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OLIVIA CHOW WINS TORONTO MAYORAL RACE



By N.Ugoh

Olivia Chow has been elected mayor of Toronto. She ended almost 13 years of right-skewed rule at Toronto City Hall and became the first woman and the first minority person to become Mayor after the amalgamation of Toronto. The 66-year-old politician was the favourite to win

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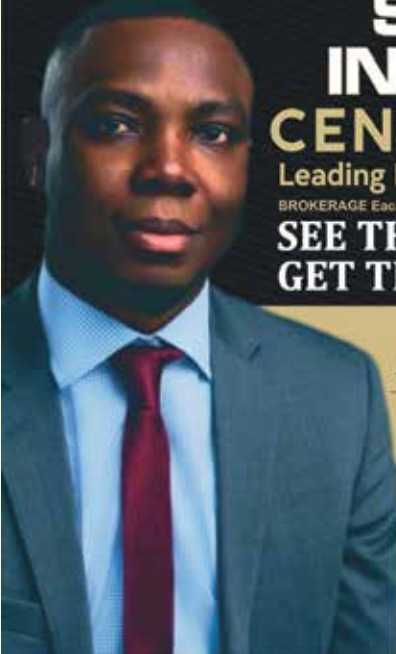

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By N.Ugoh

Toronto police has identified a 28-year-old student from Nigeria as the victim that was fatally stabbed during a fight in a Scarborough plaza recently. According to police, the fight broke out on Sunday, around 7 p.m., in Eglinton Avenue East and Brimley Road. Toronto Police Service Duty Inspector Jeff Banglid told newsmen at the scene that two people were fighting in the plaza, and one was left with serious injuries.

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POLICE IDENTIFY 28-YEAR-OLD FATALLY STABBED STUDENT IN SCARBOROUGH PLAZA AS NIGERIAN



Ifeanyichukwu Oseke
pic: CP24

The victim, Ifeanyichukwu Oseke, was rushed to the hospital, but Banglid disclosed succumbed to his injuries on the way there. The incident is being treated as a homicide. Police noted that the male suspect was last seen entering inside a dark-coloured sedan, heading south

on Brimley Road. The suspect is described by police as a man with medium-length dark hair who wore a light-coloured tank top, pants and shoes. Bangild said: "It was very populated at the time and we understand there was a number of people that actually had seen this event." He added that police believe it to be an isolated incident with no risk to public safety. Anybody with information is asked to call police or Crime Stoppers anonymously.

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COVER STORY

OLIVIA CHOW WINS TORONTO MAYORAL RACE

continued from p(1)
the race from the moment she declared her interest and managed to command a decisive lead in the polls, though the race on election night ended up being a

tight race between her and Ana Bailão. When the result was announced at Chow's campaign headquarters, a packed crowd of supporters erupted into cheers and

Chow came out to address her supporters shortly after 9:30 p.m. While addressing her supporters, she said: "Wow. Thank you, Toronto! Thank you everyone.

What a night!

"If you ever doubted what's possible together, if you ever questioned your faith in a better future, in what we can do with each other, for each other, tonight is your answer."

She thanked the people of Toronto for their "mandate for change" as the city's new mayor and promised to dedicate her-

self to "work tirelessly to build a city that is more caring, more affordable and safe, where everyone belongs."

She also thanked her supporters and volunteers for their tireless efforts.

She said: "I know things are tough these days. It's harder to get by and harder to get around, but don't give up. Toronto

is a place of hope, a city of second chances."

She described Toronto as "a city where a kid from St. Jamestown can be standing in front of you as your new Mayor" to loud applause and added that Toronto is a place "where if we chip in a little more we can improve public services and make our city more livable."



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Addressing The Menace Of Gun Violence



The Prime Minister Justin Trudeau proclamation of June 2 of each year as the National Day Against Gun Violence to honour the victims of gun violence, bring awareness to the crisis in the country, and encourage Canadians to come together to find solutions is a landmark step in the right direction. As a symbol of peace and ceasefire, Canadians are asked to wear white on National Day Against Gun Violence.

The government and relevant stakeholders must continue

to strategize and exert efforts to completely curb this draconian menace. We strongly maintain that as a country, one life taken by gun violence is one too many. Everyone in Canada deserves to feel safe in their community.

The government's proclamation is even more welcoming following the disturbing records that Canada now has the third highest rate of firearm homicide among populous high-income countries, after the U.S. and Chile. Worldwide, it has the ninth

highest age-standardized rate of firearm-suicide among men, which at 2.87 per 100,000 is more than twice the global average. It is even more disturbing that one in three homicides in Canada is related to firearms, and Canada has witnessed an over 80 per cent rise in violent crimes involving guns since 2009.

According to government, the National Day Against Gun Violence will be a day of solemn remembrance for the victims of this senseless violence in Canada, and a time to pay tribute to their families and loved ones who live with pain that will never truly go away. It will be a day to recommit to doing better – for those families, and for every Canadian. And it will be a time to envision a better future, where everyone can feel safe in their community.

“Gun violence is a real and serious threat. The annual National Day Against Gun Violence will serve as a solemn reminder of the lives lost, of the families who live with the ongoing pain, and of our collective responsibility to do everything we can to prevent these senseless tragedies by putting an end to gun violence,” Trudeau said.

Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, said “We owe it to every Canadian who’s lost a loved one to gun violence to do our utmost to prevent the next tragedy. The new National Day Against Gun Violence will help spur action in communities nationwide. I look forward to a national discussion about the impact of gun violence, and how we can all work together to prevent it.”

“By pausing on the first Friday in June to remember those whose lives and families have been de-

stroyed by gun violence, we are taking the first step to solving a problem, which is acknowledging it exists. This day is really a result of the work of community members who have been affected by gun violence. It’s mothers, teachers, friends. We’re grateful to them for raising their voices, and to our federal leaders for hearing them,” Masai Ujiri, Vice-Chairman and Team President of the Toronto Raptors

Reality is that even though the move is highly commendable, all hands must be on deck to put an end to this menace. This is especially so because no human born of a woman has the right to sniff life out of another, especially through the use of a weapon that is meant to be used on criminals, and those that have been adjudged deserving of such through pronouncement by the law.

Reports have it that across the country, gun violence has tragically scarred our communities, making people to live in fear of the unknown. This is saddening, worrying and rather unfortunate and must be curtailed to restore a sense of safety among Canadians. We have always maintained that a society where the people don’t feel safe will suffer setbacks in many grounds – among other negative effects, investors will shy away from such environment.

In view of this, the government must continue to intensify its efforts to safeguard lives and properties and inspire confidence on the people again – that they can go about their normal businesses without fear of being eliminated unlawfully by some unscrupulous elements.

We acknowledge some of the giant decisions taken by the

government in tackling this horrifying menace – the banned 1,500 models of assault-style firearms and their variants, a number that has since increased to approximately 2,000 due to new firearms models introduced by manufacturers since the 2020 ban, as well as the addition of variants to the list; the introduction of Bill C-21, Canada’s toughest gun control laws in a generation, to combat organized crime, address the alarming role of guns in gender-based violence, and prohibit the sale, purchase, and transfer of handguns.

Other preventative action, through the Building Safer Communities Fund, to stop gun violence before it starts by investing in community-led projects to empower young people to make good decisions. Securing the borders through investments of nearly half a billion dollars over the past two years and increased cooperation with the United States to stop gun smuggling.

We call on the government to continue to address the alarming role of guns in gender-based violence through red and yellow flag laws; strengthen border controls by increasing maximum penalties for gun traffickers; create authorities to combat firearms smuggling, trafficking, and related offences; establish new firearm-related offences and strengthened penalties; and address the growing threat of illegally manufactured firearms – otherwise known as “ghost guns.”



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TRAVEL

7 dos and don'ts for international travel



(NC) While you may be aware of some basic rules and precautions when it comes to food, safety and travel, there are several things everyone needs to know. Here are seven tips to help you avoid potential problems and ensure a safe and stress-free journey.

1. DON'T BRING PLANTS HOME

Some plants can carry pests and diseases that can damage Canadian agriculture and the environment. So, leave plants behind – no matter how beautiful they are.

2. DO CHECK REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELLING WITH PETS

As soon as you know your

travel details, contact your veterinarian. They can help you navigate the pet travel process, which may involve getting a health certificate, updating vaccinations, undergoing testing or even administering medications.

3. DON'T VISIT A FARM

If you have been on a farm or near wild animals on your trip, it's best to avoid visiting any Canadian farms upon your return for at least 14 days. Make sure your clothing and footwear are clean, so you don't risk spreading diseases to other animals.

4. DO TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO AVOID FOODBORNE ILLNESS

Local cuisine can be a real treat. Just remember to learn about how food is prepared and served in different places so you can avoid any risks to your health.

5. DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ABOUT ALLERGENS.

Remain vigilant with food allergens, ask to see lists of

ingredients and check food labels. Keep in mind that the labels may not be the same as what you're used to in Canada, so pay close attention.

Do declare any food and animal products when entering Canada. Doing this can help prevent the spread of diseases, pests and unwanted species that could mess with our environment and agriculture. Plus, not declaring them could get you a penalty of up to \$1,300 and your items confiscated.

Don't pack restricted food. Did you know that certain foods could spread animal diseases like African swine fever? Known as ASF, the disease doesn't infect humans, but it's deadly to pigs and can seriously hurt farms and the pork industry here in Canada. Don't take the risk - leave the pork products off the plane.

Find more information at inspection.canada.ca/asf.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

MALE MASTURBATION INCREASES CHANCES OF IMPREGNATING WOMEN – STUDY

By Stanley Ugagbe

A new research by University College London (UCL) has suggested that masturbation could increase a male primate's chances of having offspring.

According to the researchers, the act of self-pleasuring may help with successful fertilisation by increasing arousal before sex.

They also noted that ejaculating after masturbation helps shed low-quality semen, leaving fresh sperm available for mating.

The researchers added it may also reduce the risk of contracting sexually-transmitted infections (STIs).

On the other hand, they stated that the benefits of female masturbation – from an evolutionary perspective – remain less clear.

Harping on the development, Lead researcher Dr. Matilda Brindle said: "Our findings help shed light on a very common, but little understood sex-

ual behaviour and represent a significant advance in our understanding of the functions of masturbation."

According to records, masturbation is common among animals but is thought to be more prevalent in primates, including chimpanzees, apes and humans.

It was gathered that the study, published in the journal Proceedings of The Royal Society B, focused on primate animals, both wild and captive.

Local reports have it that Dr. Brindle and her colleagues gathered information from 246 published academic papers and 150 questionnaires, with the aim to understand when and why masturbation evolved.

The scientists also analyzed personal communications from primate experts and zookeepers.

According to findings, masturbation was most likely present in the common ancestor of humans and all other primates.

Brindle and her team are of the proponent that

a hypothesis that suggests masturbation without ejaculation can increase reproductive success by aiding successful fertilization.

In their words, ejaculating after masturbation may allow males to get rid of low-quality semen, leaving fresh sperm available for mating.

The researchers also proposed a second hypothesis which suggests masturbation reduces the chance of contracting an STI after sex.

The team also stated that semen from sexual self-gratification can cleanse the urethra – the tube that removes semen and urine from the body, which is also the main site of infection for many STIs.

"The fact that autosexual behaviour may serve an adaptive function, is ubiquitous throughout the primate order and is practised by captive and wild-living members of both sexes demonstrates that masturbation is part of a repertoire of healthy sexual behaviours," Dr. Brindle said.

SAFETY

YEAR-ROUND HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

(NC) Having your own home comes with many perks from privacy, to added space, to your own unique décor. But one thing's for sure – it takes some work to keep the place organized and safe.

To help keep your home running smoothly, here's when to tackle some

important home safety tasks:

Spring showers

Refresh your emergency kit if needed, and add any season-specific items, such as a battery-operated fan if you lose air conditioning in a summer power outage.

Angle your down-

spouts away from your home to prevent flood damage.

Consider adding a sump pump with backup power or reverse-flow valves in basement drains.

Clear gutters and debris left over from winter storms and do time-sensitive repairs.



Inspect your roof and repair any damage.

Consider applying sealant around basement windows and at the base of exterior doors.

Check your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms each spring and fall.

SUNNY SUMMER

Do more extensive safety updates in summer when weather is clear, such as fixing a leaky foundation.

Ensure that your landscaping is graded to slope away from your home.

Trim any trees or bushes that are getting close to power lines.

Check your ventilation by holding a tissue up to your bathroom fan – the suction should cause it to noticeably flutter.

Run a dehumidifier to prevent mould if you live in a humid place or detect a musty smell.

FALL FIXES

Winterize or drain outdoor

faucets and pipes ahead of cold weather to avoid frozen, burst pipes.

Check and replace weatherstripping to ensure your home is protected from the elements.

Clear your eaves-troughs and downspouts of leaves and debris.

Refresh your emergency kit with supplies to last you for several days.

Confirm that your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are in good working order and replace the backup batteries.

WINTER WONDERLAND

Look for bare patches on your roof after a snowfall to see if your roof or attic insulation may need repair.


Check for water leaks indoors during minor thaws to get ahead of water damage and mould.

Test for high levels of radon gas in your home with a simple DIY test, or call in a pro.

Make sure important documents are stored off the floor and not in the basement ahead of spring thaws and floods.

Whatever the season, make sure you know the risks in your area so you can properly prepare your home for them. Do you live near a river that floods in your area every spring? Or, are you at risk for wildfires in summer? Are you likely to face severe winter storms or power outages in winter? A little preparation, can help you be ready for just about anything.

Find out about your regional risks and learn more safety tips at getprepared.ca.



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Durham Hairstylist Academy and CAS Partner on Caring for Natural Hair



DDSB's Durham Hairstylist Academy partnered with Durham CAS to host an educational evening for Black and Black-biracial youth, their families, and their foster families on how to care for natural hair.

The Durham Hairstylist Academy located at GL Roberts CVI hosted the event for members of the community with the initiative growing out of the Youth Council at the Durham Children's Aid Society.

"Durham CAS have a youth council that have been doing a lot of great advocacy work," says Shailene Panylo, Durham CAS Diversity Initiatives & Community Engagement Lead and DDSB Oshawa Trustee. "[The council] are all youth who are in care or previously in care or involved in the CAS in some way. They are trying to improve the system for youth who are currently in care and coming after them. They are the ones who really pushed us to prioritize this initiative, especially for Black and Black-biracial, or racialized youth in care, making sure that we have appropriate education, products, and resources for children and families.

"Black, Black-biracial

natural hair care has always been something that was lacking in our system in child welfare. It is important that we create a safe space for learning specifically with foster parents, kinship parents, and youth who are in care."

Durham Hairstylist Academy Instructor Mykael Jackman was eager to make this event happen.

"I'm all about hair so I'm really enthused about this opportunity," says Jackman. "I found out about the awesome things she (Shailene) is doing, and I thought it was great to partner.

"We were in contact with Shailene, who was once a student at Durham Hairstylist Academy. As she is working with CAS, we were excited to teach many families how to care for their children's hair and help to provide them with product, provide them with skills, and provide them with the care like nighttime regimes and identifying the right products for their curl patterns and just answering the many questions people have to make sure their hair is well maintained.

"I really related to this idea because I know people want to do better in

the hair care for their Black and Biracial children. The feedback from each student showed how grateful they are for the information."

Nicoli Strickland attended the event and found it helpful.

"I want to learn how to do different cultures' hair and how different everyone's hair is," says Strickland, a high school student who attended the evening and plans on pursuing further studies to become a hairstylist. "Some of the stuff I learned here today will help me when I go to hairstylist college."

Panylo, who was also once a child in care and helped to organize the event, found it long overdue.

"I was involved in the CAS as a child and I was adopted and I grew up in a family that did not know how to do my hair," says Panylo. "This was something my mom could have used. Hair is such a big part of everyone's identity.

"Even at a young age we know children are treated differently at school depending on how they look. It means a lot," says Panylo, as she recalls how one young participant expressed her gratitude. "At the very end, there was a little girl who came up to me and said, 'My hair looks like you.' Even at a young age, we know children are treated differently at school depending on how they look. An event like this means a lot."

For more information on the Durham Hairstylist Academy visit: <https://www.ddsb.ca/en/programs-and-learning/hairstylist-academy.aspx>

Lagos Placed Fourth in Global Liveability Index as One of the Least Livable Cities



By Yahaya Othman

Lagos, the bustling commercial hub of Nigeria, has been ranked as the fourth least livable city in the world, according to the recently released Global Liveability Index 2023 by the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU), a sister organization of The Economist. The EIU evaluated 173 cities worldwide based on various factors, including healthcare, education, stability, infrastructure, and environment.

Lagos secured the 170th position in the rankings, while Algiers, the capital of Algeria, claimed the third least livable city spot (171). Tripoli, the capital of Libya, followed closely in the 172nd position as the second least livable city globally. Damascus, Syria, emerged as the worst-ranked city in terms of livability.

The report acknowledged that despite their low rankings, cities like Lagos and Algiers have shown some improvements in their healthcare and education systems. Both cities have benefited to some extent from increased global oil and gas prices, as they are energy-exporting nations. Additionally, a decline in COVID-19 cases has allowed for additional

their careers in the high-tech sector and contribute to economic growth and prosperity."

The program will last a year, and end when Canadian immigration authorities get 10,000 applications. Family members will not be counted as applicants.

public funding for infrastructure and public services, although corruption remains an ongoing concern.

On the other end of the spectrum, for the second year in a row, Vienna, the capital of Austria, claimed the title of the world's most livable city. Vienna's stability, cultural offerings, reliable infrastructure, and exceptional education and healthcare services contributed to its consistent top-ranking position. The city had briefly slipped from the top spot last year due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Copenhagen in Denmark followed closely behind Vienna, while the Australian cities of Sydney and Melbourne secured the third and fourth positions, respectively. Vancouver (Canada), Zurich (Switzerland), Calgary (Canada), Geneva (Switzerland), Toronto (Canada), and Osaka (Japan) completed the top ten rankings.

The findings revealed that three Canadian cities featured among the top ten most livable cities globally. While European cities fared well at the top of the list, they also accounted for the majority of cities that experienced significant drops in the rankings this year. London, the capital of the

United Kingdom, slipped 12 places to 46th position, while Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, dropped 22 spots to 43rd position.

Furthermore, Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, fell to the 58th spot this year after ranking 35th in the 2022 survey. The report noted that these cities did not experience sharp declines in their index scores but failed to make substantial progress compared to many cities in Asia, which demonstrated significant advancements in the past year.

Overall, the average index score across the 172 cities evaluated (excluding Kyiv, Ukraine) reached a 15-year high of 76.2 out of 100. Healthcare scores showed the most improvement, followed by education, culture and entertainment, and infrastructure. While the world is gradually moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, stability scores declined due to various instances of civil unrest across the globe.

Western European cities faced a decline in rankings as instances of workers' strikes and civil unrest affected their stability ratings, preventing them from matching the progress made by cities in Asia and the Middle East.

H-1B visa: Canada launches new bid to poach skilled tech workers from United States



By N.Ugoh

Canada has announced a new program to poach skilled tech workers from the U.S. With a population of 40 million, Canada is again attempting to poach foreign workers' difficulties with the H-1B visa, the

work permit of choice for Bay Area companies that want to hire tech talent.

While talking about the development in a statement, Immigration Minister Sean Fraser said: "We're targeting newcomers that can help enshrine Canada as a world leader in a variety of emerging technologies."

The Canadian government said Canada's new "H1-B specialty occupation visa holder work permit," will be available starting July 16 and will give approved applicants permission to work for up to three years for nearly any employer anywhere in Canada, the Canadian government announced. Spouses and dependents will be eligible to apply for temporary resident visas and permission to work and study.

While announcing the programme, the government said: "This will expand the opportunities available for skilled workers to continue to pursue

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Canada announces Visa-Free travel for 13 countries

By N.Ugoh

Passport holders from 13 countries will now be able to travel to Canada by air without requiring a Temporary Residence Visa as Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, has announced the addition of 13 countries to the electronic travel authoriza-

tion (eTA) program.

However, this applies only to travellers from these countries who have either held a Canadian visa in the last 10 years or who currently hold a valid United States non-immigrant visa.

Eligible travellers include passport holders from:

Panama.

Morocco.
Antigua and Barbuda.
St Kitts and Nevis.
Trinidad and Tobago.

Costa Rica.
Uruguay.
Seychelles.
Argentina.
Thailand.
Philippines.
St Lucia.
St Vincent and Grenadines.

Canadian government commits \$25M toward creating first LGBTQ entrepreneurship program

By N.Ugoh

The government of Canada has said it says it would invest \$25 million in creating Canada's first-ever LGBTQ entrepreneurship program.

Small Business and Economic Development Minister Mary Ng will announce the funding soon in Kingston, Ont.

CGLCC, a chamber of commerce for Canada's LGBTQ community, will run the programme which includes three

main components: A business scale-up program, an Ecosystem Fund and a Knowledge Hub.

Darrell Schuurman, co-founder and CEO of the CGLCC, said "entrepreneurs who identify as 2SLGBTQI+ play a crucial role in contributing to the Canadian economy" but continue to encounter barriers when starting and expanding their businesses.

Schuurman said the program will equip entrepreneurs with resources

and support to tackle these obstacles and be successful.

The Federal Economic Development Department says there are over 100,000 LGBTQ-owned and -operated businesses in Canada that employ over 435,000 workers and generate over \$22 billion in economic activity.

Yet it says 25 percent of LGBTQ entrepreneurs have encountered discrimination or lost their business because of who they are.

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WestJet CEO promises fares will not increase due to airline mergers

By N.Ugoh

The CEO of WestJet, Alexis von Hoensbroech, has revealed the merger between Swoop, Sunwing and Westjet Airlines would not lead to higher airfares as integrating the discount carriers would also tamp down costs.

In a recent phone interview, von Hoensbroech said Canada's second-biggest airline will be able to swap planes more easily and increase the range of destinations

for travellers on the hunt for cheap tickets.

Like rivals Porter Airlines and Flair Airlines, WestJet aims to expand its business greatly over the next few years, with 61 Boeing 737s on the order book over the next five years, and an option for 20 more.

The Calgary-based company recently told employees that it would shut down Swoop at the end of October and Sunwing Airlines would be shut down over the next few years, collapsing

them into WestJet's main operation while maintaining Sunwing's tour package division.

Some experts have alerted that the mergers would bring about lower competition and higher airfares, particularly for sun destinations.

Though competition remains intense and prices are low on major Canadian routes like Toronto to Vancouver, fares to sunny getaways, U.S. cities and European hot spots have risen over the past year.

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Supreme Court Rejects Affirmative Action At Colleges As Unconstitutional



By Yahaya Othman

The Supreme Court has declared the affirmative action admission policies of Harvard and the University of North Carolina unconstitutional. The court's majority opinion states that these programs utilize race in a negative manner, promote racial stereotypes, and lack clear endpoints. Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, expressing disappointment in the court's decision to roll back decades of progress and precedent. This ruling deals a significant blow to long-standing efforts aimed at increasing minority enrollment in American universities through race-conscious policies.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in the majority opinion joined by his fellow conservative justices, emphasized the importance of eliminating racial discrimination entirely. He argued that both Harvard and UNC's affirmative action programs employ race in a negative manner, perpetuate racial stereotyping, and fail to establish meaningful goals. Roberts further contended that these policies violated the equal protection clause of the Constitution's 14th Amendment, which prohibits states from denying equal protection under the law.

Protesters gathered

outside the U.S. Supreme Court during the hearing of the affirmative action cases involving Harvard and UNC admissions, expressing their concerns. Chief Justice Roberts clarified that universities can still consider an applicant's discussion of how race has impacted their life, as long as it is directly linked to the applicant's character or unique abilities that contribute to the university.

Justice Clarence Thomas, a Black conservative, wrote a concurring opinion, stating that affirmative action admissions policies contradict the colorblind principles of the Constitution. Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, another liberal justice, expressed her dissent, labeling the ruling as a tragedy. Justice Sotomayor criticized the majority opinion, arguing that it cements a shallow concept of colorblindness as a constitutional principle in a society that remains inherently segregated and where race continues to play a significant role.

The ruling pertained to two separate yet related cases, one involving Harvard (voted 6-2 with Jackson recusing herself) and the other concerning UNC (voted 6-3 with Jackson participating and dissenting). President Joe Biden strongly disagreed with the court's decision, stating that discrimination

STOP
Violence Against Women

Sexual harassment claim dismissed, Ontario human rights tribunal cites delay in filing

The Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario has dismissed a sexual harassment claim against Veg-Pak Produce because the accuser took too long to file her complaint.

Under the province's human rights legislation, the tribunal has no jurisdiction over an allegation if it took place more than one year before the filing of the application.

In this case, the woman who made the claim filed it on Dec. 18, 2018. But the last alleged incident occurred on Oct. 1, 2017 — her last day of employment at Veg-Park.

The tribunal said it can't consider claims outside the one-year period unless:

the delay was incurred in good faith; and

no substantial prejudice will result to any person

affected by the delay.

REASONS FOR DELAY

The woman said she did not file her claim in a timely manner for a number of reasons.

First, she was unaware she had a right to pursue a claim at the tribunal. And, second, her medical and life circumstances prevented her from filing.

She said she sought

advice from a lawyer and a paralegal who specialized in employment law, but neither told her about the option of filing at the tribunal. Nor did they tell her there was a one-year window to make such a claim.

A different lawyer, that she talked to in 2018, told her about the opportunity — at which point she filed her claim.

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Supreme court upholds 'Safe Third Country' refugee agreement



By NCNC Staff

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that a pact with the United States to control the flow of asylum seekers across the shared border is constitutional.

It is germane to state that the Safe Third Country Agreement, which came into effect in 2004, recognizes Canada and the U.S. as safe places for potential refugees to seek protection.

Under the agreement, refugees must seek asylum in the first of the two countries they land in. If their claim is rejected by one then they will not be successful if they try again on the other side of the border.

However, opponents of the treaty had asked the top court to declare the legislation underpinning the

pact violates Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the right to life, liberty and security of the person, saying the U.S. is not actually safe for many asylum seekers.

More specifically, refugee advocates, human rights groups and the left-wing New Democratic Party have long called for the nearly two-decade old Canada-U.S. pact to be scrapped.

In 2020, the Federal Court found the law to be unconstitutional for violating their right to life, liberty and security since they are deflected back to the U.S. and wind up in detention, sometimes under solitary confinement or inhumane conditions, and can face deportation to the countries they are fleeing.

Unpleased by the ruling, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau government,

which has opted for a politically risk-averse, centrist approach to refugee policy, appealed and it made its way to Canada's Supreme Court.

According to records, the pact sets out that claimants must file in the first "safe" country they arrive in, allowing the country to turn asylum seekers back from Canada-U.S. border checkpoints.

But contrary to this, records have it that many have gotten around it by entering Canada through unofficial crossings, where they can claim asylum once they are caught by authorities. That grew into a hot-button political issue in recent years, particularly in the province of Quebec.

Determined to properly put the pact in check and in order, Trudeau and U.S. President Joe Biden negotiated an update to the agreement during their bilateral meeting in March to address that.

According to reports, Christina Clark-Kazak, associate professor of public and international affairs at the University of Ottawa who spoke ahead of the ruling, said an outcome like this would help Trudeau to

solidify his political position on the agreement.

Christina said it could lend the government the "traction" and the credibility that it "sorely needs" after it invested "a lot of political capital" into keeping the agreement alive through legal appeals and a lengthy process of revisiting it with the U.S.

Harping on the development, one of the leaders of the Canadian Council for Refugees, Gauri Sreenivasan said the pact endangers the "lives of people seeking protection and tarnishes Canada's identity as a compassionate and welcoming nation."

But Immigration Minister Sean Fraser swiftly defended the agreement and its recent expansion. "We're not engaged in a conversation internally about suspending the agreement we achieved with the United States through significant months and in fact years of work immediately after the Supreme Court confirms its validity." The ruling is a win for Trudeau's Liberal government despite the law's severe restrictions on a person's ability to claim refugee status in Canada.

still exists in America, and the ruling does not change that fact.

Harvard stated its intention to comply with the court's decision while emphasizing the need to preserve their essential values within the new precedent. UNC Chancellor Kevin Guskiewicz reiterated the university's commitment to diversity and accessibility while expressing disappointment in the outcome and pledging compliance with the law.

Former President Donald Trump, in a statement, applauded the ruling as a victory for merit-based admissions. However, Chief Justice Roberts clarified in a footnote that the decision does not apply to the United States military academies, as they present potentially distinct interests that were not addressed in the cases.

NAACP CEO Derrick Johnson condemned the ruling, criticizing it as an endorsement of extremist beliefs and vowing to protect the hard-won victories against discrimination.

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REFLECTIONS ON RELATIONSHIPS

Share a problem

My Parents were wicked

Dear Agatha,

I am 40 years of age. My life has been a huge struggle as far back as I can remember. Both my parents, for reason best known to them didn't bother about my future. They chose my immediate younger brother over me and gave him all the incentives to succeed. I, on the other hand, had to go into trade to enable me further my education.

Tried as everybody in the family did to make my mother, particularly, change her mind about me and help speak to my father on my behalf, fell on deaf ears.

After a certain age, I stopped feeling sorry for myself and angry with them. Through the help of the church, I accepted it as my faith in life. Being the eldest of three children, I saw it as God's way of making me self-sufficient hence invested myself into making my life the success it is now.

Apart from sponsoring myself through school, I also was able to establish my own business, which by the grace of God and the help of the only true friend,

I had then, who happens to be my wife today, my life turned out wonderfully well.

Ironically, I met her when I went to re-sit my Ordinary Level exams.

I was the oldest in the class. Unlike others, she didn't join in laughing at me. She would go out of her way to explain and teach me things I didn't know. Being so busy learning a trade, it was a struggle keeping up with class work.

I was almost giving up but, she gave me all the encouragement to continue.

Throughout the examinations period, she helped me with answers. I made my papers and would not have continued but, she insisted I enrolled for the Joint Admission Matriculation Examinations (JAMB). When it became obvious to her that I was foot-dragging, she obtained the form, filled it for me, stole my passport-size photograph and submitted it. I only got to know about the whole thing when she brought the examination slip to me.

She also helped me through that examination. She registered me for Business Administration. Once

I gained admission, it was easy because school was giving me the knowledge to do what I loved best, trading.

Throughout our stay in school, she was by my side. I got to know everything about her. She was not only a very generous person but, also respectful. I began to call her my angel because she did what no one ever did for me.

She told her father about my challenges and he offered to pay my school fees. Her mother was deceased.

At my graduation, he gave me N3m to add to my pay-off money from my master, who also was very supportive.

He also gave me my first shop. According to him, he assisted me because I reminded him of himself in his early days.

He equally gave me good contacts, which made me the huge success I am today.

Through all these, my parents never asked or bothered about me. They were only after my brother who graduated before me. They also treated my only sister with disdain, forcing her to marry a man old enough to be her father.

They didn't bother to sponsor her beyond primary school.

In keeping with tradition, when I wanted to marry, I went to inform them. From their response I shouldn't have bothered. It was my uncle and his wife who stood in as my parents. They took the back-stage. Having prepared my woman and her father, they handled the situation well.

My brother didn't bother to attend. My sister was my only sibling that did.

After that, I decided to stay away from them. When my wife gave birth, it was my uncle's wife that came to help with the set of twins. She became the mother I never had.

I don't know what happened between my parents and my brother but, I only got to know through my sister who is now widowed, and back in school through the encouragement of my wife and I; that he sold off the family house to a bank leaving my parents stranded.

He is also nowhere to be found. Meanwhile my parents have become squatters in the village.

The elders of the vil-

lage led by my uncle have come pleading with me to forgive them and help them with accommodation. They want me to forget the past.

My wife too has been pleading with me but, how can I forget their meanness or refusal to send me to school? How can I forget the undeserved beating, starvation, and their hatred for me? What did I do to deserve such a treatment?

If it weren't for my wife and her father, where would I have been today?

Agatha, religion is one thing but, this is another. After the way they treated me at my wedding, I have sworn never to have anything to do with them again? This matter has been on for two months now, I really don't know why I am writing to you or what I want you to say when I have already made up my mind not to listen to anybody on this issue but, I can't help the force inside of me telling me to share it with you.

Michael.

Dear Michael, I sympathize with you and understand the deep struggle within you



Agatha Edo
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over the injustice of your parents' treatment. I also understand the confusion especially at being unable to fathom why they acted that way towards you and your sister.

Being their first born, their first son, if you decide to stand on the way they treated you from birth till date, none of the people begging, would blame you because they all witnessed your pains, rejection and humiliation. Having gone through your story too, I won't, if you stick to your guns not to help. After all, where were they when you needed them the most?

But where would such hard-line posture leave you? What would you gain by repaying them with their bad coin? If you do that, you would have taken your pound of flesh, cleaning the slate and stripping yourself of the cover of mercy, God has wrapped you in
continued on p(25)

Chimamanda Adichie wins Best Title at 2023 Indie Book Awards for "Notes on Grief"



Ngozi Adichie

By Dele Akintilo

Multi-award-winning Nigerian author, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, continues to record achievements in the international literary world with her great storytelling and thought-provoking narratives. In a victorious moment, Adichie's latest work, "Notes on Grief," has been recognized with the prestigious Best Title of the Summer award at the 2023 Indie Book Awards.

The announcement was made on June 23, the day before Indepen-

dent Bookshop Week (IBW), where Adichie won the Non-Fiction prize with Notes on Grief (Fourth Estate), a meditation on the demise of her father.

While speaking on the selection of Adichie's book, Mel Griffin, chairman of the judging panel, said: "It was a privilege to chair the 2023 Indie Book Awards, and the whole panel agreed that the shortlists were particularly strong this year, making the decision-making process challenging. However, in the end, we unanimously selected Notes on Grief by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as the non-fiction winner.

"This utterly beautiful essay says so much in very few pages, and we found it extraor-

dinarily powerful. Although it focuses on one individual's experience of grief, we felt that it would speak to many people, transcending culture and circumstances, with one judge describing the reading experience as 'cathartic.'"

Accepting the award on her social media page, Chimamanda Adichie wrote: "I have always felt like there is nothing more life-affirming and meaningful than going into an independent bookshop because you know that the people there actually love books. So, I think independent bookshops are the best things ever.

"I am so grateful, I am so moved, and I am so pleased to have Notes On Grief honoured with

A HOLE IN MY HEART

Episode 2 ©Franca Uwuigiaren

Onome and her husband Patrick wanted the best for their children. They believe if a child must turn out well in the society, they must be firm in raising them. They must put their foot down and enforce discipline.

Lizzy wasn't the only child of the couple. Though the first child, but two others are behind her. To raise the children properly, they had to create a balance between work and family. These couple know the value of education and they wanted their children to go to the university, graduate with flying colours and succeed in life.

They didn't want

their children to follow the rough road they did. They ensured that their kids go to school and food was always on the table.

Lizzy had always told them she would like to be a lawyer.

"That is good Lizzy but you don't build a castle with your mouth"

"I don't understand"

"It means you must be hardworking and focused. You must be intelligent, discipline and smart"

Lizzy had nodded her head smiling.

"Trust me dad. I must not fail this"

"I believe you"

"Try your best and I and your father will try his

the Indie. And it is mostly because I love Independent bookshops and also because this book is so meaningful to me. I hope that it brings some kind of comfort to other people who have experienced grief. Thank you"

This award recognizes not only the exceptional storytelling ability of Adichie but also the vivid power of the book's title. "Notes on Grief" summons readers to start an emotional journey, contemplating

the different dimensions and stages of loss and grief. The award reaffirms Adichie's status as the world's literary symbol, further highlighting the great impact her writing has on readers around the world.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CANADA'S NEW WAGE-FIXING AND NO-POACHING PROHIBITIONS

New rules prohibiting wage-fixing and no-poaching agreements kick in Friday in an effort to crack down on companies undermining competition at employees' expense.

Here is what employers and employees need to know about the new rules:

What is the new law?

As of June 23, it is a criminal offence for two or more employers to form deals that fix, maintain, decrease or control wages. The same goes for agreements that prevent companies from hiring or soliciting each other's employees.

It comes after the federal government made amendments to the Competition Act's conspiracy provision in June 2022 as part of its Budget Implementation Act.

"Like price-fixing agreements between competitors, wage-fixing and no-poaching agreements undermine competition," states the Competition Bureau, which is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Competition Act.

"Maintaining and encouraging competition among employers results in higher wages and salaries, as well as better benefits

and employment opportunities for employees."

The penalty for violating the wage-fixing and no-poaching provisions includes imprisonment for up to 14 years, and/or a fine to be set at the discretion of the court.

What's different from before?

Section 45 of the Competition Act has until now criminally prohibited agreements between competitors to fix prices, allocate markets or restrict output.

But that didn't apply to companies' practices when compensating for labour. Instead, agreements between competing purchasers were viewed under civil provisions contained in Section 90 of the act, which prohibits deals likely to substantially prevent or lessen competition.

"So if an agreement between competing purchasers resulted in anti-competitive effects, such as higher prices, then that agreement could be challenged and be prohibited under the civil provisions," said Adam Goodman, a partner at Dentons' competition and foreign investment review group.

"What the new law does is make it a criminal

offence for a subset of buy-side conduct segments."

Under the previous provision, fines were capped at \$25 million.

"The wage-fixing and no-poaching amendments coming into force is an important step in the ongoing modernization of Canada's competition law," competition commissioner Matthew Boswell said in a press release.

Who do the new rules apply to?

The amendment applies only to pacts between unaffiliated employers. That means wage-fixing or no-poaching agreements between two or more corporate entities controlled by the same parent company do not violate the provisions.

While the rules cover wage-fixing and no-poaching agreements regardless of whether they compete in the supply of a product, the Competition Bureau said it expects to prioritize its enforcement on arrangements between companies competing for labour.

The new law also only targets no-poaching provisions that are mutual in nature. If only one company agrees not to hire another's

employees, the Competition Bureau says that's not caught by the legislation.

Are there other notable exceptions?

The Competition Bureau says the law is directed at "naked restraints" on competition, which include restrictions on wages or job mobility that are not implemented to further a legitimate collaboration, strategic alliance or joint venture.

It said it intends to target restraints that "are clearly broader than necessary in terms of duration or affected employees, or where the business agreement or arrangement is a sham."

The rules do not cover "ancillary restraints" on competition meant to add efficiency to "certain desirable business transactions or collaborations." The ancillary restraint defence is available to employers when it is likely the restraint flows from a broader or separate agreement that includes the same parties and the arrangement is reasonably necessary to achieve an overarching objective.

If the parties could have achieved an equivalent or comparable arrangement through "significantly

less restrictive means that were reasonably available," then the bureau said it would conclude the restraint was not necessary.

The bureau said it will also generally not assess wage-fixing or no-poaching clauses that are ancillary to merger transactions under the new criminal provisions.

"This is really reserved for naked restraints, where the parties are essentially trying to game the system or cheat in terms of no-poaching, wage-fixing, to the detriment of employees," said Goodman.

What prompted this change?

Goodman said there's been heightened attention toward the issues of price-fixing and no-poaching deals both in Canada and internationally over the past decade.

In the U.S., he said momentum started in 2010 when the Department of Justice challenged a no-poaching arrangement between major tech firms on a civil basis. Then in 2016, the department, along with the Federal Trade Commission, released a guidance indicating they would challenge such agreements on a criminal basis, which Good-

man noted has had "limited success."

The issue ramped up in Canada during the pandemic when grocery giants Loblaw's, Sobeys and Metro ended a bonus program for hourly workers known as "hero pay" on the same day in June 2020, prompting questions about possible co-ordination.

While the companies told a House of Commons committee later that year that they had acted independently, Loblaw's then-president Sarah Davis acknowledged she had sent a "courtesy email" about the move to competitors in advance.

In late 2020, Canada's Competition Bureau released a guidance that clarified it couldn't challenge wage-fixing and no-poach agreements on a criminal basis due to the wording of existing legislation.

"It was always an option for the Competition Bureau to challenge no-poach, or wage-fixing conduct if they thought it resulted in anti-competitive effects and they never brought a case," said Goodman.

"It's not as though there was an issue with the tools having been proven to be inadequate for the job. The tools were never used."

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY BUDGET

By Ken Ntiama, MBA

Many people, despite good income, have financial problems because they do not know how to manage their money. They spend their money on anything they want, particularly on the world's three basic values in life:-

First: Pleasures - lust of the flesh. Pleasure is a primary value of this world. Like, going to parties and touring exciting places in the world.

Second: Possessions - lust of the eyes. This is buying things we do not need to impress other people that we know, for many people self-worth is based on their net worth.

Third: Prestige. For many people, image is everything. We are very status-conscious. We want people to look up to us. We want people to think that we are important and successful. In our desire to maintain our prestige, we spend money incessantly.

When you embrace these three values - pleasure, possessions and prestige - you are likely to fall into financial problems.

We need to stay away from spending our money

on the above-mentioned values to avoid facing financial problems. To insulate us from the influence of world's values, we need to make a regular monthly family budget to be sure that our money is spent only on the essentials (needs) not wants.

The formula of an ideal Family Budget is: 10%; 10%; 80% = 100%.

What does it mean? If you are a Christian believer, the first 10% should be given to the church where you worship. In the Bible it is called "tithe" meaning 10% of your net income. Said amount is for God, to support His church to spread the gospel or good news of salvation (Matt. 28:19-20), to people who do not know God's plan of salvation.

The philosophy or reasoning of tithing is - God's own everything we have: our life, talents and abilities to earn a living. In fact, we have no control when we are going to die or to get sick, for only God is in control (Psalm 24: 1; Deut. 8:17-18; Malachi 3:8-10).

The second 10% is for savings (force savings) in times of emergency like: you lost your job, you or your love one gets sick and circumstances beyond human

control.

The last 80%, this is for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, transportation, children's education, vacations and miscellaneous expenses.

For a Family Budget works, you need to discipline yourselves not to spend money for the three world values of pleasure, possessions and prestige. It simply means, spend your money only for your needs not wants. Family budget should be discussed and agreed by all family members. This is important that each family member should spend within the budget.

By spending in accordance with your Family Budget, you can avoid, financial crisis. That could give you peace of mind, for no creditors would bother you and sometime even harass you of going to court of law to enforce collection on your unpaid bills. The importance of Family Budget is not only having peace of mind but becoming

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Asari Dokubo warns Tinubu against releasing Kanu



By N.Ugoh

Former Niger Delta militant leader and founder of the defunct Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF), Asari Dokubo, has cautioned President Bola Tinubu against granting freedom to the incarcerated leader of outlawed Indigenous Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), Nnamdi Kanu, as releasing him "will be tantamount to rewarding criminality."

Dokubo, a long-time enemy of the Biafran agita-

tor, bared his mind after a recent meeting with Tinubu in Abuja and said the release of Kanu, who has been detained by the Department of State Services (DSS) since his arrest in Kenya in 2021 on charges bordering on terrorism, would further fuel "impunity" in the South-East region.

While talking to journalists after the meeting, Dokubo said Kanu should face the full weight of the law over alleged atrocities committed by IPOB and its militia wing, the Eastern Security Network (ESN).

He said: "His release would fuel impunity; during EndSars, Nnamdi Kanu was walking free. What did he do? He poured petrol on the flames of EndSars.

"Now, he has been caught. What of the people who have died? This is a criminal. He should face the law.

"Releasing Nnamdi Kanu is rewarding criminality and rewarding gruesome murder of innocent people. He should face the law for the actions and instigations he has carried out."

FOOD & RECIPES

Tips for picking the best (and freshest) produce



(NC) A diet that is rich in high-quality, fresh vegetables and fruits can be great for your overall health, but finding the tastiest, ripest and best produce isn't always easy.

From apples to zucchini and everything in between, here are four tips on how to pick the best fruits and vegetables.

SHOP LOCALLY

Certain types of fresh produce begin to lose their nutrients just 24 hours after they are picked, but local food does not have to travel as far as food imported from other regions or countries. Shopping locally is also great for the environment as it helps reduce your carbon footprint. Choosing local food also supports nearby farmers and other producers, which benefits the local economy.

OPT FOR ORGANIC

Some studies suggest that some organic produce may contain more vitamins, minerals and micronutrients than conventionally grown fruits and vegetables. Consuming organic produce may also reduce the chemicals you're putting into your body because it contains fewer pesticides. Most natural health food stores like Nature's Emporium carry organic produce exclusively, so it's easier to avoid pesticides on your produce.

This is also helpful if you're concerned about foods on the Environmental Working Group's dirty dozen - 12 crops that typically have the most pesticide residue in the United States. This list includes strawberries, spinach, kale, nectarines, apples, grapes, bell and hot peppers, cherries, peaches,

pears, celery and tomatoes.

PICK PRODUCE WITH VIBRANT COLOUR

Choose fruits and vegetables that are vibrant and show consistent colour. For the freshest options, avoid fruits and vegetables that are dull, pale or show signs of discoloration. Brown or black spots on produce could mean it's starting to go off.

PICK PRODUCE THAT FEELS FIRM

High quality, fresh produce is firm to the touch. When shopping for fruits and vegetables, be sure to give them a little squeeze to test their firmness. If produce is soft or feels mushy, it could be a sign that it's well past its prime.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAIM DISMISSED.... – FROM PAGE 8

At the hearing, she testified that had she known about her rights, she would have filed earlier — though doing so would have had a negative impact on her health.

A CHOICE TO DELAY

The tribunal said that a “failure to be informed of one’s rights by counsel is insufficient to constitute a satisfactory explanation for why the applicant could not have made enquires and learned of these rights in a timely manner.”

It said that, from her

submission, it was clear that she turned her mind to potential legal action as early as February 2018, “but was unable to do so because she lacked the necessary financial resources.”

When she found a long-term job in September 2018, she sought legal advice and found out about her right.

“It cannot be said that the applicant was unable to make the necessary enquiries into her rights in a timely manner. Rather, she made a choice to delay her enquiries owing to financial

constraints,” the tribunal said. “This is not sufficient to establish good faith in the circumstances.”

HEALTH AND LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES

The woman also said she did not file her claim on time because of health and life circumstances. Specifically, she said she was subjected to ongoing harassment from her ex-partner and also suffered a physical assault.

That made her fearful for her safety, and she suffered from depression and anxiety.

“She states that as a result of the trauma, she was powerless, in a state of dissociation where she was unable to function and, owing to the cumulative effect of these factors, was unable to pursue her human rights claim during the limitation period,” the tribunal said.

She submitted medical documentation from a registered clinical psychologist, confirming a diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). But the treatment of the woman occurred in 2019 and 2020, the tribunal said, which was outside

the relevant time period.

Further, the commentary from the psychologist did not make a connection between her disability and the inability to file.

Engaging in life

The tribunal also noted that the woman had to engage in other facets of her life during the period when she could have filed a claim.

“For instance, between the time her employment ended and the filing of her application, the applicant reached out to the (former employer) on more than one occasion, she participated in

criminal proceedings against her ex-partner including communications with police and the Crown, she sought out and consulted with three separate legal professionals, she attended counseling and sought referrals to trauma and domestic abuse programs, and she sought out and maintained other employment,” it said.

Therefore, the woman failed to establish good faith for the delay and the application was dismissed.

For more information see *Mohamed v. Veg-Pak Produce Ltd., 2022 HRTO 1193*



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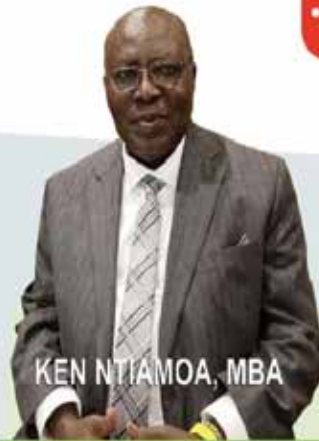
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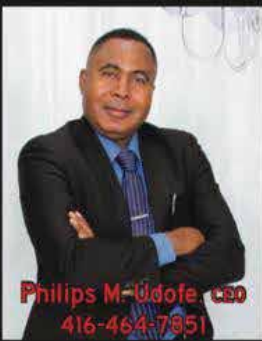
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VISIONARY MAN

INTERVIEW WITH MR. CHRIS CAMPBELL

INTERVIEW: Why I focused on addressing issues of racism, fighting discriminatory hiring practice – Chris Campbell

By Stanley Ugagbe

Chris Campbell is the Vice President of Toronto Carpenters' Union Local 27 and also Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Carpenters' Regional Council (CRC). He has been a member of the Carpenters Union for 33 years and a full-time staff representative for 20 years. Today the major focus of his responsibility is to address issues of racism, fight discriminatory hiring practice and promote our trade to women and people in the BIPOC community. He also proactively fosters and engages effective relationships with local community partners around the province. Chris also plays a major role in recruiting youth from his community to pursue careers in the construction trade.

In this interview with **Stanley Ugagbe**, the Canada-based **Chris Campbell** who hails from Jamaica harped on how he was able to navigate his way to the top. He shared insight on what led him to focus on "addressing issues of racism, fighting discriminatory hiring practice and promoting our trade to women and people in the BIPOC community".

NCNC: Thank you for creating time to have this interview with us. Your profile shows that you have had a remarkable career as evident in the local and international accolades that you have won over the years. Where are you originally from? What are some of the childhood experiences that shaped your career path and who you are today?

Chris: I am originally from Kingston, Jamaica. As a teenager I always wanted to be like my uncle Percival Wright who was an electrician working for the local power company or an engineer involved in building huge structures.

I believe in the adage "It takes a village to raise a child" A lot of people along the way shaped or had profound impact on my resolve to preserve and never give up on your dreams.

NCNC: Walk us through your journey as a Carpenter leader and how

you were able to navigate your way to where you are today. What did you do differently to get you to where you are today? Would you say you have some special abilities that distinguish you from others?

Chris: My journey in the industry started with me working as a dishwasher, janitor, custodian and a factory hand. A mentor directed me to the carpenters union where I registered as an apprentice. In 1994 I completed my apprenticeship. I continued to work several years as a journeyman Carpenter and supervisor for several years. In 2001, I worked as an instructor at the College of Carpenters & Allied Trades to teach carpentry apprenticeship course for about 2 years.

I applied for the position Business Representative of the Carpenters Union and I did that assignment for 17 years. Two years ago I was offered the assignment of Director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion at the Carpenters Regional Council and elected VP of Toronto Carpenters Local 27.

I spoke to a well-known Black civil rights union activist in Toronto, Bromley Armstrong. He was at a book signing event at the TYDLC. I wanted to know how he dealt with the struggles in his union back then. His advice was "Chris, learn the rules of the game before playing". He then encouraged us to be familiar with the union constitution and processes and use it to your advantage to influence progressive changes.

Learning from other people achievements or mistakes where possible is important for me. However, there will be days where you may have to through caution to the wayside and take a chance. Take advantage of every advancements opportunity that comes your way if it makes sense. Be prepared for your blessings when they finally come.

NCNC: Explain a time when you went above the call of duty as a carpenter. How did you help your client?

Chris: There were lots of circumstances, where going above the call of duty was very common. Friends, colleagues and I would volunteer our time after work or weekends to reach out to the urban youths and parents. This was to encourage them



Vice President of Toronto Carpenters' Union Local 27 and also Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Carpenters' Regional Council (CRC)

to take advantage of the good paying, livable wage construction trade career jobs. These massive infrastructure projects in their backyard cost billions of dollars. I'm referring to projects like hospitals, subway line, condo and office towers, nuclear power plants, and refineries to list a few. Traditional immigrant parents discourage their children from getting in the construction trades. This is primarily due to the stigmas associated to the trades in their original homeland. Most parents are unaware that a unionized construction trade's journey person makes more income than the average architect or engineer in Ontario, Canada.

NCNC: Tell me about the carpentry project you're most proud of accomplishing. How did you contribute to its success?

Chris: In reflecting I often brag to my children about working on several buildings, expansion projects, refurbishing projects in Ontario. The project I am most proud of is the volunteer elementary school build, In Wake Field, Trelawny, Jamaica. I saw it as a group of Canadians on a philanthropic project to assist children. It was my big chance to give back to the country I was born. It was sponsored financially by the Carpenters Union local 27 and others in collaboration with Helping Hands Jamaica.

NCNC: Have you ever been a victim of racism?

What informed your decision to address issues of racism, fight discriminatory hiring practice and promote our trade to women and people in the BIPOC community? What are some of the notable challenges you have had while doing this? Can you share some of the issues you were able to resolve through activism that brought fulfilment to you?

Chris: Personally, being on the tools back in my days, racism is something I would have ignored. Only a few people would actively engage in discriminating practices, but when it happens you will never forget it. It causes permanent scares. The fear of not being able to pay the bill at home; being Black listed or labeled a trouble maker on future projects would discourage people from having a conversation at the table.

As in every industry, health care, law enforcement, education and others; there will be discriminatory hiring, firing and other related problem. There will always be good and bad folks everywhere. The big issue is resolving the problem in a fair respectful manner, and being proactively fostering a healthy work environment. The union is proudly taking steps to cultivate a sense of belonging for all members from various cultures, race, religion, sexual orientations. I am grateful to be playing a role in assisting as the Director

of Equity Diversity and Inclusion.

NCNC: You're well known for the continued support you have been providing to your alma mater and the community through guest speaking, mentoring and other initiatives. What are some of the challenges you have faced? What is your most rewarding moment so far?

Chris: About 3 decades later after attending George Brown College (GBC) in Toronto they reached out to me. I was asked to be the keynote speaker at the 2022 convocation of the Construction Engineering Technology graduating class. A few months later I was invited to join the GBC Foundation Board of Directors. In February of 2023 my family and I started the Chris Campbell Perseverance Award Scholarship at GBC. This is to assist students attending the college studying construction related programs. This is one of our ways of paying forward the kindness I received from Canada to the next generation of students.

NCNC: Tell us about the Toronto Carpenters' Union Local 27. What are the requirements to join the union? What are the union's contact details?

Chris: The Carpenters Union has been in Toronto for 140 years. We represent Carpenters working in the industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential sectors of the construction

industry across Canada. We also represent workers in the healthcare industry. The union negotiates decent wages, benefits, pension, and provide fair representation to the membership on site. We are constantly building on the relationships with the local communities.

These are some of the minimum requirement a first-year apprentice may need to get started. Minimum of 16 years of age, a valid social insurance number or work permit issued by the Government of Canada that allows you to work in the construction industry, government issued photo identification showing your date of birth (e.g. Driver's license or Passport), a minimum of grade 10 transcript of equivalent GED – (General Education Development certificate).

Others are; a mailing address, phone number, email address to receive correspondence from the Union, hiring hall, and Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities, you must be capable of performing the duties of a carpenter apprentice and be willing to learn new skills, you must be willing to sign a contract of apprenticeship with the Ontario Provincial Government and you must have access to transportation.

The office is located at 222 Rowntree Dairy Road, Woodbridge, Ontario, Canada, L4L 9T2.

NCNC: What was the Toronto Pride Parade 2023 about? Did it achieve its goals?

The city, province, and country reflect the Carpenters' Union demography. We proudly promote Equity Diversity Inclusion and Belonging as a philosophy in the media, at our membership meetings, and on the constructions sites. We must walk the talk. Members of the Carpenters' Union proudly marched in the 2023 Toronto Pride Parade. Leadership matters. It's important for the Director of EDI to participate in the supporting of my membership, colleagues, family, and friends of the Union. This was the first time ever the Carpenters Union had their own float in the parade marching down Yonge Street in Toronto. Thank you to the Carpenters Union for supporting their LGBTQ members openly.

INI EDO: I REGRET GETTING MARRIED



By N.Ugoh

Popular Nollywood actress, Iniobong Edo, has revealed that she regrets getting married.

Ini Edo married American-based businessman, Philip Ehiagwina on November 29, 2008.

The marriage lasted for a period of five years, and they eventually divorced in 2013.

While speaking in a recent interview with popular media personality, Chude Jideonwo, on his popular TV show #WithChude, the actress said she got married because of “family pressure.”

She said: “I regretted

my decision to get married because it wasn't just the right move to make.”

The thespian however said she would marry again “if the right person comes.”

She talked about why she chose to welcome her baby via surrogacy and said: “I chose surrogacy because I had several miscarriages. And I just got tired of trying.

I don't have a husband. So, I'm like, I want a child for myself, whether I have a husband or not. So, what other options would I have considered? And I wanted it to be my child. My eggs. Thankfully, my eggs are good. So I did that.”

IBADAN COURT REMANDS POPULAR SKIT MAKER, TRINITY GUY



By N.Ugoh

A Family Court sitting at Iyaganku, Ibadan, Oyo State, has ordered the remand of a well-known skit maker, Maruf Abdullahi, also known as Trinity Guy, in Agodi correctional facility over alleged sexual abuse of a 10-year-old girl until Tuesday, July 11 when the case would be up for mention.

The court also arraigned and remanded 40-year-old Isiaka Ahmed and his 29-year-

old wife, Rofiat, who are parents of the victim on two-count charges of conspiracy and sexual abuse and exploitation alongside the skit maker.

The Magistrate, P.O. Adetuyibi did not welcome the defendants' plea for want of jurisdiction, stating that the case file had been filed and duplicated at the state Ministry of Justice, Ibadan.

While confirming Trinity Guy's invitation, the police command tweeted: “Popular con-

US LADY ACCUSES DAVIDO OF IMPREGNATING HER, SAYS SHE IS A FORNICATOR, NOT AN ADULTERER

By N.Ugoh

Singer Davido is encountering another baby-mama drama, as a United States-based lady, Anita Brown, has accused him of impregnating her and asking her to abort it. She later shared screenshots from supposed conversations with Davido to back up her allegations.

Also, Brown denied knowing he was married and said she was told to lie that her account was hacked when she initially came out with the news.

In a video, Brown took a pregnancy test that returned positive and revealed how Davido's cousin, Clarks Adeleke asked her what she wanted to do with the pregnancy.

She said: “What really kills me is this married man narrative you all are dragging,

cut it out. I did not know he was married, on God. Go to his page, does he look like a married man? I'm confused. Rest in peace to the child, people knew about the baby but nobody knew he got married. I'm in America, nobody here knew sorry.

“It's not on the blogs, it's not a big thing, if a man ain't telling me, then I don't know and I wasn't checking for it because I'm not looking to get married, I'm not looking for that right now so that wasn't something that I was in search for, I wasn't digging up anything like that, so no I didn't know.

“I actually found out after the fact and then I found out after the fact that I'm actually pregnant so y'all should cut it out, maybe I'm a fornicator but never an adulterer, calm down.”

content creator, Abdullahi Maruf Adisa, AKA Trinity, has been contacted and invited to the Oyo State Police Command in connection with the dis-

turbing viral skit content making the rounds across the Social Media space concerning a female minor. Updates would be provided soon.”

ANDREW OTENG
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Andrew has formally owned rehab and physiotherapy centers in the GTA and brings over 25 years of experience in the field. He has knowledge in business and marketing and enjoys serving and helping out those within the African and Jamaican communities, where he is well-known and respected.

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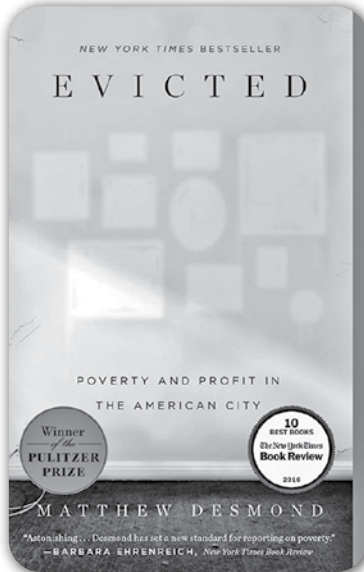
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– Roberto Bolaño

Evicted

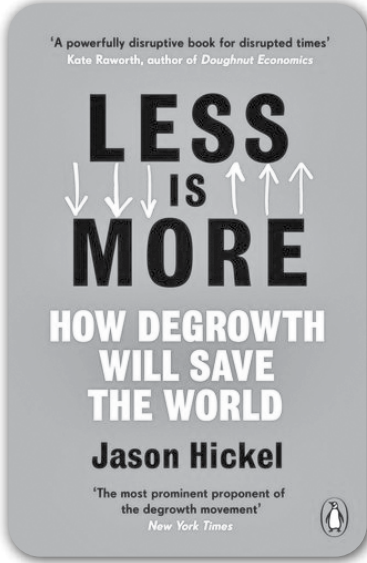


By Matthew Desmond

In *Evicted*, the author chronicles the ordeals of eight families in Milwaukee as they each struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Hailed as “wrenching and revelatory” (*The Nation*), “vivid and unsettling” (*New York Review of Books*), *Evicted* transforms our understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of twenty-first-century America’s most devastating problems. Remarkably, its scintillating scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

While the author includes data points, the way he writes about these families powerfully connects the reader to a real-life issue in America. The book will certainly change the way you think about poverty, homelessness, and your responsibility to be part of the solution.

Less is More



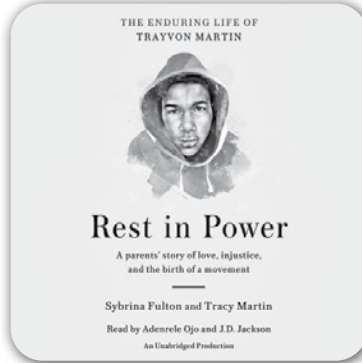
By Jason Hickel

You don’t need a soothsayer to tell you that the world is in trouble. But how can we reverse the current crisis and create a sustainable future? The answer is: DEGROWTH.

By shining a light on ecological breakdown and the system that’s causing it, the author shows how we can bring our economy back into balance with the living world and build a thriving society for all. Hickel weighs in on the concept of “degrowth” and how we could create a new system that’s fit for today and the future. He explores health, jobs, and progress in the 21st century and beyond.

This provocative, direct, data-driven, and inspiring book helps us rethink issues like development, economic growth, and ecological collapse. It helps connect the dots and understand how to tackle systemic issues. It offers a vision of a better, different future.

Rest in Power

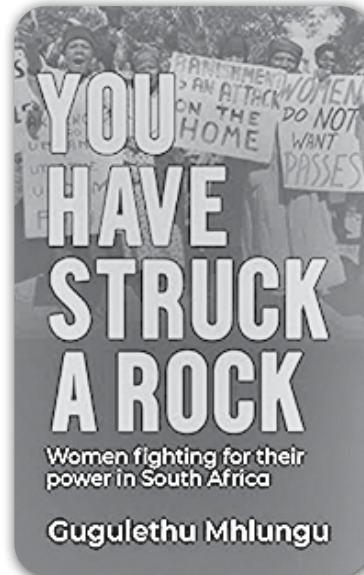


By Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin

Many years after his tragic death, Trayvon Martin’s name is still evoked every day and he has become a symbol of social justice activism. Question that easily comes to mind is who was Trayvon Martin, before he became, in death, an icon? And how did one black child’s death on a dark, rainy street in a small Florida town become the match that lit a civil rights crusade?

Told through the compelling alternating narratives of his parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, answers those questions from the most intimate of sources. The book takes us beyond the news cycle and familiar images to give the account that only his parents can offer: the story of the beautiful and complex child they lost, the cruel unresponsiveness of the police and the hostility of the legal system, and an inspiring journey from grief and pain to power, and from tragedy and senselessness to purpose.

You Have Struck a Rock: Women Fighting for Their Power in South Africa



By Gugulethu Mhlungu

The author explores how history has formed the challenges women experience today in “*You Have Struck a Rock*.” She pulls from the experiences of women from all walks of life — students, domestic workers, political activists, and more, and explores how there is work to be done “in making the real South Africa imagined by the Constitution.”

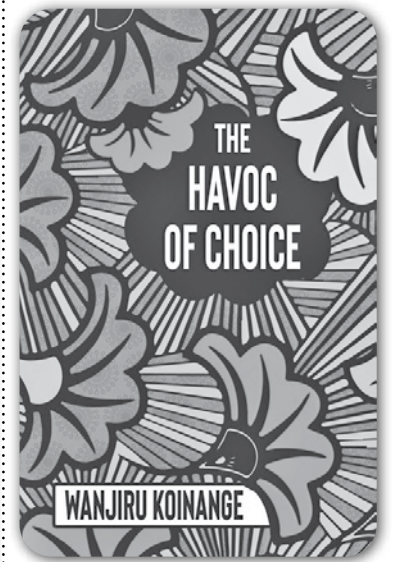
She also considers the impact of pass laws, land dispossession, racial discrimination and gender-based violence. She concludes that there is still plenty of work to be done in making real the South Africa imagined by the Constitution.

This book will introduce you to so many unknown women activists who advocate for the

Played On remains one of the essential books of our time.

The book dives into the maddening world that unearths government inac-

The Havoc of Choice



By Wanjiru Koinange

The author explores the long reach and effects of colonization and corruption within the context of a singular household and the disparate experiences of class and clan they encapsulate.

Long-held captive by her father’s shadow of corruption, Kavata has spent her life suffocated by political machinations. When her husband decides to run in the next election, these shadows threaten to consume her home. Unable to bear this darkness, she comes with a plus to escape.

As if they’re tied together, as her family falls apart so too does the country. In the wake of Kenya’s post-election turmoil, Kavata and her family must find their way back to each other across a landscape of nationwide confusion, desperation and heart-rending loss. It is a highly recommended read.

most vulnerable women of South Africa, including domestic workers and sex workers.

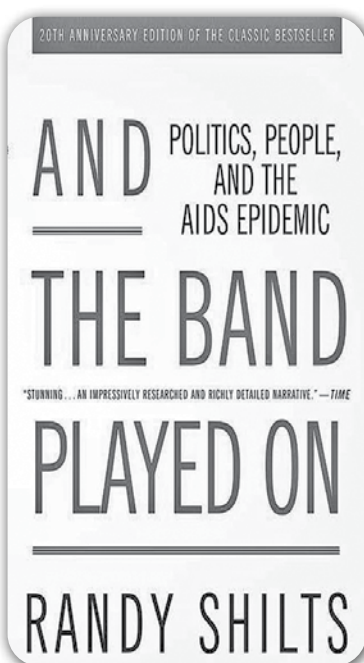
tion, activists, and the struggle to shine a light on issues that are life and death to people and yet “just statistics” to people in power.

And the Band Played On: Politics, People, and the AIDS Epidemic

By Randy Shilts

Written in 1987, the book revealed why AIDS was allowed to spread unchecked during the early 80’s while the most trusted institutions ignored

or denied the threat. Adjudged one of the few true modern classics, it changed and framed how AIDS was discussed in the following years. Now republished in a special 20th Anniversary edition, *And the Band*



SOURCE: AMAZON.COM
BOOKS AVAILABLE AT THE TORONTO & MISSISSAUGA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

YOUTH CORNER

..... Oluchi Ugoh

“YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN YOUR PRESENTS”. – JESSE JACKSON

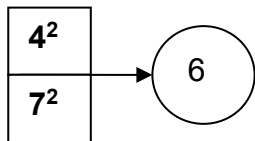
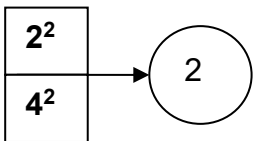


Laugh! Live! Bloom!

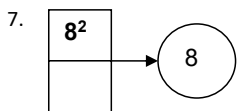
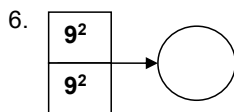
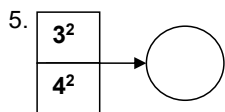
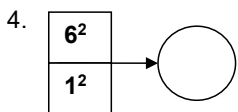
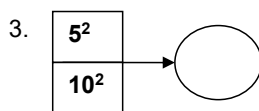
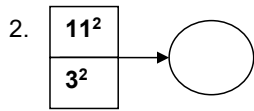
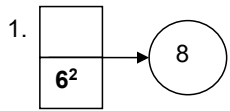
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

Example:



Study the samples above and use to solve the following



ANSWERS ON P(25)

WORD SEARCH

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



HOT DOG
MILKSHAKE
TACO
SMOOTHIE
CHICKEN NUGGET

CHEESE BURGER
COLE SLAW
SANDWICH
ROOT BEE
FRIED CHICKEN

ONION RINGS
HAMBURGER
BURRITO
FRENCH FRIES

ANSWERS ON P(25)

BRAIN GAME

IN THE FOLLOWING GRID, ORDER THE EVEN NUMBERS FROM THE LEAST TO THE GREATEST

5	12	72
1	73	6
4	15	68

ANSWERS ON P(25)

VERBAL REASONING

FORM TWO WORDS FROM THE GROUP OF WORDS BELOW BY ADDING AN APPROPRIATE LETTER IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM

Example: Wor (_d_) ance = word, dance

- For (_ _) aid
- Wis (_ _) our
- Kit (_ _) ntrance
- sil (_ _) ite
- blanke (_ _) eam
- meddl (_ _) nlarge
- lad (_ _) ard
- roa (_ _) oad
- eac (_ _) am
- lov (_ _) mbrace

ANSWERS ON P(25)

TRIVIA QUIZ

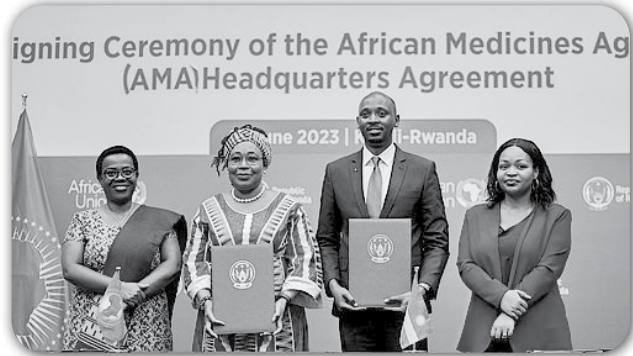
SO, HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW CANADA? TRY YOUR HANDS ON THESE QUESTIONS AND TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

- What is the name of the deepest lake in Canada? A) Quesnel Lake B) Lake Superior C) Great Slave Lake D) Lake Huron
- What Canadian province or territory boasts the longest freshwater beach in the world? A) British Columbia B) Nunavut C) Ontario D) Prince Edward Island
- What is the tallest mountain peak in Canada? A) Mount Logan, Yukon B) Mount Fairweather, British Columbia C) North Twin, Alberta D) Mount Caubvick, Newfoundland.
- Which is the second largest country in the world? A) Canada B) The United States of America C) Russia D) China
- Who was Prime Minister of Canada for the shortest period of time? A) Kim Campbell B) Sir Charles Tupper C) Paul Martin D) John Turner
- Who is featured on the new \$10 Canadian bill? A) Emily Carr B) Agnes Macphail C) Viola Desmond D) Queen Elizabeth II
- Which former NHL player is known as the “Rocket”? A) Hector Blake B) Maurice Richard C) Bobby Orr D) Wayne Gretzky
- How many Canadian cities have hosted the Olympics? A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4
- How many points are on the maple leaf featured on Canada’s national flag? A) 3 B) 7 C) 9 D) 11
- What animal is an official emblem of Canada? A) Moose B) Beaver C) Black bear D) Raccoon
- Which of the following is NOT an official symbol of Canada? A) Maple tree B) Maple leaf tartan C) Canadian horse D) Maple leaf Answer D: Though the maple leaf may be considered one of the most prominent symbols of Canada, it has not been adopted as an official symbol or emblem.
- What is Canada’s National Sport? A) Hockey B) Lacrosse C) Basketball D) A and B

ANSWERS ON P(23)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

HEADQUARTERS OF FIRST EVER AFRICAN MEDICINES AGENCY TO BE SITUATED IN RWANDA



By Ngozi Ugoh

In a development that has drawn applause from stakeholders, the government of Rwanda and the African Union Commission (AUC) have finalized arrangement for the establishment of the headquarters of the first ever African Medicines Agency in Kigali.

According to local reports, the country also signed an agreement with the African Union to host the headquarters of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) in Kigali.

It was reported that the deal was sealed a few days after the Rwandan authorities officially agreed to host the AMA's headquarters on their territory.

It could be recalled that in 2019, the African countries adopted the treaty establishing the Agency, which came into force in 2021.

Its creation is part of the African Union's strategy to reduce the

continent's dependence on pharmaceutical products supplied by foreign countries.

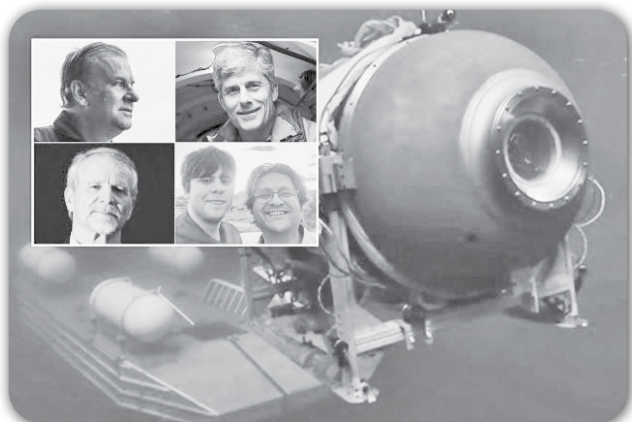
It is germane to note that Africa imports 97% of the pharmaceutical products it needs.

Experts have advised that the agency should regulate and harmonise this market on the continent, encourage production in Africa and tackle the traffic of counterfeit medicines.

AU Commissioner for Health, Minata Samaté Cessouma, strongly advised that Africa must prepare for other pandemics after Covid-19, and the agency's objective will be to propose "African solutions".

According to Rwandan Minister of Health, Sabin Nsanziimana, more than four years after the adoption in 2019 of the treaty establishing the African Medicines Agency, this is a first step towards making this new African Union body operational.

EMAIL SHOW THAT TITANIC SUB CEO STOCKTON RUSH DISMISSED SAFETY FEARS AS 'BASELESS'



By Bunmi Akintilo

In recent findings, newly discovered emails reveal that Stockton Rush,

KENYAN PRESIDENT SPEAKS AGAINST DOLLAR PAYMENT FOR TRADE AMONG AFRICAN COUNTRIES

By Ngozi Ugoh

The President of Kenya, William Ruto, has talked against using United States Dollar (USD) during trade between African countries.

While talking about the usage of dollars, Ruto said traders from Kenya and Djibouti are trading with the dollar when they could take advantage of the pan-African payment and settlement system (PAPSS) established by Afreximbank.

The President suggested that African countries should trade with currencies on the



William Ruto

continent rather than relying on US legal tender, as traders often have to look for dollars to complete transactions.

The president talked about the dollarization of the African market during his recent address at the Djibouti parliament.

According to Ruto, giving priority to local

currencies ahead of the dollar during trading between two African countries will ease trade.

He said: "From Djibouti selling to Kenya or traders from Kenya selling to Djibouti, we have to look for US dollars. How is US dollars part of the trade between Djibouti and Kenya? Why?" Ruto asked during his speech.

He further stated that Kenya is embracing the Afreximbank payment system to ease trade: "That is why Kenya champions the Pan African Payment and Settlement System that is done by our own in-

stitution — the Afreximbank.

"Why, members? Why is it necessary for us to buy things from Djibouti and pay in dollars? There is no reason."

Ruto said he isn't against the use of the dollar for business transactions, but the dollar should be limited to US trades.

"We are not against the US dollar. We just want to trade more freely. Let us pay in US dollars what we are buying from the US. But what we are buying from Djibouti, let's use local currency."

RWANDA TO HOST WTTC 2023 GLOBAL SUMMIT IN NOVEMBER

By Ngozi Ugoh

In a bid to further establish its status as a world-class venue for international conferences and events, Rwanda is planning to host the eagerly anticipated World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) 2023 Global Summit in November.

According to a VoyagesAfric report, Rwanda will be the first country in Africa to host the international organization. A resolution to this effect was made at the WTTC Global Summit, which took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in December.

Government representatives, business titans, and professionals from the travel and tourism sector are all present at the WTTC Global Summit.

The world summit will take place be-



Rwanda to Host Prestigious WTTC 2023 Global Summit in November

tween November 1 and 3 in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. During a recent interview, Julia Simpson, President and Chief Executive Officer of WTTC, disclosed that Rwanda has progressed in the tourism and conservation of nature sectors.

She said: "In November, the WTTC will travel to Rwanda, where we'll host a significant annual summit."

"Rwanda is an incredible example in Africa of a country that has done so much in the world of conservation, biodiversity, and

protecting nature; we all know about Rwanda and the gorillas and they've done much more than that as well.

"Rwanda is now a really modern African country, is bringing in business travellers, there is a lot of innovations going on, so we are very proud to host a major conference there."

As the host of the WTTC Global Summit, Rwanda seeks to highlight its sustainable tourism model and the great impact it has on the environment, local communities, and the economy at large.

Through many panel discussions, presentations, and workshops, participants will gain valuable insights into Rwanda's conservation efforts, community-based tourism initiatives, and innovative strategies for responsible tourism management.

Also, the summit will provide a platform for Rwanda to exhibit its investment potential in the tourism sector. By revealing successful projects and investment opportunities, Rwanda aims to attract international investors that share the vision of sustainable tourism development. This event is expected to bring global attention to Rwanda's tourism industry and foster collaborations and partnerships that can drive further growth and contribute to the country's socio-economic development.

CEO of OceanGate Inc., dismissed repeated safety concerns raised by deep sea exploration specialist Rob McCallum regarding the ill-fated trip to the Titanic site. Tragically, Rush and four others lost their lives in what has been described as a "catastrophic implosion" on the Titan submersible during the expedition.

According to reports,

McCallum implored Rush to suspend operations and wait for an independent assessment of the submersible's safety before proceeding. The Transportation Safety Board of Canada has since announced an investigation into the incident, dispatching a team to St John's to gather information, conduct interviews, and assess the occurrence.

BBC News, which obtained the exchanged messages, revealed that McCallum expressed concerns about potential risks to clients and urged Rush to prioritize safety. However, Rush allegedly disregarded the warnings, stating his frustration with industry players who used safety arguments to stifle innovation. The contentious conversation concluded with

the intervention of OceanGate's legal representatives, who threatened legal action against McCallum.

In a March 2018 email, McCallum warned Rush about the potentially dangerous situation, comparing it to the infamous belief that the Titanic was unsinkable. Rush responded defensively, expressing his annoyance at baseless accusations of jeopardizing

U.S. APPROVES THE SALE OF LAB-GROWN CHICKEN

By Stanley Ugagbe

In a historic decision, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved the sale of chicken made from animal cells, allowing two California companies to offer “lab-grown” meat to the nation’s restaurant tables and eventually, supermarket shelves.

The regulators gave the green light to Upside Foods and Good Meat, firms that had been racing to be the first in the U.S. to sell meat that doesn’t come from slaughtered animals — what’s now being referred to as “cell-cultivated” or “cultured” meat as it emerges from the laboratory and arrives on dinner plates.

Cultured meat, also known as cultivated, cell-based or lab-grown

protein, is made by putting stem cells from the fat or muscle of an animal into a culture medium that feeds the cells, allowing them to grow. The medium is then put into a bioreactor to support the cells’ growth, creating an end product that looks and tastes like traditional meat.

The move launches a new era of meat production aimed at eliminating harm to animals and drastically reducing the environmental impacts of grazing, growing feed for animals and animal waste.

Harping on the development, Josh Tetrick, co-founder and chief executive of Eat Just, which operates Good Meat, said “Instead of all of that land and all of that water that’s used to feed all of these animals that are

slaughtered, we can do it in a different way”.



slaughtered, we can do it in a different way”.

The approval came months after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration deemed that products from both companies are safe to eat. A manufacturing company called Joynn Biologics,

which works with Good Meat, was also cleared to make the products.

Ricardo San Martin, director of the Alt:Meat Lab at University of California Berkeley, said cultivated chicken is much more expensive than meat from whole, farmed

birds and cannot yet be produced on the scale of traditional meat.

Reports have it that the companies plan to serve the new food first in exclusive restaurants: Upside has partnered with a San Francisco restaurant called Bar Crenn,

while Good Meat dishes will be served at a Washington, D.C., restaurant run by chef and owner Jose Andrés.

Upside, based in Berkeley, operates a 70,000-square-foot building in nearby Emeryville. “The most common response we get is, ‘Oh, it tastes like chicken,’” said Amy Chen, Upside’s chief operating officer.

On the other hand, Good Meat, based in Alameda, operates a 100,000-square-foot plant.

According to records, globally, more than 150 companies are focusing on meat from cells, not only chicken but pork, lamb, fish and beef, which scientists say has the biggest impact on the environment.

Japan raises age of consent from 13 to 16



By Stanley Ugagbe

In key reforms to sex crimes, the government of Japan has raised the age of consent from 13, among the world’s lowest, to 16 years old.

In a unanimous vote,

the nation’s parliament enacted a new bill, which also clarifies rape prosecution requirements and criminalises voyeurism.

Records have it that the age of consent – below which sexual activity is considered statutory rape – is 16 in Britain, 15 in

France, and 14 in Germany and China.

Japan’s had been unchanged since 1907, with children aged 13 and above deemed capable of consent.

In practice, across many parts of the country, regional ordinances banning “lewd” acts with mi-

nors are sometimes seen as in effect raising the age of consent to 18.

Following the new law in Japan, teen couples no more than five years apart in age will be exempted from prosecution if both partners are over 13 years of age.

It could be recalled that Japan last revised its criminal code on sexual offences in 2017, for the first time in more than a century, but campaigners said the reforms were insufficient. And in 2019, a string of acquittals in rape cases triggered nationwide rallies.

Recall that under the previous law, prosecutors had to prove victims were incapacitated due to violence and intimidation. Critics argued that requirement in effect blamed victims for not resisting enough.

The bill which was recently passed contains a list of examples under which rape prosecutions can be made. These include victims being under the influence of alcohol or drugs, being frightened, and perpetrators taking advantage of social status.

Recall that earlier this year, a justice ministry official told AFP that the clarifications were not “meant to make it easier or harder” to secure rape convictions, but “will hopefully make court verdicts more consistent”.

According to the justice ministry, the bill also contains a new “visitation request offence”. It means that people who use intimidation, seduction or money to coerce children under 16 to meet for sexual purposes will face a prison sentence of up to a year or a fine of 500,000 yen (\$3,500).

lives, considering it a personal insult.

OceanGate declined to comment when approached for a response by the Standard. Meanwhile, McCallum informed the BBC that he repeatedly urged the company to obtain certification for the Titan before deploying it for commercial tours, a step he claims was never taken.

Tributes have poured

in for the passengers and pilot of the Titan, including Shahzada Dawood, his son Suleman, and British billionaire Hamish Harding, described as beloved and dedicated individuals by their families.

The TSB (Transportation Safety Board) confirmed the deaths of OceanGate’s CEO, Mr. Rush, and French national Paul-Henri Nargeolet in the incident, which oc-

curred 1,600 feet from the Titanic wreckage off the coast of Canada. In a brief statement, the TSB announced the launch of an investigation into the fatal occurrence involving the Canadian-flagged vessel Polar Prince and the privately operated submersible Titan. The TSB’s role is to conduct a safety investigation to determine the circumstances of the operation.

It should be noted that the TSB’s investigation will not determine civil or criminal liability but is aimed at advancing transportation safety. Guillermo Sohnlein, the other co-founder of OceanGate, defended the company in the aftermath of the vessel’s catastrophic implosion, describing the regulations surrounding visits to the Titanic wreckage as complex and challenging to

navigate.

As a tribute, five red roses were laid in St John’s harbor, each bearing a message saying “RIP” followed by the names of the pilot and four passengers. The submersible lost contact with the tour operator approximately one hour and 45 minutes into the two-hour descent, and the vessel was reported missing eight hours after communication ceased. The

US Coast Guard reported that the vessel had a depleting oxygen supply that was expected to run out by Thursday.

Note: The above rewrite is an attempt to present the information from the original news article in a rewritten format. The content has been modified, and some details may have been omitted or rephrased for the purpose of providing a revised version.

SPORTS

MICHAEL ANDLAUER'S GROUP TO BUY OTTAWA SENATORS FOR \$950M



Michael Andlauer

By Ngozi Ugoh

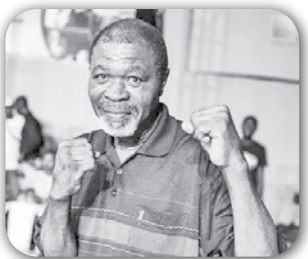
According to reports, Toronto billionaire, Michael Andlauer, has reached an agreement to buy the NHL's Ottawa Senators for a little below \$1 billion.

TSN reported that Andlauer's group beat three other rivals and he will sell his 10 percent stake in the Montreal Canadiens to become the Sens' biggest shareholder.

Also, Bruce Garrioch of Postmedia reported that the final sale price will be \$950 million.

The Senators were earmarked for sale in November after Eugene Melnyk, who owned the franchise for around 2 decades, died in March 2022.

JEREMIAH OKORODUDU'S CORPSE SEIZED BY LAGOS HOSPITAL OVER DEBT



Jeremiah Okorodudu,

By Ngozi Ugoh

The corpse of Nigerian boxer, Jeremiah Okorodudu, who represented Nigeria at the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games, has been seized by a private hospital in Lawadon, Lagos, where he died recently, after battling a foot ulcer that left him hospitalized for weeks.

While talking to Punch, Okorodudu's wife, Adenike said the hospital is not willing to release her husband's corpse until the outstanding N600,000 medical bill is paid.

Reports have it that Melnyk's daughters, Olivia and Anna Melnyk, retained a 10 percent ownership stake in the Senators as part of the sale.

One of the bidding groups was headed by Neko Sparks and included famous rapper Snoop Dogg and former WWE Superstar Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

The Remington Group included popular Canadian actor and owner of Wrexham FC soccer, Ryan Reynolds, but they pulled out of the bid to buy the Senators last month.

As part of Andlauer's purchase, he was given "preferred bidder status" to build a new arena for the franchise in the LeBreton Flats area of Ottawa.

In 1992, the Sens entered the NHL as an expansion team and they have played in their present venue, Canadian Tire Centre since 1996.

The Senators have reached the playoffs 16 times, including 11 years in a row from 1996 through 2008 during their 30 years of existence.

She said: "He is dead now but we still need to pay N600,000 to get his body out of the hospital."

Okorodudu's health challenges started in 2020 with a boil affliction that affected his mobility. He later had a successful surgery at Dans Hospital, Ikorodu, Lagos. His health worsened after he was diagnosed with foot ulcer and suffered a stroke.

Azania Omo-Agege, Vice President, Nigeria Boxing Federation, who confirmed the boxer's death also disclosed that he sent Okorodudu's wife some money on Tuesday, June 27, for his hospital bill.

Agege said: "I just sent them money yesterday (Tuesday). I sent them N100,000 and we were planning for the amputation (of his leg) on Friday, this is very sad."

Okorodudu won a gold medal at the Oluyole 1979 National Sports Festival in Ibadan.

AL AHLY WINS AFRICAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

By Ngozi Ugoh

It was an entertaining evening on Sunday 11th June 2023 at the Mohamed V stadium in Casablanca as Egypt's Al Ahly put up a sterling performance to defeat Morocco's Wydad Casablanca to be crowned African Champions League winners.

Following the feat the Africa's most successful football club has now won a record-extending 11th continental crown.

The Egyptians 1-1 draw, with a late leveller on the night, handed them a 3-2 aggregate win over Wydad.

Recall that the sides had met in the same fixture last year, when Wydad

claimed the title for a third time.

But this year, Al Ahly travelled to Morocco with a 2-1 lead from the first leg.

The Mohamed V stadium bubbled in the 27th minute as Wydad broke the tense deadlock thanks to a goal from Moroccan international full-back Yahia Atiyat Allah.

The 28-year-old leathered an in-swinging free-kick across the face of the goal and, with the oncoming sea of Wydad players, the opposing goalkeeper was caught flat-footed.

However, the Egyptians equalized in the 78th minute, when Mohamed Abdelmonem, Al Ahly's star centre-half ran on to an in-swinging corner kick and flicked the ball into the far



corner of the net.

The 24-year-old, who was voted man of the match, dedicated his achievement to his teammates.

"Of course I am happy with the goal but it is testament to the collective efforts of all the players, who displayed tremendous

dedication throughout the game," he said.

In a post victory speech, Al Ahly goalkeeper Mohamed El Shenawy said "Today, we emerged victorious and we will celebrate. Tomorrow, we will shift our focus to the league and aim to secure another trophy".

SWEDEN OFFICIALLY DECLARES SEX AS SPORT, WILL ORGANIZE FIRST EUROPEAN SEX CHAMPIONSHIP

By Ngozi Ugoh

Sweden has officially declared sex as a sport and is about to host its first-ever sex competition next week. Those participating in the sex competition will engage in sex sessions which can last around six hours daily. The winners of the sex competition will be decided by a panel of judges and the audience will also influence the final decisions.

The European Sex Championship will commence on 8 June and span beyond six weeks with participants engaging in sexual activities from 45 minutes to 1 hour every day, depend-

ing upon the duration of their matches.

Reports claim that the audience will influence the decision of the sex competitions and will discover several aspects of sexual activity. The final decision on the winners will be made after considering factors like the chemistry between the couple, sex knowledge, endurance level, etc.

Also, the knowledge of 'Kamasutra,' the Sanskrit scripture on sex and eroticism, will play a role in the decision making and the participants will win points on the basis of their knowledge regarding the knowledge of 'Kamasutra.'

Meanwhile, the



championship encourages people from different sexual orientations and affirms its respect for diversity. The organizers of the sex competition feel that sexual orientation can play a major role in the contest and influence the outcome of the matches.

While expressing their excitement over the event, the organizers of the sex competition revealed that the incorporation of sexual orientation as a part of sporting tactics would be a great development among European countries.

NIGERIAN FOOTBALLER AKINKUNMI AMOO JAILED FOR SEXUALLY ASSAULTING THREE WOMEN IN DENMARK

By Ngozi Ugoh

Former Golden Eaglets star and FC Copenhagen of Denmark forward Akinkunmi Amoo who was dubbed "Nigerian Messi" in the past, has bagged a one-year jail term after being found guilty of sexually assaulting three women by a Danish court.

Amoo was first apprehended on September 10, 2022, before he was re-

leased on bail on October 7, shortly after Danish authorities filed lawsuit charges against him.

Danish newspaper, Ekstra Bladet, reported that Amoo was sentenced by a Danish court on June 23, 2023.

While reporting the outcome of the footballer's trial, the newspaper wrote: "This is the outcome of the trial, which has been going on for most of June, where

a top player in Danish football has been charged with rape in a sexual relationship other than intercourse, as well as attempted rape and violations of two more women.

"It happens after he was found guilty of all three charges in the Copenhagen District Court by a dissenting magistrate on Friday afternoon, and it was a shaken man who received his sentence as he stood there

in the middle of the room and listened to the outcome.

"An unconditional prison sentence for one year. In the same case, the name ban in the case was extended because the defense and the convicted appealed the verdict on the spot. Ekstra Bladet protested against the continued name ban, but the court did not accept it."

Amoo will appeal the judgement.

Osimhen speaks after winning at Ghana Football Awards



Victor Osimhen

By Ngozi Ugoh

Super Eagles and Napoli striker, Victor Osimhen, has expressed his happiness at winning at the recent Ghana Football Awards.

Osimhen won the Best African International Award at the event by outdueling Riyad Mahrez and Mohamed Salah.

In a video that was shared on Twit-

ter after the event, Osimhen thanked everyone for their support and also thanked the organizers of the award for the recognition.

He said: "Hello everyone I'm Victor Osimhen, SSC Napoli striker. It's a great privilege for me to win this award it's really a great honour.

"Thank you to those who voted for me and their support

and major thanks to the organizers, Ghana Football Award for their love and support also I appreciate you for this recognition I'll keep making Africa proud.

"Thank you all and God bless you."

Osimhen helped Napoli win the league title in Italy for th first time since 1990.

He emerged top scorer with 26 goals,

and became the first-ever African to win the golden boot in the Italian topflight.

"Thank you all and God bless you."

Osimhen helped Napoli win the league title in Italy for th first time since 1990.

He emerged top scorer with 26 goals, and became the first-ever African to win the golden boot in the Italian topflight.

Encomiums As Invincible Delta Queens Win Nigeria Women's Football League

By Bunmi Akintilo

The Governor of Delta State, Sheriff Oborevwori has congratulated Delta Queens for winning the Nigeria Women's Football League, (NWFL) tournament dubbed Super 6. It was their first league crown since 2012 and their sixth overall.

Delta Queens defeated Bayelsa Queens 2-1 to emerge winners of the Super 6 Competition on June 11, inside the main bowl of the Stephen Keshi Stadium, Asaba.

By emerging champions of the Super 6 tournament, the Delta State girls have qualified to represent Nigeria in the forthcoming West African Football Union (WAFU) B Women's CAF Champions League qualifiers.

Oborevwori, who received the trophy from the victorious team, congratulated them for a hard fought victory.

He said that Delta was renowned for sports and urged the team to

prepare adequately for the continental tournament.

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Festus Ahon, the Governor described their brilliant performance at the championship as a manifestation of their super outing during the regular season where they topped group B with 26 points.

Oborevwori attributed the team's victory to hardwork, commitment and focus on the part of the management, the coaches and the players.

He assured that the State Government will continue to support the team to win more laurels for the State and the Country, especially now that it has qualified to represent Nigeria at the West African Football Union (WAFU) Zone B play-off for the second CAF African Women's Champions League.

Oborevwori said: "I congratulate the organisers for putting up such a quality tournament, where our darling team Delta Queens



emerged worthy champions.

"This victory is particularly sweet for me because we are winning it after 11 years. Therefore, on behalf of the Government and people of Delta, I congratulate our dear Delta Queens for making us proud again.

"As a State Government, we will continue to do everything possible to support the team to win

more laurels for the State and Country as they represent Nigeria in the CAF Champions League via a WAFU qualifying window in August," the Governor said.

Remarkably, Delta Queens won the Nigeria Women Football League for the first time in 12 years without a recording a loss.

Delta Queens coach, Tosan Blankson, had in a

post victory speech, said: "I want to thank the players first. We know that God is always there for everybody but I want to thank the players first for the intense pressure in the game. We have been preparing for the Super Six even before the end of the regular season. We knew we are playing the Super Six.

"These girls are all national team materials. I am short of words but I

give God all the glory for the victory. Don't be surprised at what you have seen in the regular season and Super Six is the same thing you would see during continental matches. Football is all about planning. If you fail to plan, you plan to fail. We knew the first half is going to be tough for us so we have to keep Chinaza outside. When she came in, she was fresh and gave us the desired goals."

QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 19

1. Answer C: Great Slave Lake. Located in the Northwest Territories Great Slave Lake is Canada's deepest lake. At 2,015 feet deep this Great Slave Lake is the 8th deepest lake in the world.

2. Answer C: Ontario. Wasaga Beach, located in Ontario is the world's longest freshwater beach with 14 kilometres of sandy shoreline.

3. Answer A: Mount Logan in Yukon is Canada's tallest mountain. It

is 5,995 metres high and is in Kluane National Park and Reserve

4. Answer A: Canada. Russia is the largest country in the world geographically speaking

5. Answer B: Sir Charles Tupper was Canada's shortest serving prime minister at 68 days. He was also the oldest person to become Prime Minister at 74 years of age.

6. Answer C: Viola Desmond, a black woman from Halifax who took

a stand for racial equality in a rural Nova Scotia movie theatre. It was 1946, and Viola Desmond caused a stir by refusing to move to a section of the theatre unofficially set aside for black patrons. Desmond was dragged out of the theatre and jailed.

7. Answer B: Maurice "Rocket" Richard played 18 seasons for the Montreal Canadiens from 1942 to 1960.

8. Answer C: 3. Canada has hosted the Summer Olympics in Montreal, Quebec in 1976 and the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta in 1988 and in Vancouver, British Columbia in 2010.

9. Answer D: There are 11 points on the Canadian flag's maple leaf.

10. Answer B: Beaver. The beaver became an official emblem of Canada in 1975 and has been featured on the Canadian nickel, postage stamps and several coat of arms.

11. Answer D: Though the maple leaf may be considered one of the most prominent symbols of Canada, it has not been adopted as an official symbol or emblem.

12. Answer D: A and B. Canada has two national sports. Our country's national winter sport is hockey and our national summer sport is lacrosse.

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RELIGION

The Characteristics of a Good Judge

By Pastor Amos Dada, PhD;
P.Eng.

"He (Jehoshaphat) appointed judges throughout the nation in all the fortified towns, and he said to them, "Always think carefully before pronouncing judgment. Remember that you do not judge to please people but to please the Lord. He will be with you when you render the verdict in each case. Fear the Lord and judge with integrity, for the Lord our God does not tolerate perverted justice, partiality, or the taking of bribes." (2 Chronicles 19:5-7)

In the Old Testament, before the Israelites asked for kings, the judge carried out what we know today as the functions of the three arms of government: the executive, the judiciary, and the legislature. From the time Moses led the children through the relocation from Egypt to the Promised Land, he was their judge. The job function was too heavy for him until his father-in-law guided him to delegate. Je-

thro counseled Moses to "select capable men from all the people - men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain - and appoint them as officials over thousands, hundreds, fifties, and tens" (Exodus 18:21).

In our generation, with a well-developed judiciary system, a lot of power is invested in the judiciary branch. They have the final say on many issues that the legislature, the executive, and the ordinary man have disputes about. Many years ago, they gave the ruling that made Canada embrace same-sex marriage. Recently, it was the use of cannabis. In the United States, they recently overturned the law that encourages abortion on the federal level. Currently, in Nigeria, there is a serious issue of determining the true winner of the February 25, 2023 elections.

Everyone is looking for justice. I agree there is a lot of pressure on the judiciary because even those who are in the wrong- who

stole, who killed- will want the judge to exonerate them. When condemned, they go from the lower court to appeal until they get to the Supreme Court!

The issue is, what is the moral burden on the judges? From Jethro to Jehoshaphat, the issue is who becomes a judge and how should they dispense justice?

A judge should be a person of high moral character. Being a judge should be more than just getting a law degree or having intellectual prowess. It requires the agility and ability to discipline one's self; a lot of confidentiality is involved. They cannot afford to be flippant with their words, even within their family. A judge must be a principled, diligent, honest personality and possess a high level of integrity. Jethro says it should be one "who fears God." It takes the fear of God not to pervert justice. Money is never enough for anybody. Rockefeller, the billionaire of those days, was asked why he

still chased money - what would one dollar more do for him?

Nobody feels that they have enough money. Politicians and people on the wrong side of justice exploit this weakness in men and knowing judges are human too, try to advance their cases with bribes. "And you shall take no bribe, for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of those who are in the right." Exodus 23:8. God specifically warns judges against taking bribes. Only a person of conviction and a high level of contentment will refuse to take a bribe.

How should a judge dispense justice?

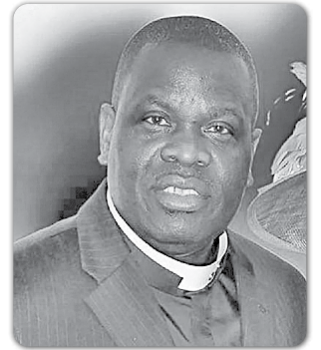
Jehoshaphat advises, "Remember that you do not judge to please people but to please the Lord." What he is saying is that you cannot please both sides, the plaintiff and the defendant, therefore, be truthful to your conscience and please God. Take, for instance, Nigerian politicians: when a ruling is in their favour,

they praise the judiciary to the high heavens, but when the judgment does not favour them, they criticize the judiciary and drag it to the mud. In our days with social media, may God help the judiciary to "please the Lord."

As we conclude I encourage you to reflect on wisdom of the ages on just judgement.

Socrates said, "Four things belong to a judge: to listen courteously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide impartially."

In 2002, The Right Honorable Lady Rose of Colmworth, of the courts of England and Wales, wrote with reference to the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct drafted for the International Judicial Group on Strengthening Judicial Integrity that there are six principles to guide them: judicial independence, impartiality, integrity, propriety and the appearance of propriety, equality of treatment to all before the courts, and competence and diligence.



Pastor Amos Dele Dada

Solomon said, "Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live." (Proverbs 15:27).

Amos Dele Dada said: Whether you sit as a judge in the court, school system, corporate world, marketplace, or church, be a righteous, responsible, fearless one, and never pervert justice because one day you will stand before God Almighty at the heavenly Supreme Court where there will be no appeal!

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. www.cacbethel.com www.igoeministry.com

Bible is banned in Utah after being deemed 'too vulgar or violent' for children

By Bunmi Akintilo

The Holy Bible has been banned by Utah school district for elementary and middle school students after it was deemed to be 'too vulgar' and 'too violent' for young readers.

The ban came after a parent in the district became frustrated by other efforts to ban books in schools.

Officials in the Davis district, a 72,000-student district north of Salt Lake City, removed the Bible from elementary and middle schools but will be kept in high schools.

A committee with the district reviewed The Good Book after a parent complained and district officials say the committee comprises parents, teachers, and administrators.

Also, there was a complaint to remove the Book of Mormon from younger students' libraries.

District spokesper-

son Chris Williams made it known that someone filed a review request for the Book of Mormon but did not reveal the reasons that were listed. He cited a school board privacy policy and did not reveal whether it was from the same person that complained about the Bible.

Williams stated that the district doesn't differentiate between requests to review books and doesn't consider if complaints may be submitted as satire. The reviews are handled by a committee comprising teachers, parents, and administrators in the conservative community.

The district has removed other titles like Sherman Alexie's 'The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian' and John Green's 'Looking for Alaska,' after a 2022 state law which required districts to include parents in decisions over what constitutes 'sensitive material.'

The committee's decision about the bible

Angry Mob Kills Butcher Over Alleged Blasphemy in Sokoto



By N.Ugoh

There was tension in Sokoto recently over alleged blasphemy of the holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (SAW) as Usman Buda, a butcher at Sokoto Abattoir, was killed by a

mob over the alleged blasphemy.

Police have however intervened and calmed the tension by commencing an investigation into the incident with a view to nab the perpetrators. While confirming the situation, Sokoto State

was published in an online database of review requests and did not talk more on its reasoning or which passages it found overly violent or vulgar.

The decision came as conservative parent activists, which include state-based chapters of the group Parents United, descend on school boards and statehouses in the United States, raising concern about how sex and violence are talked about in schools.

Owing to private policy of the district, it's unknown who initiated the request for the Bible to be banned from Davis schools or whether they are affiliated with any larger group.

A copy of the complaint received by The Salt Lake Tribune via a public records request reveals that the parent stated that the Bible contains cases of incest, prostitution and rape. The complaint derided a 'bad faith

process' and stated that the district was "ceding our children's education, First Amendment Rights, and library access" to Parents United. 'Utah Parents United left off one of the most sex-ridden books around: The Bible,' the parent's complaint, dated Dec. 11, said. It later went on to add, 'You'll no doubt find that the Bible (under state law) has no serious values for minors' because it's

Police Command's acting Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Ahmad Rufai, said: "Following alleged blasphemy of the holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW), one Usman Buda 'M' of Gwandu LGA, a Butcher at Sokoto Abattoir was mobbed.

"Usman Buda was attacked by some Muslim faithful and inflicted serious injuries on him.

"Upon receiving the information, the Commissioner of Police, Area Commander Metro and DPO Kwanni led a team of policemen and all other operational commanders to the scene.

"On arrival, the mob

escaped the scene and left the victim unconscious where he was rescued and taken to Usman Danfodio Teaching Hospital Sokoto (UDUTH) for treatment and was later confirmed dead at the hospital.

"As I am speaking with you, the situation is under control. Investigation is on to arrest the perpetrators and bring them to book."

The ASP added that the Commissioner of Police, Sokoto State Command, Ali Hayatu Kaigama, urged residents of the state to go about their lawful activities and should not panic as the situation was under control.

pornographic by our new definition."

Williams said: "The review committee determined the Bible didn't qualify under Utah's definition of what's pornographic or indecent, which is why it remains in high schools. The committee can make its own decisions under the new 2022 state law and has applied different standards based on students' ages in response to multiple challenges."

SHARE A PROBLEM - PAGE 9

through your years of struggles and now.

God knew all about your pains hence dotted your path in life with people to help you realise His plans for you. He never included your parents among those to help you succeed. Their role in your life was only to give birth to you, carry you from heaven into the world.

What you should never forget is that those things, which are not included in the plans of God for His children, no matter how much we desire them, will never happen. Your parents didn't have any reason to hate or reject you. If you ask them now, they

will never be able to explain their indifference to you and your sister. They simply did it to fulfill the plans, which God has for you and your sister.

Your brother was the only one God wanted them to train. The situation in your family is meant to teach you and others lessons, an important one, that all children should be given the same level grounds by parents because nobody, except God knows which child would turn out to be useful in life.

Not to forgive your parents is to tell God that He made a huge mistake with you, that all the while

He was catering for your needs through the people He blessed you with, He was simply wasting time on you.

Showing love where there was once hatred is the only way to make complete God's reasons for doing what He did in your family. Your parents have to learn this lesson too, because nobody can tell the story better than the victim of a crime. You have to show them the unconditional love and mercy in your relationship with God.

Being a Christian without demonstrating the attitude and attributes of God is an empty jour-

ney. Why do you still hold grudge when God has blessed you beyond curse, raised you above condemnation, displaced the plans of man in your life?

Why are you still resentful when God has vindicated you above powers and principalities, favoured you even beyond your imagination? The God you serve is a one that strives in Love and specialises in absolute forgiveness and complete justice. Why else would He allow this happen, if not to humble your parents before you?

Can you imagine their shame, disgrace and pains of having the child they invested so much on, placed all their hopes in, selling their home and exposing them to this humiliating experience in their old age?

They can't come to beg you; the embarrassment would be too much for them, hence the interventions of the elders.

If for nothing else, consider this uncle who with his wife, always supported you like their own. Think of the grace of your wife and family? God has never for once left you to suffer, so you have no reason to be bitter.

Even if you don't go to them, provide everything they need to be happy and comfortable within your means, else should they die before you forgive them, you would never be able to forgive yourself later in life. You may not suffer any repercussion whatsoever but, the conscience would never allow you be at perfect peace. Don't, through your own folly, rob yourself of the peace and happiness you enjoy today.

Think, were your children to abandon you to fate, how would you feel? It may look impossible but, it can happen if that is the way God designed your end to be.

So make sure you provide your parents with a roof of their own. It is the least you can do for all the favours God has bestowed on you.

There is no way you can fight your own battle and win. Continue to hand over your battles in life to God because it is the only way you can continue to be on top of your enemies as well as situations in life. Hard as this appears, give yourself to God through prayers and He would provide you the grace to do right thing. Remember the fifth commandment, which says, "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). This is what, He is demanding of you: honour your father and mother irrespective of what they did to you in the past!

Good luck.

A HOLE IN MY HEART - PAGE 9

used to the school"

Second term, Lizzy seemed not to understand any of the teachers nor their subjects.

"I don't understand what is going on" She complained to her father.

"Whenever the teachers are teaching, it's like I am not present in the class. I only seem to be present when class is over" She said gloomily.

"It's alright angel. We will see what we can do."

So whenever Patrick was home, he would assist Lizzy in her studies and she seems to understand, but during exams, Lizzy forgets everything she learnt. The question seems weird. She began to do poorly in school and the couple decided to visit the school. They explained to the school administrator and they requested that the teachers should not abandon her, because she is not dull.

"Maybe it has to do with their methods of teaching. She has never come second position in her former school". Patrick told the school administrator.

"Well, I don't know whether to believe you or not. What changed?. Are you saying the school is not doing well?"

"No, no!, That is not..."

"Please, this school has a reputation for good quality education. We have never failed in terms of good delivery. From what I can say, tell your daughter to sit up"

"Alright"

They left the school more disappointed than they came.

Now Lizzy is in her final year and still not performing well. Her parents can't even say what the problem is.

Lizzy herself never gave up, she study day and night. She's not a lazy student but she doesn't understand why she's not among the first five in her class.

Her friends do tell her she's intelligent.

"You're not dull. Maybe there's more competition here than where you're coming from"

Lizzy believed them. The top five in her class are brilliant and everyone knows it.

"I will just try to continue doing my best" she told herself.

Lizzy sat in class with 23 other students as the teacher explained a topic.

She was not listening to the teacher. Her focus was on Tunde. They locked eyes and smiled. Tunde likes Lizzy and he told her so. Since he joined the school two terms ago, they had been inseparable. He was from a well to do family, so he comes to school with money.

The day he told Lizzy she was beautiful, she had gone home and stood before the standing mirror in her parents room. No one had told her she was beautiful, not even her parents. Her parents had never used the word "I love you" before, even though she knew they love her.

Lizzy stood before the mirror admiring herself. She touched her face. From that day she began to frequently used the mirror. Before going to school, she ensures she is well dressed. Over the time she became fond of Tunde.

Everyday, she looks forward to break where she will be alone with him and he will begin to tell her things.

She winked at Tunde and then looked at the English teacher who was already going out of the class.

Tunde held her hands as they walked out of the class. He bought her snacks and they returned to the class. They sat together on one of the desks in the class. Then he quickly rushed to his bag and she watched him smiling.

"What is it?" She asked in a low tone.

Tunde did not respond to her question but smiled

more as he kept rummaging his school bag. He brought out an expensive wrist watch which he handed to Lizzy.

"It's for you" Lizzy admired the wrist-watch then handed it back to him.

"It's for you, take it" "I..I.. can't take it. My parents will ask me where I got it from and you know I can't lie"

Tunde looked at her dumbfounded.

"You are a big girl Lizzy. There are places in your room you can hide it. You wear it when you leave home"

"I can't do that. My siblings will see it and talk"

"Aaah!, My parents don't even do that. They don't have time to start checking what we wear or ask questions. They don't have time for such".

Lizzy laughed.

"My parents are very busy, but no matter how busy my parents are, my mother especially goes through my stuff. She must not find anything she didn't buy for us or we will have enough explanation to give"

Tunde was defeated, so he returned the wristwatch to his bag.

"Do you like me?" He asked suddenly.

"Of course I do!" She said.

"I want us to be close" "We are. Ain't we friends?" She asked.

"I mean closer. Inseparable"

Lizzy laughed.

"I mean it"

"Alright"

"We will study together and visit each other at home" he told her. "You're now my best friend"

"Everyone knows we're friends. Alright I agree."

Both of them left the classroom to join others for break.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit

TO BE CONTINUED.

YOUTH ANSWERS - PAGE 19

BRAIN GAME: 4, 6, 12, 68, 72

VERBAL REASONING:

1. form and maid
2. wish and hour
3. kite and entrance
4. silk and kite
5. blanket and team
6. meddle and enlarge
7. lady and yard
8. roar and road
9. each and ham
10. love and embrace

QUANTITATIVE APTITUDE

$\frac{7^2}{6^2} \rightarrow 8$	$\frac{11^2}{3^2} \rightarrow 13$	$\frac{5^2}{10^2} \rightarrow 12$
$\frac{6^2}{1^2} \rightarrow 3$	$\frac{3^2}{4^2} \rightarrow 2$	$\frac{9^2}{9^2} \rightarrow 16$
$\frac{8^2}{4^2} \rightarrow 8$		

WORD SEARCH

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