apart while I carried out my responsibilities during the pandemic.

"As a result, I have decided I will step down as mayor so I can take the time to reflect on my mistakes and to do the work of rebuilding the trust of my family."

Tory was first elected as Mayor in 2014, on a promise to restore respectability to the office after the rough term of Rob Ford. He recently won a third term.

Ibom Air To Extend Flying Routes To 7 Countries in Africa



By N.Ugoh

The Akwa Ibom government owned airline is set to commence flying to seven African countries as it plans to expand the brand.

The group manager, marketing and communications, Aniekan Essien-Ette, said this in Uyo, during interaction with journalists. She said the African countries include Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Gabon and Gambia.

Essien-Ette said flights to the African countries will commence

depending on the airline's capacity when two new aircrafts arrive later this year.

"The plan for 2023, we plan to open international routes, going step by step. When we finish the local flights, we will turn to international routes. It is a world class operator as an African regional airline," she said.

She said Ibom Air ordered ten new airbus. She also added that, due to the crunch in the global supply chain, it is difficult for the aircrafts to arrive. She was optimistic the airline will take delivery of 10 new airbus

Canada commences investigation into TikTok's usage of citizens' data

By N.Ugoh

Canada has commenced a joint federal and provincial investigation into TikTok's handling of personal data following concerns over the platform's collection, use, and disclosure of personal information.

In a statement released recently, the privacy regulator as well as provincial counterparts in Alberta, Quebec, and British Columbia will carry out the investigation to examine whether the practices of TikTok comply with Canadian privacy laws.

The focus of the investigation will be on whether TikTok is getting valid and meaningful



consent for the collection, use, and disclosure of personal information.

This move came at a time when TikTok encounters global scrutiny

from governments and regulators that feel China could exploit the app to harvest users' data or advance its interests.

It should be recalled

that Canada accused China of trying to influence its elections and running surveillance activities. These allegations have been denied by China.

Minister Gould announces funding for over 500 capacity-building projects under the Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative

On February 17th, the Honourable Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced \$31.4 million in funding for the Black-led national funders network, which includes Tropicana Community Services, Africa Centre, Black Business Initiative and Groupe 3737. Together, the SBCCI national funders network will allocate the funds to over 500 capacity-building projects aimed

at empowering Black-led community-based organizations across Canada. With this additional funding, the national funders will have collectively awarded up to \$50 million in grants to 939 projects. A full list of projects will be available on the national funders' websites in spring 2023.

"The Supporting Black Canadian Communities Initiative was created to work alongside Black communities



to build the capacity of Black-led and Black-serving community-based organizations and support the important work they do to promote inclusiveness. This initiative also aims to address the systemic barriers and challenges, including anti-Black

racism, faced by Black Canadians. By working with the SBCCI national funders network, we're ensuring investment decisions are made by Black communities for Black communities." – Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

between 2023 and 2025.

"We started with three aircraft, later we had two. Later we went ahead to place an order for 10 aircraft. For a stop-gap purpose, EgyptAir had airbuses that they did not use. They gave two for us on a wet lease agreement."

"We can't allocate such authority to us, it was based on forces of

the market, there is no way any airline has the power to stop another airline from operating at Ibom airport. Competition is good for us, it keeps us on our toes, it helps us to know how we are doing."

"We are focused on maintaining the brand, we work 24 hours a day, we keep our eyes constantly on the ball, we

are passionate about the dream handed down to us, and we will protect it,

though in working with machines, we do have snags once in a while."

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Chief medical officer found guilty of sexually abusing Alberta child

By Stanley Ugagbe

Dr. Albert de Villiers, a former chief medical officer of health for British Columbia's Interior region has been found guilty of repeated sexual offences against a young Alberta boy.

In the recent appearance, Justice Shaina Leonard of the court of King's Bench found de Villiers guilty of one count each of sexual interference and sexual assault.

According to official records, De Villiers worked for 16 years as a medical officer of health for Alberta Health Services' North zone. It was gathered that the medial doctor moved to Kelowna in 2020 to work as the chief medical officer of health for Interior Health.

Multiple reports have it that during a trial last month in Grande Prairie, Alta., court heard evidence that the doctor had sexually abused his friends' child when the boy was between seven and nine years old.

In the recent court appearance, Justice Leonard found that de

Villiers sexually touched the boy between five and eight times between June 15, 2018, and July 31, 2020.

The judge found that the boy, now 11, was both "credible and reliable" in his account of what happened.

The victim testified during the trial that the doctor had shown him pornographic videos and sexually touched him during a number of sleepovers at the doctor's house.

According to the judge, while the child seemed confused and unclear when responding to some questions put to him by police and lawyers, he was able to describe "key details" of the offences.

In her words, she was left without a doubt that the child had witnessed de Villiers engaged in sexual acts.

In what was a key evidence, an apologetic voicemail that de Villiers left for the boy's father in June 2021 — after the child disclosed what had happened to his parents — became a key part of the Crown prosecutor's case.

Reports said at that

point, the parents had blocked de Villiers on social media and his regular phone number.

It was learned that in the message, de Villiers said to the father, "I am extremely sorry that what happened did happen" and that he should have come to him earlier.

The embattled De Villiers also said "it has never happened before" and said it will not happen again and that "things lead to another."

"I did wrong things and take responsibility for what I have done."

However, in his remarks during the trial, de Villiers said the message was in response to realizing he had overstepped in his relationship with the boy by becoming too involved and acting like a parent.

But the judge rejected de Villiers' explanation, saying it is clear that he was apologizing for something specific.

She said "It is not the voicemail from someone who has improperly parented someone else's child".

Leonard added that the overstepping explanation does not match de Villiers' initial expla-

nation to police when he said he didn't know what he'd done to upset the family.

"I accept the accused was attempting to mislead the police ... or he had not yet settled on a story that would explain the voicemail," she said.

Reacting to the development, Interior

Health said in a statement that it is aware of the judge's finding of guilt against de Villiers.

The statement said "Given the leadership and public-facing role of the chief medical health officer, and the critical importance for the incumbent to comply with all respects of professional standards, it is

Interior Health's position that a person convicted of criminal charges of this nature is unable to fulfil the duties of the position".

It could be recalled that De Villiers was placed on paid leave by Interior Health on June 8, 2021, the same day he was arrested and charged.

Ezekiel becomes first Nigerian rope skipper to bag Guinness World Records title



By Stanley Ugagbe

A 16-year-old senior secondary school one student of Ijapo High School in Akure, the Ondo State capital, Gbenga Ezekiel, has entered the Guinness World Records for the most skips in one minute on one leg.

NCNC gathered that Ezekiel recorded 265 skips in his attempt, beating the previous record of 262 skips, which was held by Bangladesh's Rasel Islam.

Ezekiel's attempt became a record about four

months after his attempt at the Ondo State Sports Complex in Akure.

The feat was communicated to the national coach of the Nigeria Rope Skipping Federation, Chubuisi Ukandu, and has also been updated on the Guinness World Records website.

Guinness World Records confirmed on their website that "The most skips in one minute on one leg is 265 and was achieved by Gbenga Ezekiel (Nigeria), in Akure, Nigeria, on 31 October 2022.

The attempt took place at the Akure stadium".

Following his attempt last October, the history maker had hoped it would be approved for the records and with the same enthusiasm, he couldn't contain his joy after it was ratified.

In a chat with newsmen, Ezekiel said "I am very happy that my record has been ratified. I feel so special to be a Guinness World Record holder after taking inspiration from videos I have seen on the internet.

"I thank my coach for his efforts since he introduced me and other students to rope skipping. I am proud of my achievement and I wish to do more in the future".

Remarkably, Ezekiel becomes the first athlete from Ondo State as well as the first Nigerian and African rope skipper to achieve a Guinness World Records title.

Canadian Government Paying To Move Migrants From Quebec To Ontario

By Yahaya Othman

Quebec Minister of Immigration, Christine Fréchette, stated that the federal government transported almost all of the migrants entering Canada through Roxham Road to other provinces,

said, calling the wave of relocations a "new approach" from Ottawa.

Out of the 380 migrants who arrived in Quebec by that route were relocated, largely to Ontario, the minister said in a scrum in Quebec City.

She commended Ottawa for meeting the province's demand for help with the recent large inflow of people seeking asylum through the irregular border crossing south of Montreal and called on Justin Trudeau's *continued on p(29)*

YOU & the LAW

Former SNC Lavalin Executive Sami Bebawi Loses Appeal



By N.Ugoh

A former SNC-Lavalin executive has been sentenced to more than 8 years. Sami Bebawi is the only former SNC-Lavalin employee to be sentenced in Canada in connection with the company's business with Libya in the 2000s. He was found guilty in 2019 of bribing foreign officials and siphoning millions of dollars.

Sami Bebawi, 76, entered an appeal against his conviction on the grounds that based on inadmissible evidence—evidence gathered through an RCMP undercover operation targeting his former lawyer.

His legal representa-

tives also argued that some of the acts for which he was convicted should not have been considered fraudulent as they did not put his victim's financial interests at risk.

The Quebec Court of Appeal rejected those arguments, giving Bebawi ample time to pay back the proceeds from his crimes working for the Montreal-based engineering company.

From the ruling, Bebawi now has two years to pay back \$24.69 million, instead of six months.

Bebawi was sentenced to eight and a half years in prison in January 2020 after a jury found him guilty of five counts of fraud and corruption.

Canadian soldier who showed offensive photo to colleague convicted by Court Martial

A Canadian soldier who showed a female colleague a picture of his genitalia during a break has been found guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline by a Court Martial.

The soldier showed the photo, displayed on his phone, to his colleague while they were on a smoke break inside of his Jeep on a base. They were sitting in the vehicle because the weather was inclement at the time.

He said he trusted the woman, and wanted her opinion because he had been told in past relationships that the size of his penis was not adequate.

"He had become good friends with the complainant and viewed her as very supportive to him," the Court Martial said.

Different versions of events

The soldier said he was "100 per cent certain" he asked her if she wanted to see the photo before he handed her his phone. He did not think it would upset her, and thought she would give him an honest answer.

But the female soldier's version of what happened differed.

"We were just chit chatting, talking about probably basic day to day stuff, having a smoke and yeah, that's when he said he had something to show me," she said. "And like because we would look up stuff on Reddit and online and whatever, show each other shit all the time."

When she saw the photo, she was shocked and asked if it was his genitalia.

"After he confirmed, I

probably made some comments like, 'Oh okay, oh all right then.' You know, well, I don't know, you just kind of go on autopilot to get out of a situation," she said.

Lasting impact

While she purposely acted like nothing had happened, she had to seek counselling and mental health support to help her move on and focus on her career.

The Court Martial also noted that the male soldier knew at the time of the offence that the sharing at work of intimate or sexually explicit photographs was prohibited. He admitted he knew it was wrong to show the photo; and that he was in uniform and on base at the time of the incident.

"It was one severe incident which had a lasting impact on her," it said.

Does workplace standard apply to personal vehicle?

He argued that, because he was seated in a private vehicle, he considered it to be a private moment.

"In short, the essence of his position is that the workplace standard did not apply in his personal vehicle," the Court Martial said. "I have some concerns with this position as he was still at work, on the base, but more specifically in the presence of a professional work colleague and friend who was deserving of the utmost of respect."

It noted that section 129 of the National Defence Act (NDA) does not require the prosecution to prove the accused had "any intention to adopt conduct that was prejudicial to good order and discipline."

"It does not matter what his purpose was for showing (her) the photo, nor does it matter whether he intended to cause any harm," it said. "The Court has found that he knew or ought to have known that his conduct would cause offence or harm. The mere sharing of the photo itself was sufficient to meet that criterion."

He was found guilty of conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline contrary to section 129 of the NDA.

For more information, see Cookson R. (Corporal), R. v., 2023 CM 2002 (CanLII)

Source: hrlawcanada.com

Buffalo Shooter Sentenced To Life In Prison Without Parole



By Yahaya Othman

The 19-year-old white gunman who shot and killed 10 black people and injured 3 others at a grocery store in Buffalo, N.Y., has been sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

The sentence was handed by Erie County Court Judge Susan Eagan handed down the sentence during a hearing.

"There is no place for you or your ignorant, hateful and evil ideologies in a civilized society. There can be no mercy for you, no understanding, no second chances," Eagan said.

"The damage you have caused is too great, and the people you have hurt are too valuable to this community. You will never see the light of day as a free man ever again," she added.

Payton Gendron pleaded guilty in November to 15 criminal charges including a first-degree charge of domestic terrorism that comes with a mandatory life sentence of life in prison without the chance of parole.

Simone Crawley, whose 86-year-old grandmother was killed in the attack, told Gendron that her grandmother's legacy stay long after he is gone.

"You will simply go from a name to a number. You will be herded like cattle. You will be shut away from the world," Crawley said. "Even with all of the heartache you have caused, you have failed to break our family's spirit. You thought you broke us, but you awoke us."

Barbara Massey Mapps berated Gendron

and shared memories of her sister, Kat, who was also shot and killed at Tops.

"Kat would do anything for anybody any time," Massey Mapps said. "You have made me sick. You got my family crying. I miss my sister every day."

Gendron apologized to the families of the victims for killing the victims.

"I did a terrible thing that day. I shot and killed people because they were Black," said Gendron, who spoke from the defense table. "Looking back now I can't believe I actually did it."

Gendron will also appear in federal court this week with 27 charges, including 10 counts of hate crimes resulting in death, 3 counts of hate crimes involving an attempt to kill and 1 additional hate crimes count, along with 13 counts of using, carrying or discharging a firearm.

He originally pleaded not guilty to the federal charges, but according to his attorneys, the gunman was willing to plead guilty to the federal charges if prosecutors agreed to spare him the death penalty, CNN reported in December.

The attorney general will decide whether to explore the death penalty, according to the Justice Department. New York abolished the death penalty in 2004.

Gendron is the first person in the state's history to plead guilty to that charge and no one has yet been convicted of it either.

"This racist murderer did not accomplish what he set out to do. Because today, this community is stronger and better than it ever was. ... Love always conquers hate," Flynn said at the time.

"It is important for this community to hear how these precious lives were snatched from us for no other reason than the color of their skin," Brown said.

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REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Share a problem – My friend might be the father of my child

Dear Agatha,

My life is currently a huge mess following my discovery that my wife of four years might be having an affair with my trusted friend. Although I have heard gossip of her cheating on me but I didn't know the identity of the man until the birth of my second child whose remarkable semblance to my friend is so obvious that when he accompanied me to see mother and child at the hospital, he was the one being congratulated by the nurses and addressed by the doctors as the father of the infant. Funny enough his wife who was with us during this mild drama didn't appear embarrassed by this mistake. In fact, she kept laughing throughout and actually informed my wife about the mix-up.

Even though my job as a sailor makes it impossible for me to be with her always, I make sure she lacked nothing money can buy. When we got married, I gave her the option of staying with my parents so she wouldn't be alone due to the nature of my job or keep her apartment in Lagos, where we met. She elected to keep her apartment because, according to her, staying with my parents would destroy our marriage. Even though I didn't like the idea of her staying on her own, I agreed after discussing it with my friends who all agreed

with her that it wasn't such a good idea for her to stay with my parents.

To help keep an eye on her, I begged this friend of mine who has been my childhood friend and my closest confidant to always visit her and ensure she is happy especially as she put to bed two weeks after our wedding.

So when the query of her unusual closeness to my friend was first raised by some neighbours, I told them without hesitations, that I'm in the know of his constant visits to her and my child. Despite what she has done to me, I love my wife very much. The fact I met her, a virgin makes the whole situation so confusing. She has always been a good girl and my friend and I go back a very long way.

When things were really bad for me, he was the only one who stood by my family and I. He went as far as selling the only piece of land left him by his late father to bail my family out of an embarrassing debt that almost led to the death of my father. He has done so much for me. These are the reasons I'm finding the whole situation confusing. What if I'm wrong and my newborn baby is actually mine and not his? How would I amend the situation? In a year, I may be home for just three months; these are the only people my wife has when I am not around. She lost her parents when she was

very young. Her elderly auntie, who is now late, brought her up. The whole thing is eating me up.

Please, Agatha, tell me how to handle it without inflicting unnecessary pain on my wife and friend.

Gabriel.

Dear Gabriel,

Even though babies have an uncanny way of taking on the looks of people around their mothers during pregnancy, a simple DNA test would reveal if the child is yours or not. Enlist the help of your doctor to do it without prompting the suspicions of your wife or friend. Given your fears that you may be wrong in your suspicions, this is the only way you can be sure of whose child the baby is and if it is necessary to confront your wife and friend with the proof of what you know.

This way, you would be justified in whatever you actions you take against your wife and friend. But do you think his wife would be that tolerating of her husband and your wife, if they were really having an affair, even laughing off the ridiculous assumption of her husband being the father of the child? Trust me, wives are usually the first to spot things like that. However, be that as it may, the issue in your marriage goes beyond the paternity of this child, to your presence in the lives of your wife and

children. Whether you like it or not, this woman needs her husband around her.

Despite the fact that you try to appease your conscience by buying her everything money can buy, those things are nothing compared to your physical presence in her life. If you are only home at most for three months in a year, where do you expect her to get sexual satisfaction from? What about all the emotions that go into looking after a child? Talking to her 24 hours on the phone will never be enough when a child develops a temperature at the middle of the night and she needs the assurances of her husband's presence to alleviate her fears for her child.

You have to be physically present in her life for her to have the feeling that she is married and loved. While this is no excuse for her to have an affair, but it could force a decent woman like your wife to look for warmth in the arms of a man who is constantly by her side. The truth is, on paper you are both married but in practice, you both aren't as you are still to experience what is required for a man and woman to live constantly in each other's pockets for life.

You cannot count those three months you spend in a year with her as being enough for you to know each other in everyway a couple should. They are grossly insuf-

ficient for a journey of a life time to be tested and proven. Marriage goes beyond sex. It is accommodating each other's shortcomings and making concessions. A good marriage is that one that has gone through wears and tears and still able to stand erect in spite its many injuries. Even if the child turns out to be yours, there is the urgent need for you to prioritize the most important things in your life. You don't leave a young woman whose emotional needs are strong and vibrant for nine months in a year without expecting this kind of thing to happen.

The temptation your absence is exposing her to is too strong for a woman who just got married and having sex for the first time. She needs her fill of this life intricate pleasure. In all sincerity, you haven't been fair to her by refusing to consider how she would cope without your presence in her life. What you have done is sentence her to emotional hell. You didn't marry her to just produce babies only. You married her because you love her and wants to spend the rest of your life with her.

This is a clarion call that you are at that important junction in your marriage; where you as the man must consider your options and sweep into your basket the things most important to you in life. If you can afford to buy her



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everything money can buy, it means you are comfortable enough to think of easing yourself out of your current employment and setting up something of your own that would give you time to firmly plant your roots in one place.

This is the sacrifice you must make for your family. If your wife hasn't started to complain about your constant absence from her, she would very soon. If for four years of your marriage, you have only spent a year with her-going by your three months in a year visit, then it is high time you made the choice between having a happy home or making all the money in the world and losing your family. Like you, your wife has blood running through her veins and has needs that must be quenched when they make their demands.

Marriage is more serious than you are treating yours. Love has to be premised on a solid foundation for it to have meaning. And if this child turns out not to be yours, the choice of what to do is yours. But remember, you also share in the blame. Seek the face of God to make the right choice.

Good luck.

18 Nigerian Nurses in US Charged Over Alleged Fake Qualifications

By N.Ugoh

18 Nigerian nurses are currently facing charges in Texas on allegations of fake educational qualifications. The Texas board's website published a statement.

In the press statement released, a total of 23 practising nurses were apprehended in a grand fraudulent diplo-

ma/transcript scheme.

'Operation Nightingale,' as it was described, showed a multi-state coordinated law enforcement action involving the US Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General to arrest individuals engaged in a scheme to sell false and fraudulent nursing degree diplomas and transcripts.

The Nigerians involved are; Abiodun, Yetunde Felicia; Ad-elakun, Abiodun Aveez; Adelekan, Joseph Adewale; Adeoye, Vivien Temitope; Adewale, Modinat Abidemi; Afolabi, Olufemi Toun; Afolabi, Omowunmi F; Agbo, Odumegwu Steve; and Ajibade, Charlot Omotayo.

Others are; Akan-de, Olabisi Christiana;

Akhigbe, Catherine; Akinrolabu, Folasade Margaret; Ako, Esiri Rachael; Akpan, Rosemary Moses; Alimi, Bukola A; Ani, Ndirika Justina; Aroh, Nchekwube C.; and Ayodeji, Sherifat Olubunmi.

The Texas Board of Nursing explained that these individuals obtained fraudulent nursing credentials which they used to sit for the

national nursing board exam.

The statement reads, "The board has filed Formal Charges against the following nurses for fraudulently obtaining educational credentials.

"The board is authorised to file Formal Charges against a nurse if probable cause exists that the nurse has committed

an act listed in Tex. Occ. Code §301.452(b) or that violates other law. See Tex. Occ. Code §301.458. Further, Formal Charges are publicly available. See Tex. Occ. Code §301.466(b).

"Please note that Formal Charges are not a final disciplinary action, and a nurse is permitted to work, as a nurse, while Formal Charges are pending."

Trudeau urged to discourage asylum seekers from coming to Canada

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Premier of Quebec François Legault has called on Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to discourage the migrants who have been using Roxham Road from coming to Canada.

In a chat with newsmen in Quebec City, he said many people are claiming asylum in Canada because of a 2017 Trudeau tweet saying the country would welcome people fleeing persecution.

He said "It's about time that Justin Trudeau makes a new tweet to say, 'Don't come anymore,' because we've exceeded our welcoming capacity".

The Premier added that Quebec faces a shortage of housing and its schools and hospitals cannot handle the newcomers.

According to reports, Cornwall, Ont., which is about 40 kilometres west of the Quebec boundary, began receiving many of the overflow migrants last year. "Months ago, the Liberals signed contracts with local hotels for a major Roxham Road processing centre, but local partners on the ground received zero notice, consultation or resources," Eric Duncan, the Conservative MP for the area, said in the House of Commons.

Meanwhile, Sonia Behilil, the director of operations at a Cornwall organization that helps new arrivals, said the federal government began housing irregular asylum seekers at a local hotel last summer, and demand for her group's services exploded.

The director said her organization, the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, de Stormont, Dundas et Glengarry, started to see around 20 people a day looking for help — up from just two or three.

"People had no idea where they were, some of them were thinking they were in Toronto, some people had no idea what they were supposed to do," she said. Some thought they needed to wait in the Cornwall area until their appointment with federal immigration

officials — even though that appointment might take two years.

While funding for the program ended in January, she said the organization is still supporting migrants, including by offering free winter clothing.

Reports have it that Federal government statistics show that 39,171 asylum seekers were intercepted by the RCMP on Quebec's southern border in 2022, up from 4,095 in 2021. They accounted for more than 99 per cent of all asylum seekers who crossed the Canadian border irregularly in 2022. In total, around 60 per cent of all people claiming asylum in Canada in 2022 arrived through Quebec.

It is germane to note that Quebec's Coalition Avenir Québec government has frequently called for Roxham Road, where the far majority of irregular crossings are made, to be closed.

In a recent statement, a spokesman for Quebec Immigration Minister Christine Fréchette said out of the 125 migrants who entered Canada at the Roxham Road crossing more recently, 102 were transferred out of the province. Fréchette had earlier revealed that all but eight of the roughly 380 asylum seekers who entered at Roxham Road some days earlier, were sent to other provinces.

Reports have it that in Ottawa, Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Quebec lieutenant, said negotiations are ongoing with other provinces to redirect migrants entering Quebec.

Speaking with newsmen, Rodriguez said "We recognize that Quebec has done more than its share, and we thank the government of Quebec for that. In fact, we are in discussion with other provinces to lighten the burden on Quebec". He noted that some other provinces are in need of workers.

"There's nobody who's going to be pushed or anything. It's done on a voluntary basis. But we recognize that Quebec's effort here is colossal, and we've been there to support it since the beginning," he said.

Mississauga, and Canada bid farewell to 'Hurricane Hazel'

By Dele Akintilo

There were tears and laughter during the recent state funeral for former Mayor of Mississauga, political icon of Canadian and great friend to many, Hazel McCallion, on the day she would have turned 102.

Dignitaries from all over Ontario and Canada, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his wife, Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, friends and McCallion's family members gathered

Hazel (in Italy) and joined her on one of the longest, highest and fastest zip lines in the world...between two mountain peaks."

He added that McCallion was in her late 80s when she zipped across the dizzying height and back.

Trudeau said she was one of the oldest people ever to complete that terrifying-to-most zip line trip at that time.

While concluding his remarks, he said: "That's just who Hazel was, though. She wouldn't let

it's a place where she was known to sneak away for a private skate.

She said: "And she never missed an opportunity to cheer on Canadian women in sport.

"She was our matriarch, the architect of our city...she built our city in her vision."

She said McCallion was the Mayor when Mississauga transformed from "farmland and fruit trees" to seventh-largest city in Canada.

The Premier of On-

"Hazel, happy birthday."

Ford concluded by saying that "Mississauga is a better city, Ontario a better province and Canada a better country because of Hazel.

"May God bless the greatest mayor this country has ever seen."

Former Prime Minister Jean Chretien, said at the beginning of his remarks that the voice of McCallion's in his head was saying to him not to carry on for too long with



with several others inside the Paramount Fine Foods Centre in Mississauga to bid final farewell to the woman that served dynamically as Mayor of Mississauga for 36 years.

McCallion, a powerful political force that was seen at every level of government during her three-and-a-half decades in office, died on January 29 after a month-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

She is survived by three children—Peter, Linda and Paul—and one grandchild, Erica.

As speakers took their turns during the service to talk about memorable moments they had shared with McCallion, both personal and professional experiences, many clear themes emerged.

Among them were talks of McCallion's fierce, combative spirit which stood up for Mississauga, and family.

In his remarks, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau described McCallion as an unstoppable woman.

He said: "I think we all felt she was going to live forever."

He added that McCallion was fierce, passionate woman who always engaged in matters and issues of the day.

Trudeau shared a story detailing a chance meeting he had with "Hurricane Hazel" some 15 or so years ago in Italy.

He said: "I ran into

anything stop her. Ever."

Jim Murray, a longtime friend of McCallion, hosted the memorial service.

In her remarks, Mississauga Mayor Bonnie Crombie, who succeeded McCallion when she retired in 2014, said that her predecessor and mentor impacted the lives of many, both in Mississauga and beyond.

She said: "Being a mayor may have been her calling, but hockey was her passion."

She added that it was just nice that McCallion be remembered inside the Paramount Fine Foods Centre, home to the OHL's Mississauga Steelheads.

While talking further, Crombie laughed and said

tario, Doug Ford, spoke her and he described her as both a mentor and friend. He said he was privileged to speak with her for a couple of hours shortly before she died.

Doug said: "Hazel McCallion was a giant."

He noted that there wasn't a "person who met Hazel who wasn't in awe" of her and "everyone knew Hazel was a force to be reckoned with."

Ford said McCallion never lost sight of why she entered public domain to serve the people in her 36 years as a Mayor.

He said: "She was always fighting for the underdog, the people who never had a champion. She was a legend, an icon. She was Hurricane Hazel.

his remarks.

While relating with the audience, Chretien said: "Jean, keep it clear and keep it short. Just like me."

He described her as "one of a kind" and added that in all his travels around the world meeting world leaders, he "never met any politician like Hazel. Very clear, determined, hardworking, no-nonsense and successful."

He added: "she had a big heart. It's no coincidence she was born on Feb. 14."

Instead of flowers, the McCallion family has requested that donations be made to Trillium Health Partners Foundation or the Hazel McCallion Charitable Foundation for Arts, Culture and Heritage.

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FOOD & RECIPES

3 Reasons Plant-Based Meals Might Be Right for You



(NC) In recent years, discussions about plant-based protein and vegetarian diets have been magnified. Although these types of diets have existed for many centuries, recent studies have shown that opting for plant-based meals a few times a week can have many benefits.

1. GET ADDED FIBRE
Unlike animal meats, plant-based proteins include lots of fibre, a crucial nutrient for our health.

"Various nutrients, including fibre, can have a significant role in managing our heart health, blood sugar, gut and kidney health," notes Karen Sevong, a registered dietitian volunteer with The Kidney Foundation

of Canada.

"Replacing animal-based protein with plant-based alternatives may help ease our kidneys, which help balance the acidity in our bodies by reducing the acidic load."

But if you have kidney disease, Sevong adds that it's important to keep in mind phosphorus and potassium levels in plant-based ingredients.

2. MANAGE GROCERY COSTS

With inflation and a high cost of living, saving on groceries has become a priority for many of us. If you're looking to cut down on your grocery bills, consider switching at least a few meals a week to plant-based ingredients. This

easy switch will help keep you on budget and lower your spending.

3. LIGHTER ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Crop farming often uses fewer acres compared to animal farming, and often uses less reduced water too, making it a less resource-intensive option.

A healthy diet is a diet filled with nutritious food and a variety of ingredients. Adding more plant-based meals can help you diversify your meal plan to get the nutrients you need and satisfy your hunger.

Find resources and recipes for healthy plant-based meals at kidneycommunitykitchen.ca.

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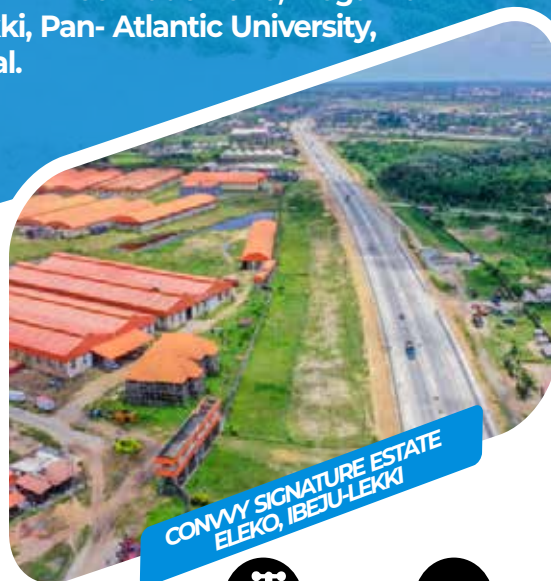
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HEALTH AND WELLNESS

What are bivalent vaccines? What you need to know



(NC) You might have heard of bivalent vaccines, but are you still not quite sure what they are? Here's a quick primer about them and their role in protection against COVID-19.

WHAT IS A BIVALENT VACCINE?

- Bivalent means

a vaccine is made to target two strains, or variants, of a virus.

- The virus that causes COVID-19 has evolved over time and some of these changes have created new variants of concern, such as Omicron.

- Manufacturers have updated their vaccines to provide better protection

against these variants.

- Original COVID-19 vaccines and bivalent vaccines are both very effective in protecting against severe illness and outcomes from COVID-19.

WHY GET A BOOSTER?

- Protection from COVID-19 vaccines can decrease over time. Additional doses give you better protection from getting seriously sick or developing complications.

- Even if you've been infected already, staying up to date with your vaccines - including booster doses - is recommended for longer-lasting, more effective protection.

- If it has been six months since your

last dose or since being infected with COVID-19, it is time to get another booster dose. This is especially important if you are at high risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Bivalent mRNA vaccines are available to everyone 12 years of age and older. Children 5 to 11 years old can still get a booster dose of an original mRNA vaccine, which continues to provide protection against severe illness and complications.

Talk to your local public health authority to learn more about which vaccines are recommended and available for you. You can find more information at canada.ca/covid-vaccine.

How to spot reliable health information

(NC) Sometimes it seems like everyone thinks they're an expert on health, and many people are quick to offer opinions on health information. How can you be certain you're finding the best information from reputable sources?

1. BE SKEPTICAL

Take everything you read with a grain of salt. Information circulates quickly online, so it can be easy to think that what you're reading has been fact-checked. However, that isn't always the case.

Misinformation abounds because people can post opinions and make comments on health matters without credentials or sources cited. To ensure that you're accessing the most reliable information, the key first step is to recognize that not everything you hear is true, especially if the information is associated with the sale of a product or service.

2. ACCESS OFFICIAL SOURCES

While you might be inundated every day with information from friends, family, social media, websites and more, you can very easily establish a few key reliable sources for news. You can't go wrong with trusting official government websites. Health Canada

is the leading source for reliable healthcare information that all Canadian citizens can access for free.

Healthcare non-profits can also offer a wealth of information supported by doctors, experts in the field and individuals with lived experience. The Kidney Foundation of Canada, for example, has many resources about kidney disease, such as their website, webinars and social media feeds.

3. CONSULT YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

If you feel like there's a lot of conflicting information online or you have specific health concerns that aren't being taken into account, bring those questions to your primary care physician. Especially if you feel like you may need to make any changes related to your health, seeing your doctor should be a critical step in any decision-making process.

Following these three key steps will help you find accurate, fact-based healthcare information. Before trying any new diet fads, making changes to your drug and health products, or anything else, remember to be skeptical, check your trusted sources and, if needed, consult your family doctor.

What to know if you're considering organ donation

(NC) There has been a concerted effort in recent years to increase the number of people who are registered to be organ donors. In many provinces, it has become an important priority.

The decision to become an organ donor is deeply personal. It's not a choice to be taken lightly. You should make it armed with as much information as possible. To assist anyone who may be grappling with the decision, here are a few things you should know.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

A single organ donor can save as many as eight lives. Organs that can be transplanted include: the heart, lungs, liver, pancreas and kidney.

WHAT'S THE NEED?

According to the Canadian Institute for Health

Information, there are currently over 4,000 people on the wait list for a donor organ. More than three quarters are waiting for a kidney. The median wait time for a donor kidney in Canada is 46 months.

WHAT IS LIVING DONATION?

It's possible to be a living organ donor. You can choose to donate one of your kidneys or part of your liver. This option requires rigorous medical testing and preparation to help ensure it's a successful donation. A living donation allows more time to plan a surgery when both the donor and recipient are in the best possible health. It also means less waiting for the person in need of the transplant.

WHAT ARE THE STEPS TO BECOME A DONOR?



1. Talk to your family

It's important to let your family know about your wishes when it comes to organ donation, as they may be consulted in the consent process.

2. Register with the province

How to register as an organ donor varies depending on your province or territory. It may be

possible to register online, sign the back of your driver's license, or opt in via your annual income tax return. Nova Scotia has adopted an opt-out organ donation policy, which means individuals who do not wish to be organ donors must register that choice.

Find out more about becoming an organ donor at kidney.ca/get-involved.

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Catherine Houeto, Nee Ebu

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Prophet & Ministers



Cutting Of The Cake



YOUTH CORNER

OLUCHI UGOH

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL MONTH

WORD PLAY

Which word best completes the sentence?

(1) Jennifer realized that she was _____ when of the five cats she was supposed to be looking after, she could only find four; luckily the fifth turned out to be hiding under the comforter.

Possible Answers:

- (a) In the clear (b) swerving (c) in a pickle (d) reflective (e) wary

Which pair of words best completes the sentence?

(2) I love to read, to sing, to jump rope _____

Possible Answers:

- (a) Or to have danced. (b) And I dance. (c) But to be dancing. (d) and dancing. (e) and to dance.

Which word best completes the sentence?

(3) Even though she originally wanted to run for the office of class president, Jessica decided to _____ from the election due to her doubts about whether she could handle the position if elected to it.

Possible Answers:

- (a) Continue (b) Emerge (c) Withdraw (d) Shift (e) Resume

Which word best completes the sentence?

(4) The students didn't have _____ to the teachers' room in the school building.

Possible Answers:

- (a) Refusal (b) Agreement (c) Approval (d) Access (e) Tolerance

Closest in meaning to the word in capitals

(5) COMPRESS

Possible Answers:

- (a) Exchange (b) Reduce (c) Purify (d) Maintain (e) Expand

Select the answer choice that is closest in meaning to the word in capital letters.

(6) SWIFT

Possible Answers:

- (a) Steady (b) Sensitive (c) Quick (d) Loud (e) Persistent

Select the answer choice that is closest in meaning to the word in capital letters.

(7) EXCEL

Possible Answers:

- (a) Overpower (b) Radiate (c) Shine (d) Extend

(8) Despite being reminded several times, were still many pupils who forgot they shouldn't bring phones into the exam.

- (a) They're, their
(b) They're, there
(c) There, their
(d) Their, they're

(9) the mess she had just made of her bedroom, Stephanie's offer to tidy the kitchen seemed somewhat suspect.

Possible answers

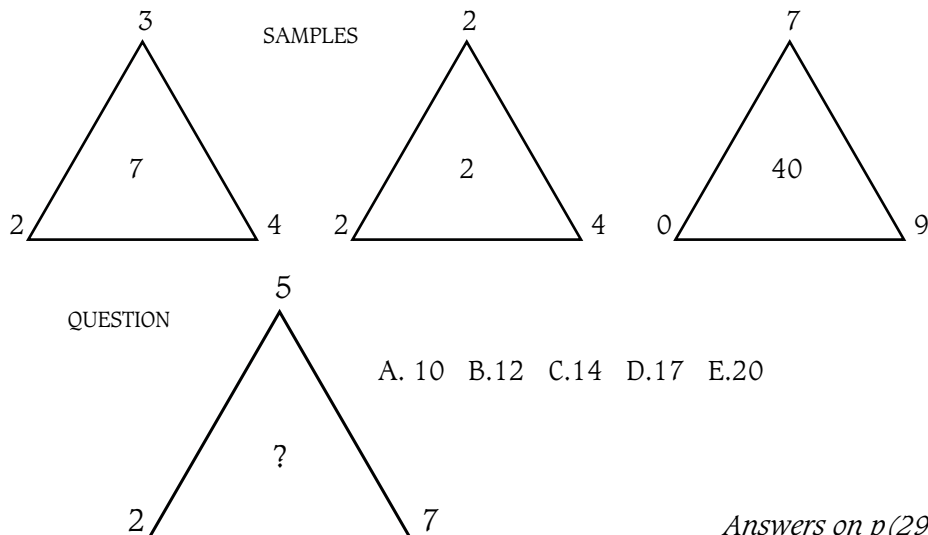
- (a) Despite (b) Consequently, (c) Because (d) Given

(10) too quiet outside: almost as if the road and all traffic have disappeared.

- (a) Its, its, it's
(b) It's, it's, it's
(c) It's, its, its
(d) It's, it's, its

Answers on p(29)

QUANTITATIVE REASONING



STORY

THE PRIZE-GIVING DAY

It was the location of the annual prize-giving ceremony in our school. John wanted to appear unique and different from the other students so he wore a pair of baggy pants to school

As soon as he appeared, his classmates began to hail him, he himself was beaming with smiles, everybody laughed and their ribs were nearly cracking as he moved closer to the venue of the ceremony. The shout of Johnny! Johnny! Johnny! Became louder, his baggy pants were flapping around his legs. One of his classmates, Jason approached him and started to flip one leg of the baggy trousers which was enough for two people to enter into

At this point the fun became sour John felt enraged and punched Jason in the face, blood began to gush out of his mouth and soon his white shirt became stained with blood. So many of his classmates took to their heels but a few stayed to take care of Jason, incidentally the principal was accompanying one of his guests to his office, he noticed the unusual gathering, he took an excuse from his guest and found out what had happened. He immediately ordered Jason to be taken to the clinic for proper treatment.

The ceremony started as planned and all the activities on the program were carried out. Prizes were given to students who excelled in academ-

ics, morals and appearance. Unknown to him, John was slated to receive the two best prizes for his outstanding performance and for being the best behaved student throughout the session. When it got to his turn to receive the prizes, the principal made the following announcement

"The two best prizes are for the best all-round students in academics and the best behaved student for the session, unfortunately an incident occurred this morning and because of this incident, the winner of the prizes who is John but who exhibited some form of violence earlier will no longer receive them".

John was shocked and as soon as he heard broke down in tears.

WORD PUZZLE (EMOTIONS)

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

Curious, Proud,

Excited, Relaxed,

Happy, Surprised,

Bored, Tired,

Grumpy, Brave,

Puzzled, Sad,

Scared, Thankful,

Insecure, Jealous,

Upset, Confused

Answers on p(29)

MATCHING GAME

Match the words in the box with the appropriate meaning

Entomology	The extreme fear of thunder and lightning
Pachyderm	Extreme anxiety and panic at the sight of shadows
Scio phobia	Another name for Elephant
Astraphobia	A branch of biology dealing with the study of insects
Murmuration	When a flock of birds move together

Answers on p(29)

ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

TEMS BECOMES FIRST AFRICAN TO WIN A GRAMMY FOR “BEST MELODIC RAP PERFORMANCE”



By Stanley Ugagbe

Nigerian professional singer, Temilade Openiyi, best known as Tems, has won her first-ever Grammy Award at the 2023 Grammy Awards gala ceremony.

The 27-year-old “Free Minds” hit crooner, whose fame shot

into the limelight after her hit collaboration song with Wizkid, titled Essence, gave her the opportunity to collaborate on hit songs with the finest in the music industry in America.

The singer’s first Grammy which makes her the first Nigerian female to achieve the feat, came at the cryto.com Arena in Los Angeles for her

featured song in the 2022 hit song by Future, “Wait for U,” which also included Drake.

By virtue of this award, Tems becomes the first Nigerian and African to win a Grammy for “Best Melodic Rap Performance.” Harping on the incredible feat, she said “I get to work with people that five years ago were on my playlist. I was jamming to them and now I am working with them, it is such a pleasure and I feel like this is just the beginning.

“The song, with U was taken from my record, Higher, they reached out to me and they told me they would use it as a sample and I felt it was amazing. I thought the song was interesting and amazing the way it got together.” Meanwhile, Burna Boy, who was nominated in the “Best Global Music Album” and the “Best Global Music Performance” categories, failed to win any of them.



Harvey Weinstein Sentenced To 16 Years For Rape

By Yahaya Othman

Harvey Weinstein was sentenced to 16 more years in prison for the raping a woman in a hotel in Beverly Hills. This increases the likelihood that he will spend the remainder of his life behind bars.

On his wheelchair in court, the 70-year-old Oscar-winning “Shakespeare in Love” producer begged the judge for “mercy.” “Please don’t sentence me to life in prison. I don’t deserve it. There are so many things wrong with this case,” he said.

Judge Lisa Lench, however, handed 3 consecutive sentences that totalled 16 years for forcible oral copulation, sexual penetration by a foreign object, and forcible rape. The actress (name withheld), called on the judge to give Weinstein “the maximum sentence allowable.” “His selfish, disgusting actions have greatly impacted my life,” she said. “There is no prison sentence long enough to undo the damage.” His conviction will be appealed by his lawyers.

Prosecutors in court reported that Weinstein exploited and abused several women for years, and long enjoyed impunity because of his superstar status in the industry.

The defence brought a motion requesting a new trial or a reduced verdict which was denied before the sentencing went ahead. Allegations against Weinstein broke out in 2017, launching the #MeToo movement which paved way for hundreds of women to stand against sexual violence in the workplace.

After he was convicted in New York, \$17 million was awarded against him to dozens of other women who had accused him of sexual abuse. The civil suit alleged sexual battery, false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress and negligence.

“The conduct of Defendant Weinstein was despicable, and done with malice, oppression and fraud, thus justifying an award of punitive damages against him,” her lawsuit says.

Killer Of Rapper Jailed For At Least 60 Years

By Yahaya Othman

Eric Holder has been sentenced to 60 years to life in prison for the murder of Nispey Hussle. The convict pleaded guilty to shooting the rapper on a street in Los Angeles, his lawyers argued that the murder took place in the “heat of passion”. Both of the rappers were members of the same “Rollin 60s” Crips faction.

A jury found that the murder was premeditated as he fired at Hussle at least 10 times after a dispute over claims the assailant was “snitching”.

LA County Superior Court Judge H. Clay Jacke sentenced Holder to a minimum of 25 years for the killing, with an additional 25 years because a gun was used. Holder was given additional 10 years because he wounded two other men who were nearby.

Hussle, 33, was raised in the Crenshaw district and transformed the block he used to hustle on into retail for his Marathon Clothing company. He was still linked to the gang-ridden world he grew up in.

During the trial, John McKinney, prosecutor, stated that Hussle had told Holder there were rumours Holder had been “snitching” before Holder left the parking lot where the two were



talking.

After a short while, Holder “pulls out not one but two guns and starts shooting” in an “explosion of violence”. The murder was recorded on video. In his closing argument, McKinney called the killing “cold-blooded” and “calculated,” saying Holder had “quite a bit of time for premeditation and deliberation”.

Holder’s attorney argued that the convict should have been charged with manslaughter because the killing was “an act of impulse and rashness”.

Aaron Jansen said his client, who suffers from mental illness, had already received death threats and that “his life in prison is going to be hell for as long as it lasts”. The judge recommended that Holder be kept in a facility that can cater for his mental health needs. “While most folks look at the Crenshaw neighbourhood where he grew up and see only gangs, bullets and despair, Nispey saw potential,” wrote Obama. “He saw hope. He saw a community that, even through its flaws, taught him to always keep going.”

BOOKS

"It's not that I don't like people. It's just that when I'm in the company of others – even my nearest and dearest – there always comes a moment when I'd rather be reading a book." - Maureen Corrigan

Akim Aliu: Dreamer

It sensationally tells the story of professional athlete and activist Akim Aliu's incredible life as a hockey prodigy in Canada.

The character, Akim Aliu - also known as "Dreamer" - is a Ukrainian-Nigerian-Canadian professional hockey player whose

career took him all around the world and who experienced systemic racism at every turn.

The memoir de-

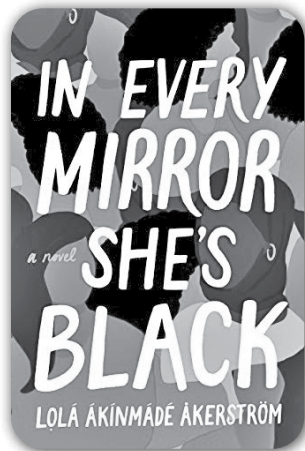
tails Akim's remarkable story, from being the only Black child in his Ukrainian community, to his family struggling to make ends meet

while living in Toronto, to confronting the racist violence he often experienced both on and off the ice.

If you bury your

head over this memoir, it will surely spur you to never stop dreaming, and is sure to inspire young readers everywhere.

In Every Mirror She's Black: A Novel



Lolá Akinmádé Àkerström

The book centres on three Black women who are linked in unexpected ways to the same influential white man in Stockholm as they build their new lives in the most open society run by the most private people.

Told through the perspectives of each of the three women, the book is a fast-paced, richly nuanced novel

that touches on important social issues of racism, classism, fetishization, and tokenism, and what it means to be a Black woman navigating a white-dominated society

A successful marketing executive Kemi Adeyemi is lured from the US to Sweden by Jonny von Lundin, CEO of the nation's largest marketing firm, to help fix a PR fiasco involving a racially tone-deaf campaign. A killer at work but a failure in love, Kemi's move is a last-ditch effort to reclaim her social life.

More so, a chance meeting with Jonny in business class en route to the US propels former model-turned-flight-attendant Brittany-Rae Johnson into a life of wealth, luxury, and privilege as the object of his unhealthy obsession.

Someday, Maybe - AUDIBLE AUDIOBOOK



Onyi Nwabineli

The novel is about a young woman's emotional journey through unimaginable loss, pulled along by her tight-knit Nigerian family, a posse of friends, and the love and laughter she shared with her husband.

She highlights three things you should know about her husband:

On her part, refugee Muna Saheed finds a job cleaning the toilets at Jonny's office as she works to establish her residency in Sweden

He was the great love of my life despite his penchant for going incommunicado.

He was, as far as I and everyone else could tell, perfectly happy. Which is significant because...

On New Year's Eve, he killed himself.

And here is one thing you should know about her:

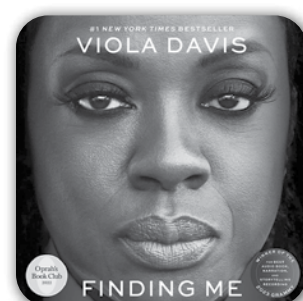
I found him.

Bonus fact: No. I am not okay.

Bolu Babalola, internationally bestselling author of Honey and Spice, describes the book as "A masterfully woven exposition on love and loss. Nwabineli is magic with words

and, more importantly, seeks connection and a place she can call home. Certainly, you will get value for the time spent reading it.

Finding Me: A Memoir - Audible Audiobook



Viola Davis

Narrated by Viola Davis

The book revolves around a little girl named Viola who ran from her past until she made a life-changing decision to stop running forever.

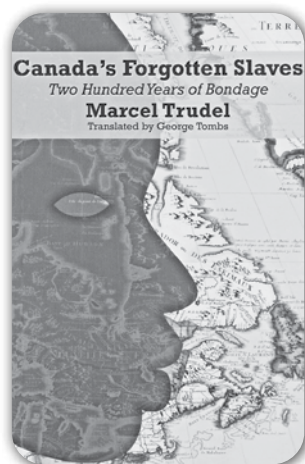
From a crumbling apartment in Central Falls, Rhode Island, to the stage in New York City, and beyond, this is the path she took to finding her purpose but also her voice in a world that didn't al-

ways see me.

"We are forced to reinvent them to fit into a crazy, competitive, judgmental world. So I wrote this for anyone running through life untethered, desperate and clawing their way through murky memories, trying to get to some form of self-love. For anyone who needs reminding that a life worth living can only be born from radical honesty and the courage to shed facades and be . . . you," she said.

The book is a deep reflection, a promise, and a love letter of sorts to self. It will inspire you to light up your own life with creative expression and rediscover who you were before the world put a label on you.

Canada's Forgotten Slaves: Two Centuries of Bondage Paperback



by Marcel Trudel

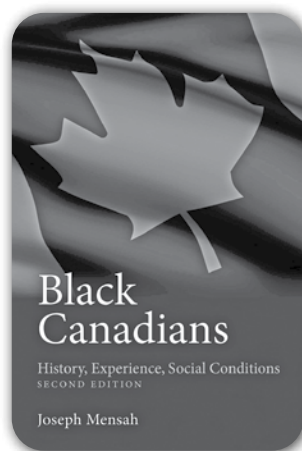
The book reveals that slavery was not just something that happened in the United States. Quite the contrary! It reveals that slavery was very much

a part of everyday life in colonial Canada under the French regime starting in 1629, and then under the British regime right up to its official abolition throughout the British empire in 1834.

The author gives a human face to the over 4,000 Aboriginal and Black slaves bought, sold and exploited in colonial Canada. Remarkably, he reveals the identities of the slave owners, who ranged from governors, seigneurs, and military officers to bishops, priests, nuns, judges, and merchants.

More so, he describes the plight of slaves--the joys and sorrows of their daily existence. Trudel also recounts how some slaves struggled to gain their liberty. In the detailed book, he documents Canadian politicians, historians and ecclesiastics who deliberately falsified the record, glorifying their own colonial-era heroes, in order to remove any trace of the thousands of Aboriginal and Black slaves held in bondage for two centuries in Canada. The book you will surely open your eyes to many things.

Black Canadians, Second Edition: History, Experience, Social Conditions, Revised Edition



by Joseph Mensah

The book provides an authoritative reference for teachers, students and the general public who seek to know more about the Black Diaspora in North America. However, it is be-

lieved that arguments made in this book may be unpleasant for those with little appetite for pointed, provocative views and analysis from the standpoint of Black people. But for those with a genuine interest in venturing beyond established orthodoxies and simplistic solutions to the contentious ethno-racial problems in Canada, this book will be insightful and worthy of close attention.

This new edition expands the regional coverage of Black history, updates all the statistics with the 2006 census data, and adds important new material on multiculturalism and

employment equity.

Here is an excerpt from Chapter 1 "Many Canadians are reluctant to admit that racial oppression and inferiorization exist/persist in this country. As Canadians, we have the tendency not only to ignore our racist past, but also to dismiss any contemporary racial incidence as nothing but aberration, or the work of "few bad apples" in an essentially peaceful, tolerant, charitable, and egalitarian nation. For the most part, we believe that we are superior to countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, that are openly struggling with racial problems."

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RELIGION

Seek The True God

By Pastor Amos Dada PhD;
P.Eng

“Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.⁵ They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:⁶ They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:⁷ They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.⁸ They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.” Psalm 115:4-5

We are not all serving the same God. There is the true God and false gods, idols, parading themselves as God. I like the chorus with the lyric-“God carry me, some carry their god” From inception it is clear that there is the capital G- God and the small g- god. There is a common radio jingle in Toronto why settle for the minimum when you

can get the Maximum? I want to encourage you to serve the true G-God. The Holy Spirit wants us to know how to seek for the true God this morning.

Why should we seek the true God? “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” Matt 6:33. It is the true God from Gen 1:1 that made heaven and the earth. He desires for you to seek his kingdom, that is what qualifies you to all things on earth that the small g-gods are deceiving you to possess. Only the true God can give you peace on earth and eternity in heaven. (Psalm 34:14, Heb 12:14)

Where should we seek the true God? “Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath com-

manded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.” Isaiah 34:16. From the bible. The Bible is God's manual for us on earth. Seek the true God from the cross. The true God sent his son Jesus Christ to die for your sins. The gods that cannot save you from sin and by extrapolation hell fire cannot be the true God.

When should we seek the true God? Always. Today, every day. “Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice,” Heb 3:7. Before dawn “I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.” Prov 8:17. The old generation know what is called quiet time. Waking up early and reading scriptures and praying, the new generation should dump social media early in the morning and seek God.

How should we seek God? In prayer and supplication to the

Lord. “Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. Jer. 29:12.” Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice: have mercy also upon me, and answer me.⁸ When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.” Psalm 27:7-8. We also need to seek God in sincerity from our heart. “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” Jer. 29:13

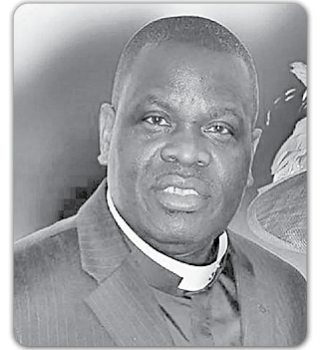
The promise to those who seek him: “You will not seek me in vain”.

Benefit of seeking the true God. “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the Lord speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.” Isaiah 45:19. In Matt 7:7-8, and Lk 11:9, Seek

and you will find. Knock and it shall be opened. I like what Amos my name sake said in Amos 5:4 says “For thus saith the Lord unto the house of Israel, Seek ye me, and ye shall live” You really want to live? then serve God who gives life. Period.

Conclusion: Only the God of the Bible is the true God. Psalm 115: 4-5 says there is a god who has ears and cannot hear, cannot hear your call when in distress, cannot see your precarious situation and help, their hands are weak and cannot carry your financial, material, academical, spiritual or emotional burden, cannot speak or command peace when you are in a storm!

I sought the true God in 1977 and I found Him, he took my life from zero to hero, from grass to grace and glory to greater glory. I recommend Him for you. The true God is loving, reach-



Pastor Amos Dele Dada able, accessible, tender, caring, reasonable, touchable, and feel-able. Christians face challenges like any other person on earth but the true God of the Christians has solution to our numerous problems. My candid advice is to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour today. Seek the true God today and start enjoying your life on earth and have guarantee of palatial heaven where the roads are paved with gold. Peace.

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.

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Church Of England To Consider Gender-Neutral When Referring to God

By Yahaya Othman

Many church officials are in support of the move that could have a “knock-on effect on all our debates about gender and sexuality and women,” according to one supporter.

UK-based priests are pushing for the introduction of gender-neutral terms when referring to God in worship. The word “father” has been repeatedly used in the King James Bible and has been considered appropriate by millions of Christians who have said The Lord's Prayer.

However, an increasing number of bishops believe “non-gendered” terms would better suit the Almighty.

Many church officials in UK want to see the change implemented. Any change to alter The Lord's Prayer to read “Our Father and Moth-

er,” would have to be approved by the Synod and the Church's parliament.

The Reverend Joanna Stobart, who sits on the Synod, asked what steps are “being taken to develop more inclusive language in our authorised liturgy” for those who wish to “speak of God in a non-gendered way.” The Right Reverend Dr. Michael Ipgrave, who is vice chair of the commission responsible for the matter, responded that the Church has been considering gender-neutral terms “for several years.”

The church leaders were quick to debunk any notion that the issue is related to the ravaging gender discourse. One priest said it was wrong to “think we're being a bit woke.” Liverpool priest the Reverend Miranda Threlfall-Holmes stated a change such as this could have a “knock-on effect on all

our debates about gender and sexuality and women.”

The Reverend Ian Paul argued that, regardless of the context in which this week's debate has sprung, the terminology surrounding God “is not interchangeable.” He told The Daily Telegraph:

“The use of male pronouns for God should not be understood as implying that God is male—which is a heresy. God is not sexed, unlike humanity.”

“The Bible uses feminine imagery and metaphors of God, but primarily identifies God using masculine pronouns, names, and imagery. Male and female imagery is not interchangeable. The fact that God is called ‘Father’ can't be substituted by ‘Mother’ without changing meaning, nor can it be gender-neutralised to ‘Parent’ without loss of



The Church of England's governing body, the General Synod, met in London and discussed topics including gender-neutral language for God and same-sex marriage. Credit: Leon Neal/Getty Images

meaning. Fathers and mothers are not interchangeable but relate to their offspring in different ways.”

“If the Liturgical Commission seeks to change this, then in an important way they will be moving the doctrine of the Church away from

being grounded in the Scriptures.”

“Any decision by the Church of England to move towards gender-neutral terminology in prayers and other such acts of worship would undoubtedly prompt criticism from the international Christian com-

munity. Relations are already being strained by ongoing debates over gay marriage, with the head of the Global South Fellowship of Anglican Churches, which represents institutions on every continent, describing recent concessions in England as “farcical.”

INTERNATIONAL

Seattle bans caste discrimination

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a major development that has set the pace for others, Seattle has become the first United States city to ban caste discrimination and the first in the world to pass such a law outside South Asia.

According to Wikipedia, Caste is a form of social stratification characterised by endogamy, hereditary transmission of a style of life which often includes an occupation, ritual status in a hierarchy, and customary social interaction and exclusion based on cultural notions of purity and pollution.

The caste system in India dates back over 3,000 years and divides Hindu society into rigid hierarchical groups. Councilwoman Kshama Sawant, who wrote the legislation, said the fight against caste bias “is deeply connected to the fight against all forms of oppression”.

According to Advocates of the ban, the development is needed to prevent caste bias from becoming more prevalent in the US.

The ordinance passed by Seattle follows similar bans on caste bias that have been introduced on



the campuses of US universities in recent years.

Sawant, who is the only Indian American on the Seattle city council, said “Caste discrimination doesn’t only take place in other countries “It is faced by South Asian American and other immigrant working people in their workplaces, including in the tech sector, in Seattle and in cities around the country.”

Recall that Sawant, a socialist, has previously spoken of being raised in an upper-caste Hindu Brahmin household in India and witnessing such discrimination.

But, the measure has been opposed by some Hindu American groups, who argue a ban is not necessary as US law already

prohibits such discrimination.

The Washington DC-based Hindu American Federation had in an open letter, said while the ordinance’s goals were praiseworthy, it “unfairly singles out and targets an entire community on the basis of their national origin and ancestry for disparate treatment”.

According to the letter, the Indian Americans are made up less than 2% of Washington State’s population, and argued there was little evidence of any widespread discrimination based on caste.

It is germane to note that Caste discrimination has been banned in India since 1948, however, discrimination continues, especially against the Dalits, who were once called “untouchables”.

Israel Agrees to Strip Arabs Convicted of Terrorism of Citizenship

By N. Ugoh

The Israeli parliament passed a law which confers power on the state to strip Arabs convicted of terror offences of citizenship or residency and deport them if they have accepted financial aid from the Palestinian Authority.

The new law was enacted to discourage what Israel calls “pay for slay” stipends, which give assistance to the families of those imprisoned. The parliament says the longstanding practice serves as an incentive to engage in violent activities.

“It is inconceivable that Israeli citizens and residents who have not only betrayed the state and Israeli society but have also agreed to receive payment from the PA as wages for committing the act of terrorism, and continue to benefit from it, will continue to hold Israeli citizenship or residency status,” an explanatory note to the bill says.

The deportation from East Jerusalem, annexed in 1967 by Israel, would be considered a war crime under international law. Jewish members of the Knesset, including the opposition, voted in favour of the legislation, which passed 94-10. Arab lawmakers expectedly voted



against it. Ahmad Tibi, the leader of the opposition Taal party, which advocates for the rights of Israel’s Arab minority, said the bill was racist because it did not apply to Jews convicted of terrorism.

“An Arab who commits an offence is a conditional citizen,” he said. “If a Jew commits the same or more serious offense, they don’t even think of revoking his citizenship.” The head of the Palestinian prisoners’ club, Kadoura Fares, a West Bank-based

group that represents inmates and their families, derided the law as a “very dangerous decision that aims to transfer Palestinians from their cities and villages under the pretext of getting social assistance from the Palestinian Authority”.

The supreme court in Israel ruled that the state could revoke the citizenship of people convicted of acts that constitute a “breach of loyalty”, including terrorism, espionage and treason.



Again! Bahamas vows to crackdown on illegal migration

By Stanley Ugagbe

The Prime Minister of Bahamas, Phillip Davis has averred that even though Bahamians are “a compassionate people,” they cannot afford to “shoulder any more burdens” as he reiterated Nassau’s position regarding illegal migration as well as the ongoing situation in neighboring Haiti.

Speaking in a nationwide broadcast, the PM announced the launch of “Operation Secure,” a collaborative security operation between the Royal Bahamas Police Force, the Defence Force, and the Department of Immigration, to address security and migration-related issues in unregulated and unlawful communities.

Davis assured the nation that stabilizing the situation in Haiti, where efforts are being made to hold long overdue presidential and legislative elections, is the most effective way to decrease the amount of potential economic migrants coming to The Bahamas daily.

In a statement on Haiti, CARICOM leaders reiterated that the 15-member regional integration grouping must play a leadership role in addressing the deteriorating situation in the country.

The statement said “Heads affirmed that decisive action is needed at the earliest opportunity by CARICOM in view of the mounting insecurity and its widespread impact on all facets of Haitian life”.

The PM, who is also the CARICOM chairman, told Bahamians that he has been “very clear with our international friends that assistance to Haiti must be carried out carefully and strategically, and with an acknowledgement of the burden The Bahamas is already carrying, and has been carrying for decades.

Defending his decision not to sign a pledge at the Summit of Americas last year that included a commitment to take on refugees, he said “Our country has been through a lot. We have very serious challenges and limited resources with which to face these challenges. We are a compassionate people, but we cannot take on new burdens”.

Davis said while 21 other countries including Caribbean nations like Barbados and Jamaica, signed on to this agreement, he declined because “our small nation cannot possibly shoulder any more of a burden.

He added that “We are standing strong on this position. Despite pressure, earlier this year, when the United Nations called for countries in our region to halt deportations to Haiti, once again, I decided to continue repatriations.

“This is a decision I made for the benefit of all Bahamians and future generations of Bahamians. The Bahamas is for Bahamians, and for those who are prepared to follow the laws of our country. We simply cannot afford open borders.”

INTERNATIONAL

Man who couldn't read and write until 18 becomes Cambridge University's youngest-ever black professor

By Stanley Ugagbe

Nadia Akacha, former head of the presidential cabinet in Tunisia has been sentenced in absentia to 14 months in prison following audio recordings containing derogatory remarks towards President Kais Saied.



According to information, Professor Jason Arday was told he would likely spend his adulthood in assisted living after he was diagnosed with autism and remaining speechless till he was 11. The 37-year-old man from Clapham, London spent years getting “violently rejected” when he initially started writing academically.

He is now an acclaimed professor that will take up one of the most valuable professorship posts in the world – Professor of Sociology of Education at Cambridge. Also, he will be one of five Black Professors at the University and one of 155 Black University Professors in the United Kingdom from a total of 23,000.

He said: “My work focuses primarily on how we can open doors to more people from disadvantaged backgrounds and truly democratize higher education. “Hopefully being in a place like Cambridge will provide me with the leverage to lead that agenda nationally and globally.”

After he learnt how to read and

write as a teenager, he became a PE teacher, which offered him an insight into the systemic inequalities that children can encounter in education.

He knew he desired to study further, but was lost as he received no help on how to establish his own path. When he was 27, he wrote on his bedroom wall at his parents' house: “One day I will work at Oxford or Cambridge.” He remembers his college mentor, Sandro Sandi, saying to him, “I think you can do this – I think we can take on the world and win.”

That statement triggered his belief and he became “determined and focused.” He was still working as a PE teacher during the day but he wrote papers and read by night.

He said: “When I started

writing academic papers, I had no idea what I was doing. “I did not have a mentor and no one ever showed me how to write. Everything I submitted got violently rejected.

“The peer review process was so cruel, it was almost funny, but I treated it as a learning experience and, perversely, began to enjoy it.” After years of dedication, Professor Arday possesses two master's degrees and a PhD in educational studies.

He has worked at the University of Glasgow and the University of Durham, and he is an adjunct Professor at Nelson Mandela University. He will resume at the University of Cambridge on March 6 as a Professor of Sociology of Education in the Faculty of Education.

Why Virginia School Board Banned 21 Books from High School Library

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a major development that recently formed a debacle in the educational sector, Virginia's Madison County School Board has removed 21 books from school libraries, citing adult content, including famous works by Stephen King and Margaret Atwood.

The development came after the state's Republican governor, Glenn Youngkin, in April 2022 signed into law a requirement for schools to warn parents in advance if sexually explicit reading material is to be used in the classroom.

Reports have it that Schools were told to adopt new standards in line with the legislation by the New Year. However, the Virginia Department of Education isn't actively monitoring compliance.

According to reports, the Madison County School Board's new policy, dubbed “IIAD: Sexually Explicit Content in MCPS Library Materials,” goes further than this, removing books from public school libraries for their sexual content if the school board deems it fit. Interestingly, books can be reported to them by parents and taxpayers, the policy document shows.

The board spelt out that any description that falls foul of Virginia's definition of sexually explicit content—“depicting sexual bestiality, a lewd exhibition of nudity, [...] sexual excitement, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse, [...] coprophilia, urophilia,



or fetishism”—can be considered for a ban.

Records have it that on January 12, the school board voted to remove nearly two dozen titles from the Madison County High School library, meeting minutes show. The banned books included *The Handmaid's Tale* by Atwood, a dystopian modern classic in which certain women are forced to have children for a ruling class, and several King novels: *It*, *Bag of Bones* and *11/22/63*.

Others are *Tar Baby*, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula* and *Love* by Toni Morrison, *The Tale of a Body Thief* and *Interview with a Vampire* by Anne Rice, and the coming-of-age novel *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky, which addresses the psychological damage of child sexual abuse.

Also in the list are *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie, *Snow Falling on Cedars* by

David Guterson, *Furyborn* by Claire Legrand, and fantasy-fiction *Empire of Storms* by Sarah J Maas. All six books in the *Shatter Me* series by Tahereh Mafi were also removed.

It is germane to note that several of the books removed from public schools have featured on the American Library Association's 10 most challenged books in the U.S. across several years. NCNC gathered that the Madison County School Board's policy was brought in by member Christopher Wingate.

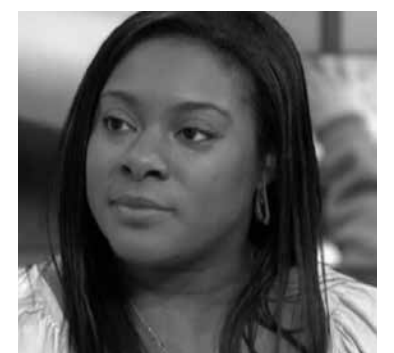
Speaking with newsmen, he said “It's about trying to protect children. There are other books I'm not crazy about, but these meet the definition. If made into a movie they would be NC-17 or R.”

Reports have it that the Supreme Court of the United States once stated in 1982 that school boards could not ban books from school libraries.

Mother of 4-Year-Old Sues UK School For Forcing Her Son To Participate In LGBT Pride Parade

By N. Ugoh

Izzy Montagu, 38, a devout Christian, sued her four-year-old son's school for forcing her son to participate in an LGBT pride parade. Montagu said she was informed by the headteacher of Heavers Farm Primary School in South Norwood, that her son could not withdraw from the event in June 2018.



The school initially sent letters to parents on 19 June inviting them to partake in a Pride march and “celebrate the differences that make them and their family special.”

Montague, however, informed the school “and asked for her son to be excused attendance on 29 June as they were concerned of him being involved of a public display of adherence to views which she did not accept.”

Montague's request was turned down Susan Papas, head teacher, so the parent replied with a copious mail. At the beginning of the eight-day case, the presiding Judge Christopher Lethem described

Montague and her husband as “devout born-again Christians, and they bear a belief that sexual relations should be abstained from or take place within a life-long marriage between a man and a woman and any activity outside those confines is sinful.

“They also say pride is considered to be the most serious of the deadly sins.” Montague informed the court that she had expressed concerns to her son's teacher about the types of books the students were studying.

Montague said: “There was one reference to a same-sex family book.” The school representative, Ian Clarke, said the book is called the Family Book. Montague is suing the school on the grounds of direct and indirect discrimination, victimization, and breach of statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 and the Human Rights Act 1998.

This is the first time that a court in UK will inquire about the legality of imposing LGBT ideology on primary schools.

SPORTS



Arnaud Gaudet scoops world bronze in parallel slalom small final

By Stanley Ugagbe

22-year-old year Canadian Snowboarder Arnaud Gaudet of Montcalm, Quebec has picked up his first individual international medal at the senior level, claiming bronze in men's parallel slalom small final at the world championships in Bakuriani, Georgia.

Reports have it that Gaudet took the early lead against Fabian Obmann of Austria and was 63 seconds quicker to the finish line.

Remarkably, the development marked the first parallel snowboard medals at worlds since Jasey-Jay Anderson and Matthew Morrison were first and third, respectively, in parallel giant slalom in 2009.

Recall that Gaudet beat fellow Canadian Darren Gardner in the round of 16 and giant slalom silver medallist Dario Caviezel of Switzerland in the quarterfinals before losing to eventual big final champion Andreas Prommegger in the semifinals.

The medalist, who ranked 13th in qualifying for the latest competition, also reached the elimination bracket in Sunday's parallel large slalom and was 14th after earning bronze in parallel giant slalom at junior worlds in 2020.

On the other hand, Gardner finished 12th overall while teammates Ben Heldman and Jamie Behan were stopped in qualifying and placed 20th and 35th. Meanwhile, Abby van Groningen was the lone Canadian female competing and finished 37th in an event won by Julie Zogg of Switzerland.



Newcastle fans commence a fundraiser to help build a new school in Ghana to honour Christian Atsu

By Bunmi Akintilo

Newcastle fans have initiated a fundraiser in honour of the late Christian Atsu as a supporters group hopes to complete the former winger's project of building a new school in Ghana.

Atsu died under the rubble of the devastating earthquake that occurred in Turkey and Syria. On Saturday, Newcastle observed a minute's silence for Atsu at St James's park before their

2-0 loss to Liverpool. A fan group, Talk of Tyneside, has commenced a charity initiative in his name.

Atsu was an ambassador for the charity Arms Around the Child, where he was working together to build the new school in Ghana. Talk of Tyneside are now asking fans to donate to their fundraiser to help complete what he started in Ghana with more than £600 being raised so far.

Talk of Tyneside said: "Christian Atsu was a well-loved figure on Tyneside and this has been highlighted by the scale of tributes paid to him

by Newcastle United Football club and its fans. "Following his passing, we were hoping to find a way to give supporters a way to show appreciation for his service to the club, and raising money for a fantastic charity that he worked with feels like the perfect way to do so.

Ellie Milner from Arms Around The Child said: "Christian touched the lives of so many with his charity work, we are determined to keep his legacy alive by raising funds to finish the school buildings in Senya Beraku – and support the children he loved so much."

Hosking claims silver in World Cup snowboard halfpipe



By Stanley Ugagbe

21-year-old Canadian snowboarder from Longueuil, Quebec, Elizabeth Hosking rounded off her World Cup halfpipe season the same way she started, which was sharing the

podium with other winners.

The exceptional Hosking finished second in Calgary's halfpipe to Japan's Mitsuki Ono. It could be recalled that she earned her first career World Cup medal — also silver — in

Copper Mountain, Colo., to start the season in December.

According to official reports, the Canadian, who scored 86 on her second pass through the pipe, vaulted from fourth to second in the season standings behind

Ono. "Great start to this World Cup season with a second and I'm super happy to finish the season with a second in Canada at home — not home-home, but in Canada on home soil," Hosking said.

It was recorded that Hosking landed an Alley Oop 540, in which she takes off spinning in the opposite direction of her downhill momentum, on her second of three runs. She expressed joy that "I was the only one to do it tonight and the judges seemed to like that a lot". Meanwhile, Switzerland's Berenice Wicki, with a score of 72.50, narrowly edged Calgary's Brooke D'Hondt's 72.25 for bronze.

Hosking competed in her fourth event in as many weeks, including January's Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo., where she placed seventh. It is imperative to note that Calgary's World Cup also served as an international warm-up for the

world snowboard championship starting next week in Bakuriani, Georgia.

Hosking said "It's been a really intense season. Four weeks of back-to-back of competition. Definitely, I think going into world championships some people took a little bit (of time) off. "I couldn't miss this event in Canada. There was fatigue accumulating this week, but tonight I think it was all excitement. This is my first World Cup actually under the lights."

Recall that she placed sixth in Beijing's Winter Olympics last year.

Reports have it that the men's and women's finals were delayed by half an hour because of wind in the recent event. She said "It was definitely breezy, but more so in the practice. It really toned down quite a bit.

Surprisingly, you didn't feel it much in the halfpipe." It is imperative to note that four Canadian women reached the final, but no Canadian men advanced.

SPORTS

Masai Ujiri: Africa will struggle to host NBA games due to lack of quality venues

By Bunmi Akintilo

Masai Ujiri, the Nigerian-Canadian president of Toronto Raptors, has said that Africa will struggle with its plans to host NBA games due to a lack of quality venues.

Ujiri is one of those that want to see NBA games played in Africa.

While talking to BBC Africa, he said a number of the NBA's big names also want it to happen – but lack of good facilities is the biggest obstacle.

He said: “There is a big challenge in Africa – a lot of these countries don't have arenas.

“That's what President Kagame did – he built an arena in Rwanda (opened in 2019), and President Macky Sall built an arena in Senegal (completed in 2018). And those are the places that are getting the games.”

The NBA and the International Basketball Federation established the Basketball Africa League (BAL), where teams from across the continent come to a location for a series of matches with the overall winner being crowned the African champions.

The close connections between the two competitions meant that the president of BAL, Amadou Gallo Fall was able to announce recently that discussions have been taking place around potentially bringing a pre-season NBA game to Africa for the first time.

Ujiri said finding enough venues to sustain the plan beyond a season



is a challenge.

He added that he was especially frustrated that there was nothing he thought was appropriate in Kenya, whose capital he visited as part of his Giants of Africa project.

He said: “We need an arena in Kenya.

“This creates jobs, it creates revenue. It builds the ecosystem of sports, it builds the ecosystem in our environment.

“We need this badly. Nairobi is one of the most vibrant places in the world. These arenas will host concerts, events, fiestas, games, leagues.

“We need one big one here, we need one good one in Nairobi.”

He added that if the NBA makes the plan work, he wants the Raptors to be involved.

He said: “We have a lot of African players, and there's priority there that we need to grow this continent and also give ourselves opportunity here with basketball.”

He added that other elite NBA names were also interested in the idea.

He said: “Adam Silver, Amadou Fall, Victor Williams – these guys

are right at the front of it, they want to grow the game on the continent big time.

“As you know, the Basketball Africa League is growing, spreading around Africa.

“So then one of the next things I'm sure will be a basketball game.”

Other major American leagues have successfully experimented with playing fixtures outside the US, notably American Football's NFL, which sees games at Wembley Stadium in London annually.

The Giants of Africa project has committed to building 100 basketball courts across Africa.

26 have been unveiled so far, including the latest three in Nairobi.

Ujiri said: “We feel that the next opportunity is infrastructure.

“We come and do basketball camps and basketball clinics, but they also need the space, a safe space to play.

“This is a safe space for them right in the middle of Umoja 11 community and this youth need this. And for them to have high level basketball facilities or sports facilities.

Now they are going to be better in what they do.”



Ronaldo pockets \$300,000 legal fees compensation after rape case dismissal

By Stanley Ugagbe

Five-time world best footballer and Portuguese forward, Cristiano Ronaldo has been reimbursed over \$300,000 for legal fees he spent while defending himself in a federal civil case alleging he had raped a woman in a Las Vegas hotel room in 2009.

It could be recalled that the case was dismissed in last June after the judge found that the plaintiff's lawyer engaged in misconduct so severe that it would be impossible for Ronaldo to have a fair trial.

According to reports, US District Judge Jennifer Dorsey ruled the attorney representing the accuser Kathryn Mayorga, Leslie Stovall, pay Ronaldo \$334,637.50.

The court found Stovall owed the money after the attorney was judged to have harmed the footballer through “bad-faith lawyering.”

It was gathered that Ronaldo's legal team had sought more compensation, but Dorsey concluded

Ronaldo and his lawyers had dragged the case on longer than necessary.

Remarkably, the case was dismissed with prejudice, meaning Mayorga cannot refile the complaint.

According to Mayorga, she was coerced into signing a non-disclosure agreement and \$375,000 settlement following the alleged rape, which Ronaldo has maintained was a consensual sexual encounter. Mayorga had asked a judge to void that agreement.

According to reports, the existence of the settlement was first reported by the German newspaper

Der Spiegel in 2017 using leaked confidential communications from Ronaldo's attorneys.

Recall that last year, a court found that Stovall reached out to the source of that leak to request those documents, including “the reporting and communications of the attorneys and investigators representing and defending Ronaldo following the sexual assault thru the negotiations and conclusion of the settlement and non-disclosure agreement.”

In the recent ruling, Judge Dorsey wrote “Stovall's repeated use of stolen, privileged documents to prosecute this case has every indicia of bad-faith conduct”.

The judge found that “the misappropriated documents and their confidential contents have been woven into the very fabric of Mayorga's claims,” stating that simply striking the leaked documents from the case and disqualifying Stovall would not adequately address the misconduct.

It could be recalled that the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department reopened a criminal investigation at Mayorga's request in August 2018.

The Clark County District Attorney's Office had in July 2019, announced they would not pursue criminal charges, saying the allegations could not be proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

Serena Williams To Be Honored At NAACP Image Awards



By Bunmi Akintilo

Serena Williams will be honored for her remarkable tennis achievements, business success and efforts to uplift the community at the NAACP Image Awards.

The NAACP announced that

Williams will be given the Jackie Robinson Sports award during the ceremony.

The award recognizes individuals that have distinguished themselves in sports along with their pursuit of social justice, civil rights and community involvement.

Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Magic Johnson, Wilma Rudolph and the Harlem Globetrotters were previous recipients.

“From her record-breaking wins on the tennis court to her business acumen to her philanthropic endeavors, she has set the bar for athletes everywhere,” said Derrick Johnson, president and CEO of the NAACP. He said Williams is the “quintessential example of Black excellence.”

Williams is rightly considered to be one of the greatest athletes of all time. She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles and 7 Wimbledon titles as a singles competitor

Williams was an executive producer on the Oscar-nominated film “King Richard,” a biopic based on her family. She owns a venture capital firm and fashion brand that creates female empowerment. She published a children's book, “The Adventures of Qai

Qai,” and worked with two veterans to launch a cruelty-free topical pain relief and daily muscle care solutions designed to reimagine recovery.

Queen Latifah will host the 54th NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena, California. The event honors entertainers, athletes and writers of color.

Brampton Unveils Fire Truck Wrapped to Celebrate Black Inventors

.....AS MICHELLE SHEDS INSIGHT ON HOW BLACKS HAVE IMPACTED FIRE SERVICE WORLD-WIDE

By Ngozi Ugoh

As part of efforts to ensure a hitch-free Black History Month, the City of Brampton dedicated some fire trucks to help forestall emergencies that could arise. Recall that since 1996, the nation has been celebrating every February as Black History Month. This month recognizes and celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of Black Canadians. This year's theme is "Ours to tell," which represents an opportunity to engage in open dialogue and a commitment to learning more about the stories Black communities in Canada have to tell about their successes, sacrifices and triumphs.

The month offers an opportunity to reflect on the labour of Blacks who fought to ensure that the nation gained independence; those who put their lives on the line to establish the formidable entity we see today.

In a chat with our correspondent, a Fire/Life Safety Education Officer with Brampton Fire Emergency Services in the City of Brampton, **Michelle John** shared why the truck was dedicated for the celebration. She also offered some fire safety tips.

NCNC: Michelle, thank you very much for inviting us over. Please tell us about yourself, your role here and why this truck is dedicated for Black History Month.

Michelle: Hi everyone, my name is Michelle John and I am a Fire/Life Safety Education Officer. My job is to educate the public of the importance of practicing fire safety at home, at work and in schools. Black History Month has always held a very special place in my heart of course because I am from the black community. One of the things that I am being told recently is representation matters. In 2022, I had a great idea to wrap a fire truck for black history month, and with the support and diligence of my Division Chief, Ravjot Chhatwal and my colleague Ryan Agard, history was made.

There is no other known fire department in Canada or internationally that has wrapped a fire truck showing the contributions of the black community and the inventions they made and how that impact everyday fire fighters to help them to do their jobs. My job as an Education Officer is an important one. Just today, my col-

league and I were on scene after a fatal fire, and we were tasked with educating the other residents in the building. We educated them on the importance of practicing safety, testing smoke alarms because most times when people die in fires, it is because smoke alarms are not working. So, my job is such a wide scope, but it is amazing because the benefits are great, the pay is amazing, but the most rewarding is the satisfaction of knowing that you helped in keeping the community safe that is so important.

There is so much that you can do in the fire service, and I encourage people in my community to become aware of what it is required to become a part of it.

It is amazing to be in the fire service that I

represented in Brampton Fire.

NCNC: I will also like to thank the City of Brampton for approving this project and especially the Fire and Emergency Services Department. But, give us five (5) tips on how to prevent fire.

Michelle: Well, first of all, stay in the kitchen. It is the number one cause of fire in the home. A lot of people do not realize that when they are busy running to and fro, that the kitchen is the area where fire starts the most. Secondly, if you are using heaters in this nice cold month, turn off heaters before you go to bed, very important.

Electrical fires: Make sure you unplug small appliances when they are not in use. A lot of times people leave them plugged in. We



going into my 27th year. I am told that there is another black female that just came a few months ago but my desire will be to see more black men and women to reflect the look of Brampton because representation

the fire service. The first person to use a pole was a black fire fighter in Chicago named George Reid. There is a video that I did last year sharing the story of the pole.

The next person featured on the truck is Joseph Winters who invented the fire escape ladder that was mounted on wagons. Fast forward to 2023, mounted on fire trucks around the world are ladders. Ladders helps combat fire from up high and it's all because of Joseph W. Winters who left his mark around the world. The colours on the truck are symbolic red means blood and sacrifice; green is for growth and future generations and the gold is cultural richness and the black for people.

So, now, on this side of the truck, we meet Garret Morgan, and he devised a safety hood protection and that safety hood protection is what fire fighters use, as a mask. He devised what is a modern day gas mask to help rescue some people back in 1916. Now, fast forward to this day, fire fighters every single day they go into a fire have to use this mask to protect themselves from smoke, if they do not use a mask they cannot go into a fire. So when we look back as to the origin of this it came from the black community and hence we have made an impact, they left that foot print on the fire service, fire fighters today are using this to save lives all over the world including their own.

And of course, last, but not least, Molly Williams. In Brampton Fire alone there are over fifty (50) female fire fighters. I would love to see a black female or more than one black female fire fighter before I retire, that would be a dream. The very first female fire fighter that we know of was also an enslaved black woman, Molly Williams.

In around 1818 she

was the first female fire fighter who happened to be enslaved. So now, fast forward to today, we see so many female fire fighters on departments all around Canada. When I first joined this department they were only three (3) and now to see that it has expanded and grown in such a way that there are over fifty (50), it is an amazing testament to the fact that it started with a black female.

So, the black community has done a lot of work and a lot of things that still has an impact to this very day that we are reaping the rewards of the inventions of the ingenuity of their brilliance of their bravery in a time that didn't allow them to be recognized. I am very fortunate to work with my Division Chief Ravjot Chhatwal, who is the first turban Sikh member in the fire service, who supported my vision of a truck being wrapped and my colleague Ryan Agard who also supported it. Ryan is the first black Captain in Brampton. So, to have that support and to see this vision come through is a dream and I never thought that this would be something that I would be involved with but more and more been part of the department I needed to see black representation, because representation matters.

NCNC: You have really represented us well. And I am going to use this opportunity to invite people to the May 7th event, which is our Mother's Day event because you would be getting an award from the Nigerian Canadian Newspaper Canada; Remarkable Mothers Award. If they want to know more about what you just said, they should come and meet you. You know, it's going to be a fantastic day.

Thank you again for your time and thank you to the City of Brampton, and especially to this department for the dedicating this truck.



Ngozi Ugoh, Publisher, Nigerian Canadian Newspaper Canada & Michelle John, Fire /Life Safety Education Officer, City of Brampton.

couldn't imagine and being placed in a better place. If you are interested please reach out to us and find out, ask questions, what do you need to do to get into the fire service. You could be part of something historical and monumental as the BHM truck, but you could bring to the table something more important that the fire services is going to have to stop and take notice, so this year is a fire truck, who knows what could it be when you come around. We are looking forward to having more people from the black community and other marginalized communities because we want to see the diversity of Bramp-

also want to make sure that you have working smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms save lives and you must have a working carbon monoxide alarm as well located next to your bedrooms. And finally, if there is fire in your home, get out, stay out and do not go back in. Have a plan how to get out safely, have a meeting place outside the front of your home and please do not go back in for anything. If you have left your pet inside, let the fire crew go in and retrieve the pets. We want everyone to be safe and that is the purpose of an education officer.

I am the first black female in this department,

matters.

Michelle shared a quote from Martin Luther King that is featured on the truck "Almost always, the creative, dedicated minority has made the world better"

And that is the truth because there are so many things that the black community have contributed to society that has made the world better. But too many times, our history is been covered up, not seen. The black community have influenced many facets of society that is not known and can be taken for granted, but what I wanted to show on this truck was a recognition of what the black community has made to

Understanding your first paycheque

(NC) When you're just starting out in the workforce, the amount of deductions that come off your paycheque can be surprising. Canadian employers are required to make three deductions from employee paycheques. The first covers income tax, the second is a contribution to Employment Insurance (EI) and the third goes into the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Fund. There can be others - union dues or covering an employer-sponsored retirement plan for example - but these three apply broadly.

INCOME TAX

The amount of income tax deducted is based on how much you make and includes deductions for taxable benefits, such as parking or a leased vehicle.

EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

EI premiums are deducted from your pay at a rate set each year by the federal government. Your employer also contributes to EI, which provides you

with temporary financial assistance while you're unemployed and looking for work or if you're upgrading your skills.

CPP CONTRIBUTIONS

The CPP Fund is designed to provide you with a portion of your retirement income, in addition to what you can save elsewhere. It is funded through employee and employer contributions, along with investment earnings. The Fund provides workers and their families with a basic level of income in retirement. The contribution is deducted from your pay if you are 18 years of age or older and earn more than \$3,500 per year.

Government enhancements to expand CPP are designed to replace about a third of your average annual wages, up to an annual limit.

HOW THE DEDUCTIONS ARE USED

While your deductions for income tax and EI go into general government revenues, CPP deductions are treated differently. They are

credited to a special "CPP account" that can only be used to pay out current retirement and other benefits and CPP expenses. Any funds left over are transferred to CPP Investments, the professional investment organization that invests the CPP Fund independent of government. Investments are diversified by asset class and geography so that the Fund remains resilient as it achieves growth in global markets over time.

This active management approach has resulted in assets of \$529 billion and an average annual return during the past ten years of 10.1 percent after all costs, as of September 30, 2022.

The Office of the Chief Actuary, the independent government body that assesses the viability of the CPP, confirmed in its latest study that the CPP is sustainable for the next 75 years - good to know if you've just received your first paycheque and are wondering what that deduction means.

To learn more about CPP Investments, visit cpinvestments.com.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT... - PAGE 7

government to keep the initiative going

"We are starting to see results," said Ms. Fréchette. "We're very happy with that."

The government has been relocating migrants from Roxham Road regularly because of capacity constraints in Quebec since last summer.

Ms. Fréchette admonished the government to maintain the recent steady rate of removals, repeating her government's position that Quebec's "welcoming capacity" has been surpassed. The minister added that roughly 60,000 asylum seekers

arrived in Quebec last year, double the annual number from before the pandemic.

Ms. Fréchette called the weekend's mass relocations a "first step" that could potentially come to involve other provinces receiving asylum seekers from Roxham Road. She stated that 500 hotel rooms have been booked to accommodate migrants in Ontario as a sign of seriousness.

"I don't have information about what happened on Monday, but we are expecting that this new approach persists," she said.

"In the future, my government is asking

that the share of asylum seekers who stay in Quebec be kept around 22 or 23 per cent, in keeping with the province's demographic weight within Canada."

Mr. Legault met with U.S. ambassador to Canada David Cohen to ask for a speedy renegotiation of the agreement governing asylum seekers between the countries.

"I said to him, 'I don't understand why it's taking this long to settle with the United States.' What we're asking is that the Safe Third Country Agreement be applied to all ports of entry, including Roxham."

ANSWERS OF YOUTH CORNER - PAGE 20

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Correct Answer = E
Explanation: $52 = 25 - 7 = 18 + 2 = 20$

WORD PLAY

Answer: (1) = c (2) = e (3) = c (4) = d (5) = b (6) = c (7) = c (8) = c (9) = d (10) = d

MATCHING GAME

Entomology	The extreme fear of thunder and lightning
Pachyderm	Extreme anxiety and panic at the sight of
Scio phobia	Another name for Elephant
Astraphobia	A branch of biology dealing with the study of
Murmuration.	When a flock of birds move together

COVER STORY

Meet Liz Akano, Black Star

continued from p(1)
runs a non-profit called Educate the Children, where she raised money to rebuild the school, said "I went home to visit my home country in Nigeria and my village, and the elementary school that I attended as a little girl was horrible.

Leaky roof, fallen walls, the floor was flooded by water, no desks, no chairs. Students carried their desks on their heads when they were going to school".

Recalling her 2003 visit, she said "It brought tears to my eyes like I couldn't believe, and I didn't know that it was still being used until I saw the students going into this school."

"When I first looked at the school I thought it was abandoned, and what I saw inside as an educator just ripped my heart apart."

"The school had no doors, no windows, no desks, and the roof was just hanging which was very unsafe"

She recollected that the next day, she witnessed the kids coming to school with a chair over their heads and at that point, she decided she couldn't let it go on. "It was unreal and just very unfair" she said.

Moved by the pupils' ordeal, when she returned to Canada amidst dealing with the loss of her sister, Akano

decided she needed a plan. "I didn't know where to start or what to do. I had never done anything like it"

The former teacher decided to start a non-profit called Educate the Children in 2005. Afterward, she started a fundraiser through the non-profit, in hopes to raise enough money for the new school.

Interestingly, many jumped on board, and even kids wanted to help out. "One girl was always on my mind, Jenna was her name. It was her 7th birthday and she didn't ask for anything, instead, she chose to donate her money to our cause."

Though it took a few years, with the help, support, and persistence of the London community, Akano finally reached her goal.

She said "As soon as we put a roof in that school, students started going in and you could see the joy in their faces. It blew me away, the whole community came out, and they wanted to be a part of it."

"The day before the reopening I spoke to the teachers, and the kids were practicing for a presentation in celebration of the new school.

"Songs, dances, and poems were presented and the students were very excited and beyond themselves," she added. Having

achieved the feat of putting smiles on the pupils' faces, the satisfied Akano feels overwhelming gratitude, and is full of joy. She also hopes to continue to support the kids and schools and most importantly that others will follow in her footsteps.

She said "These children are going to grow up to be leaders of this world, so we need to make sure that every child gets the education they most certainly deserve."

It is germane to note that during her career with the Thames Valley District School Board,

Akano was an advocate for Black student success. She started Black Student Associations at schools she worked in, including Sir Wilfred Laurier Secondary School and Saunders Secondary School.

She was honoured with a Humanitarian Award at the Black Excellence Awards on last December 10 for her creating the high school programs and establishing Educate the Children.

In recognition of the great work, Educate the Children has also been nominated in the Community Organizations category of the 2023 Essence & Culture Awards.

For more information or to donate go to: educatethechildren.ca

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