

GENIUS:
Nigerian Boy, 12, creates
new Mathematical
Formula

**2 guilty of
killing
JAM
MASTER
JAY**



**UK Tik Tok influencer
conquers T&T's
notorious Laventille**

**PEETAH MORGAN:
a life well lived**





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Conquering 'de Hill'

British Tik Tok influencer braves Trinidad's most notorious neighbourhood

Social media is abuzz after British solo traveller and TikTok travel-content creator Zoë Reeve spent an afternoon in the hills of Laventille.

Although it was unimaginable to some, Reeve is not unfamiliar with spur-of-the-moment adventures like that.

She visited Trinidad in 2015 and spent time with a family in Moruga.

Reeve grew up in Surrey, a county in south-east England, and her parents travelled almost annually. In an interview with Newsday, she recalled a trip when she was around 14 and her family stayed at a resort in Turkey.

"I remember always being really curious. We went to Turkey this one time, and it was a resort, and I was like, 'Please, please can we leave the resort? Can we please? I just want to see what's outside.'

"Even from a young age I was always really curious about what was going on in those countries, so I always pictured that when I got older, I would travel without my parents and well... that's what happened," she laughed.

Her first solo trip was at 19, while she was studying at Queen Mary University of London for a degree in Spanish and French. She also worked during the summer break at the Wimbledon tennis tournaments, where she earned £1,000. With her university expenses covered by student loans, she was initially unsure what she would do, having that amount of money for the first time. She eventually decided to take her first trip to Jamaica, for two weeks.

"I wanted to go to Jamaica because I was at university in London and there were dancehall parties and Caribbean culture, so I wanted to experience where dancehall music comes from.

"So I bought a flight to Jamaica. I didn't really tell anyone before doing it, I just did it and it took up most of the £1,000. So I was like, 'What am I actually going to do when I get there?' Because I used most of the money for the flight."

Thinking of the budget constraints, she took to the internet to seek out options to reduce costs.



Zoë Reeve poses for a photo in the heart of Laventille

"I read about this website called Couchsurfing where you can sleep on people's couches for free because there's a cultural exchange."

Using the site, she found a family who lived in the hills of Jamaica who were willing to host her. After connecting through the website, she had an introductory video chat with them ahead of her trip.

While her parents were supportive, other people warned her, telling her it would be dangerous to travel alone in a foreign country.

But Reeve said, "That trip to Jamaica really kick-started everything. The contrast between what everyone told me and what actually happened was just like so big that I was like, 'People need to know that they were wrong.' That's when I started writing blog posts."

On her latest visit to Trinidad, she met up with a TikTok follower and spent the day with him in the hills of Laventille. While most locals would not visit the area because of safety concerns, Reeve was up for the adventure.

She does not ignore potential safety risks.

"I do research the crime rate before I go to a country, and I read newspaper articles too, because it helps you to understand what the statistics really mean."

Her video documenting the day has drawn a variety of reactions. Some commended her bravery, saying they had never been into the area despite having lived in Trinidad for their entire lives, with one person saying, "I didn't even know there was a fort in Laventille."

Is my friend truly a Friend?

Q: Dear Di, I need your advice on a situation I am currently in with a friend and I am not sure if I can trust him since every time he comes around it always ends in drama. At this point, I am not sure if I want him in my life since I just found out that he is married. It is a marriage of convenience or so he says. I do not want to hurt anyone especially myself, what do you suggest? Thank you. – D.A.

A: Dear D.A.,

Friendship can be a beautiful and rewarding aspect of life, but it can also bring complications and uncertainties, especially when trust is called into question and when the unexpected comes to light. Your concern about the recurring drama surrounding your friend's presence, together with the discovery of their marriage, as am I sure has left you feeling confused, conflicted, and unsure of how to proceed without causing harm or hurt to yourself or others.

Trust is the foundation of any meaningful relationship whether it is personal, family, or even in business by offering a sense of security, openness, and mutual understanding. It is a delicate bond that in my mind does require nurturing and maintenance, and it is built upon a foundation of honesty and reliability. When you reflect on your interactions with your friend, it is important to consider whether their presence consistently adds joy and positivity to your life or if it tends to bring about tension and the big "D" i.e. DRAMA. If you find yourself feeling drained or even restless after spending time with them, I can guarantee you that it may be a sign that the relationship is simply not a healthy one. I have experienced it through my life with friends both male and female that I trusted completely and let us just say that I had to learn the hard way to simply end ties with them. Let me say that it was not easy because it is not who I am.

The not knowing of your friend's marital status adds another layer of complication to the situation. Marriage is deeply personal and it is supposed to signify commitment, symbolizing love, partnership, and shared responsibility. Learning that your friend's marriage is one of convenience may leave you feeling uncertain about the sincerity of their intentions and

anxious, stressed, or uncertain about the dynamics of your relationship with your friend, it is important to honor those feelings and prioritize your own emotional well-being. You deserve to surround yourself with people who uplift and inspire you, bringing out the best in you and nurturing your sense of



the depth of their commitment to honesty and integrity. While it is natural to feel surprised or even hurt by this discovery, it is important to approach the situation with compassion and understanding, recognizing that everyone's circumstances are unique and complex. Maybe they are looking for a friend to talk to and it just got very deep.

Now, let us take a moment to consider how this friendship makes you feel. Friendship should be a source of comfort, support, and joy, enriching your life in meaningful ways. If you find yourself feeling



Presents

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way street, requiring both parties to listen with an open heart and mind. Listen to both sides, theirs and yours. When someone makes you feel good in a way that you feel comforted and they know all the right words to say, let us face it you are human.

Ultimately, the decision of whether to continue the friendship lies within your own heart. Trust your instincts and honor and respect your feelings, by recognizing that you have the right to put your own happiness and well-being first. Surround yourself with people who bring out the best in you and support you in your journey towards personal growth and fulfillment. Remember that you are worthy of love, respect, and genuine connection, and do not be afraid to set boundaries or make difficult decisions if necessary.

In closing, I want to reassure you that you are not alone in facing these challenges. Reach out to "trusted" friends and not those that will bash your character if there are any issues between you both, and family members I am not sure because if they a judgemental then that is not what you need however if they are super supportive then great, or counselors for support and guidance as you navigate this difficult time. Remember that you were not aware of his other life. Trust that you have the strength and resilience to overcome any obstacles that come your way, and know that brighter days are ahead. Take care of yourself, dear D.A., and remember to be gentle and kind to yourself as you move forward on your journey.

With warmth and compassion,
Di

You can contact Di by forwarding your questions to info@TheExperientialCoach.com.



Madonna had included an image of Luther Vandross in her tribute performance of “Live to Tell”

Leave Luther Out!

Madonna told to remove Vandross image from her tribute

Madonna has honored a request from the estate of the late R&B singer Luther Vandross.

The singer has removed an image of Vandross from her tribute performance of “Live to Tell” in her “Celebration Tour” that includes a visual montage of artists such as Freddy Mercury, Keith Haring and others who died of AIDS related complications, representatives for Madonna told Entertainment Weekly.

After Vandross was included in the montage during a performance in California this month, the estate reportedly reached out to Madonna’s tour team to ask for a correction.

“Luther Vandross passed away in 2005 due to complications from a stroke suffered two years earlier,” a representative for his estate said in a statement to Page Six. “While we appreciate Madonna’s recognition of those lives lost to AIDS, Luther was NEVER diagnosed with AIDS or the HIV Virus.”

A documentary titled “Luther: Never Too Much” premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January.

Diddy sued for sexual harassment

A former employee of Sean “Diddy” Combs has filed a lawsuit against the producer and businessman, accusing him of sexual assault, sexual harassment and “grooming.”

Rodney “Lil Rod” Jones, a former producer and videographer for Combs, filed his civil complaint in New York federal court on Monday. He states he worked for and traveled with Combs between 2022 - 2023, while collaborating with Combs on his most recent album, “Love.”

Among other allegations, Jones claims that Combs did not compensate him for his music producing work, forced him to procure and interact with sex workers, threatened him and served alcoholic beverages laced with drugs to guests at parties at his homes. Combs’ chief of staff, Kristina Khorram; Universal Music Group CEO Sir Lucian Grainge; former Motown CEO Ethiopia Habtemariam; and Combs’ adult son, Justin, are also named

as defendants.

Justin Combs is accused of soliciting prostitutes and underage girls to attend parties at his father’s homes. Khorram allegedly ordered prostitutes and illicit drugs for Combs and his guests and according to the lawsuit, Jones believed Khorram “aided and abetted” Combs’ sexual assault. Grainge and Habtemariam, according to the lawsuit, “sponsored and attended several” listening parties for the “Love” album at Combs’ Los Angeles home, and “knew or should have known that Mr. Combs was drugging the attendees through laced bottles of DeLeon Tequila, and Ciroc Vodka.”

As sponsors of these events, the lawsuit states Grainge and Habtemariam “had a duty and obligation to ensure that sex workers and underaged girls were not present, and that Mr. Combs was not spiking the alcohol with date rape drugs.”

Jones is seeking \$30 million.

20 years for Justice

Childhood friend of rapper Jam Master Jay among 2 guilty of his murder

Two men were found guilty of murder on February 27 in the 2002 killing of Jam Master Jay, the pioneering DJ of the groundbreaking hip hop trio Run-DMC, in a case that for decades frustrated detectives and music fans alike.

Ronald Washington, Jay's childhood friend, and Karl Jordan Jr., Jay's godson, were convicted of murder while engaged in narcotics trafficking and firearm-related murder.

A fight nearly broke out in the courtroom after the verdict was announced. "Y'all just killed some innocent people. Get me outta here," Washington said as he got out of his seat. Jordan looked at his supporters and said "I love y'all." Their supporters began shouting as both men were rushed out of the courtroom.

Carlis Thompson, Jay's cousin, praised the verdict outside court but lamented that many family members did not live to see this day.

"It's definitely a long time coming. Justice delayed is not always justice denied," he said. "Jason himself was an amazing talent. Life ended far, far too soon, and I'm just glad that justice was served."

Jordan, 40, and Washington, 59, each face a sentence of 20 years to life in prison.

The verdict comes more than 20 years after Jam Master Jay, born Jason Mizell, was fatally shot at a recording studio in Jamaica, Queens, on October 30, 2002. For years, no one was arrested in the killing, leaving one of the most shocking shootings in music history unsolved.

Finally, in August 2020, the US attorney for the Eastern District of New York unsealed a criminal indictment alleging Washington and Jordan conspired to kill Jam Master Jay in retaliation for a drug dispute.

A third defendant, Jay Bryant, was charged in May 2023 with murder while engaged in narcotics trafficking and firearm-related murder, as prosecutors allege he allowed the defendants to enter the studio through the fire escape door. Bryant has pleaded not guilty and is set to go on trial separately in January 2026.

The trial, which began last month, was highlighted by testimony from witnesses who identified the defendants as the killers.

One witness who was at the recording studio that night testified Washington and Jordan came in armed and that Jordan shot Jam Master Jay in the head. The witness, Uriel Rincon, said he had kept the attackers' identities se-



Jam Master Jay was a member of the legendary rap group Run DMC

cret because he was "confused and scared," according to WABC.

"It's about greed. It's about money. It's about jealousy," Assistant US Attorney Artie McConnell said in the prosecution's closing arguments. "And it's about the actions of two men, Karl Jordan Jr., and Ronald Washington, that the evidence proves are killers."

However, defense attorneys said in closing arguments that the real killer was Bryant. A hat found next to Jam Master Jay's body contained only Bryant's DNA, and Bryant was the only defendant seen on a security camera, according to the attorneys.

"Jay Bryant is literally reasonable doubt in this case," said Michael Hueston, Jordan's attorney.

"This is an attempt to make a mockery of the judicial system. They know who killed Jam Master Jay. They know it was Jay Bryant," said Susan Kellman, Washington's attorney. "They have no case against anybody except Jay Bryant."

Breon Peace, the US attorney for the Eastern District of New York, praised the witnesses' bravery in testifying.

"It's no mystery why it took years to indict and arrest the defendants," he said. "The witnesses in the recording studio knew the killers, and they were terrified that they'd be retaliated against if they cooperated with law enforcement and identified the ruthless executioners of Mr. Mizell. But their strength and resolve in testifying at this trial were a triumph of right over wrong and courage over fear."

In bringing the charges, the prosecution also undermined Jam Master Jay's public image as a drug-free rapper. He and Run-DMC had publicly stated their opposition to drugs, even recording a "Say No To Drugs" public service announcement. But in court, prosecutors said Jay was involved in arranging for the sale of large amounts of cocaine between the 1990s and 2002, and that a dispute between Jay, Washington and Jordan over a drug deal worth almost \$200,000 led to the murder.

More \$\$ for Disney, again



Starting 2025, a day at the Orlando Theme Park is going to cost you \$119 per person

Walt Disney World has put 2025 tickets on sale, and prices for many tickets have gone up from 2024 pricing.

Some of the lowest single-day, single-park ticket prices have gone up by \$10 for 2025.

For example, some late-August weekday tickets at Disney's Animal Kingdom have gone from \$109 for 2024 tickets to \$119 for 2025.

Other single-day tickets for different parks during different periods are also showing increases over many 2024 prices.

For example, on a Saturday in late April when demand is high, Animal Kingdom is \$169 in 2025, up from \$164 in 2024.

Magic Kingdom also rose by \$5, from \$184 to \$189, on that same



Animal Kingdom is one of the parks offered at DisneyWorld

weekend day in late April.

The maximum single-day, single-park ticket published price for 2025 is \$189 as of February 27. That's the same as the peak price in

2024. Ticket prices for November and December 2025 were not yet available as of February 27.

Prices on the Park Hopper options that allow guests to visit mul-

iple parks on the same day have also gone up by about \$5 to \$10 for many dates in 2025.

This isn't the first price hike at Disney parks in recent years.

Two increases were implemented in 2022 at Walt Disney World. Disneyland has also increased prices more than once recently.

The way Walt Disney World is rolling out its latest price changes is new, according to Don Munsil, who runs the travel website MouseSavers.com.

"This new strategy is interesting, because all the 2024 prices remained unchanged."

He added that Disney could still choose to raise 2024 prices.

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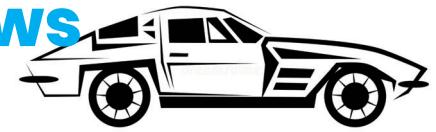
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Photo Gallery by Milan Maharaj

an Auto Show 2024



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A tricked-out Nissan S15 Silvia



Mercedes SLR HDK by McLaren



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Volvo came strong with its electric XC90

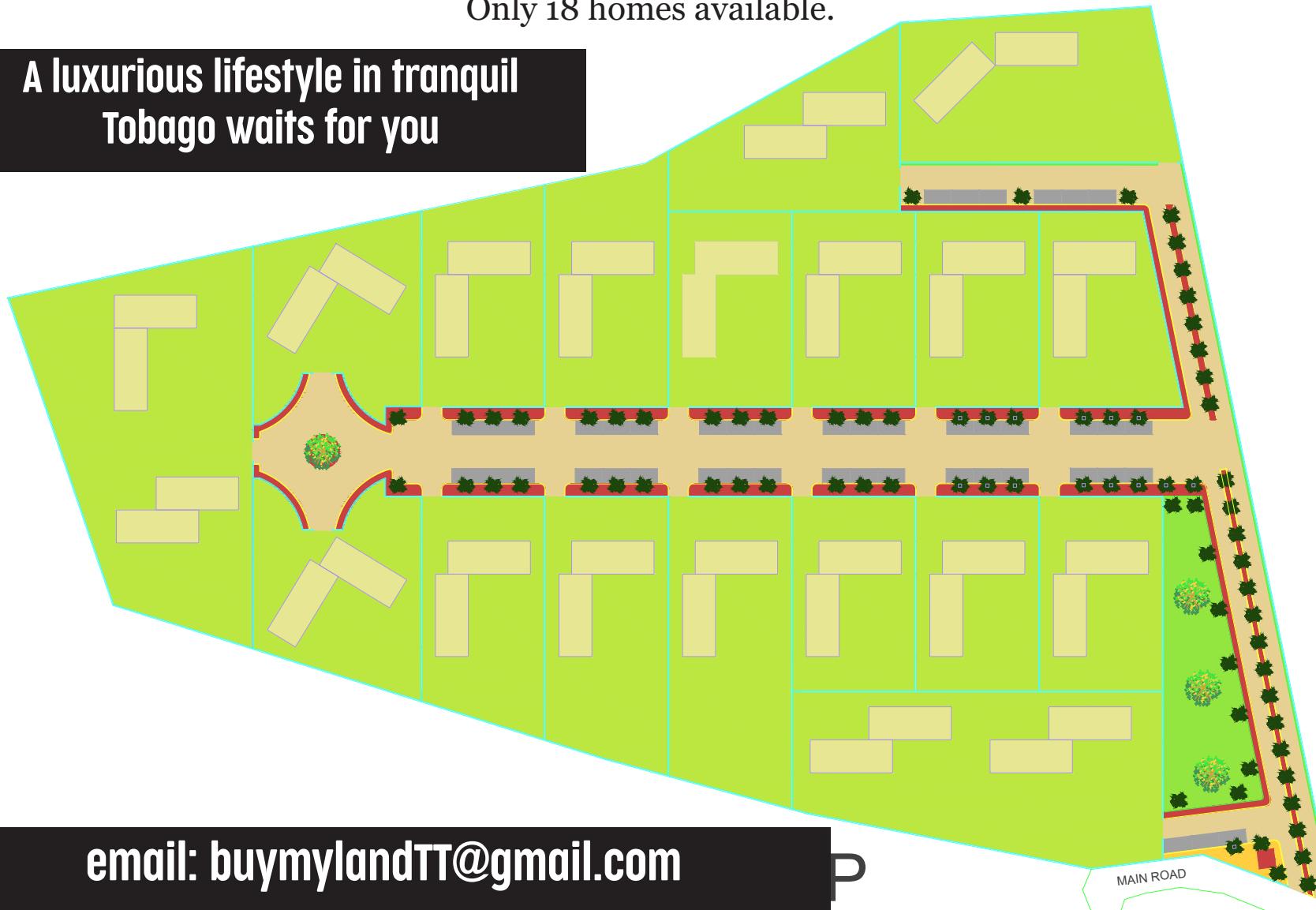
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Non-stop Jammin'

Portmore to become Jamaica's first 24-hour entertainment zone

Jamworld Entertainment Center in Portmore, the venue famous for being the home of the famous reggae and dancehall show STING, will become the island's first 24-hour entertainment zone.

This is according to Governor-General Patrick Allen, who made the announcement during the ceremonial opening of the 2024/2025 session of Parliament on February 22.

According to Allen, the center is currently being renovated and will serve "to address the need for designated entertainment areas."

In 2022, Culture and Entertainment Minister Olivia "Babsy" Grange revealed that the government acquired the entertainment Center.

According to Grange then, plans were being put in place to turn the 70-acre site into a state-of-the-art facility.

"It will be built out as one of the greatest entertainment complexes that you will find in this hemisphere," she said.

That year, STING took place at the Grizzly's Plantation Cove in St. Ann, but returned to Jamworld Entertainment Center last year.

Over the last several years, Minister Grange has spoken of her plans to establish several entertainment zones across the island.

Independence Park in Kingston, Trelawny Stadium, the Port Royal Entertainment Zone, including Fort Rocky and Fort Charles, as well as Seville Heritage Park in St. Ann, were previously named as venues that would become entertainment zones.

Minister Grange highlighted that entertainment zones and specific event spaces for music, dance, religious festivals, and celebrations will



Jamzone at Portmore: Jamaica's first non-stop entertainment zone

provide a special place where aspects of Jamaican culture can be celebrated. She noted that the Ministry of Tourism's research has found that tourists flock to Jamaica to partake in these aspects of the culture.

"This is not sun, sea, and sand only but a place of realness that the Ministry of Tourism's own study has found that tourists crave in their sojourns to Jamaica," she said.

Lime Magazine published in Canada by
The Independent Media Group
Publisher
RAYNIER MAHARAJ
Editor
MILAN MAHARAJ
Digital Manager
STEVE NITE
email: independentnewspaper@aol.com
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A glimmer of Hope

Possibility of retrial looms following Vybz Kartel appeal hearing

The possibility of a retrial in the Vybz Kartel murder case now looms following day two of the Privy Council appeal hearing for the dancehall artiste and his three co-convicts.

Vybz Kartel, whose given name is Adidja Palmer; Shawn 'Shawn Storm' Campbell; Kahira Jones; and Andre St John were convicted in March 2014 of the murder of Clive 'Lizard' Williams.

Just like day one, day two of the hearing in London remained focused on the issue of jury tampering. Both sides continued to argue whether Livingston Caine, the juror convicted of attempting to sway the jury foreman with a \$500,000 bribe to secure a not-guilty verdict, should have been removed from the panel.

Had Caine been dismissed, it would have necessitated a restart of the trial, a prospect the prosecution, represented by King's Counsel Peter Knox, deemed challenging given the trial's already lengthy duration.

Knox contended that there was minimal risk of bias influencing the verdict, citing overwhelming evidence against the appellants. He highlighted various pieces of evidence, including incriminating audio recordings of Vybz Kartel and text messages from the deceased, and reported damage to Palmer's residence, where the murder allegedly occurred.

In the event of convictions being overturned, the prosecution expressed its desire for a retrial, emphasizing the importance of considering the decisions made by the Jamaican Court of Appeal, which is most familiar with the Jamaican legal system.

However, King's Counsel Hugh Southey, representing the appellants, countered the notion of a retrial, asserting that the passage of time and the high-profile nature of the case have made a fair trial unfeasible.

"Those difficulties have not diminished, they have become greater because of passage of time. This is something that is now high profile. In our submission, that submission supports our argument that there is no point remitting this ... because a fair trial is now very difficult, impossible, we would submit," Southey said.

Isat Buchanan, another attorney for the appellants, emphasized their pursuit to overturn the men's convictions.

"There's no remedy, no consideration for a retrial or a second chance," he affirmed.

The decision from the Privy Council is expected to be delivered in 12 weeks.



Alia Bhatt is one of the prominent victims of AI-generated deepfakes

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Peetah bows out

Lead singer of Jamaica's Grammy-award winning group Morgan Heritage passes away

Peter "Peetah" Morgan, the lead singer of Grammy-award-winning reggae band Morgan Heritage, has died.

The singer died on February 25, according to a statement issued by the band.

"It is out of sincere love that we share that our beloved husband, father, son, and brother and lead singer of Morgan Heritage Peter Anthony Morgan has ascended today," the group said.

"Our family thanks you in advance for your overwhelming love and support, and we ask your continued prayers as we go through this process. We also ask that you please respect our privacy during this time of healing."

The group did not disclose Peter's cause of death. He was 46 years old.

Peter Morgan was one of Jamaican singer Denroy Morgan's over twenty children. He was born on July 11, 1977 in Brooklyn, the New York City borough that has been home to thousands of Jamaicans since the 1960s.

Morgan Heritage was formed in 1994 by five Morgan siblings. They were subsequently signed by MCA and released their debut album *Miracles* the same year.

After the release of *Miracles*, the family moved to Denroy's homeland of Jamaica.

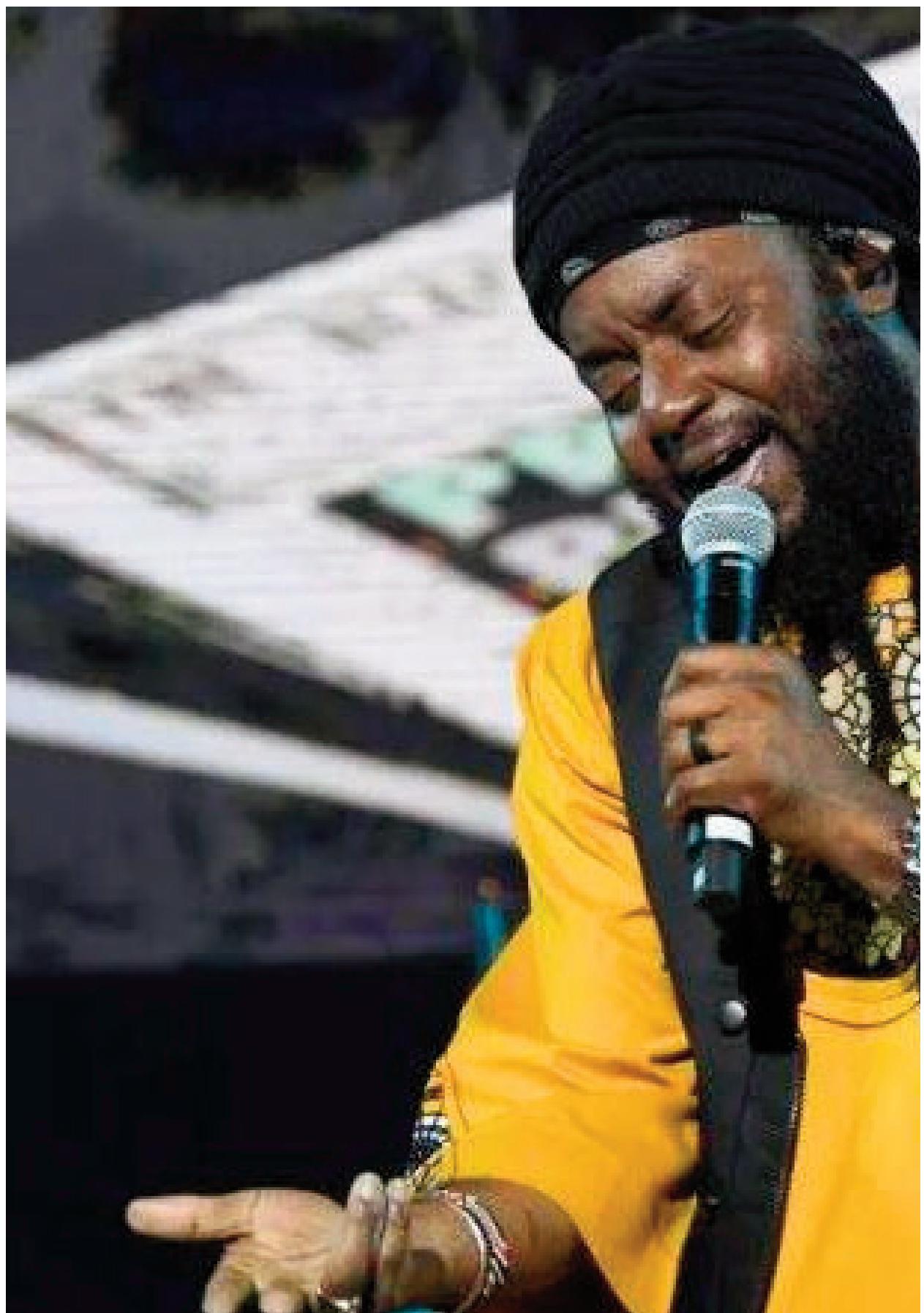
In the years following, Una Morgan and Nakhamyah "Lukes" Morgan left the group, leaving Peter, Roy "Gramps" Morgan, and Memmalatel "Mr. Mojo" Morgan.

They successfully worked on group and individual projects.

Morgan Heritage was nominated for two Grammy Awards throughout their career. Their 2015 album *Strictly Roots* won the Grammy Award in the Best Reggae Album category in 2016. The band later released the album *Avrakedabra*, which was nominated for another Grammy in 2018.

Peter Morgan's unmistakable voice has been at the forefront of Morgan Heritage's journey for three decades, steering the group through some of the most significant anthems in modern roots-reggae.

From timeless tracks like "Don't Haffi Dread (To Be Rasta)" to soulful melodies like "Down by the River" and "She's Still Loving Me," his vocal prowess has left an indelible mark on reggae music.



Peter Morgan: led the Morgan Heritage to two Grammy awards

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness wrote on the X social media platform that his "heart is heavy" over the news. "I send my deep

condolences to the Morgan family as they grieve this tremendous loss which is also a colossal loss for Jamaica and for Reggae Music."



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Star with a Cause

Bollywood icon Alia Bhatt tackles Hollywood — and elephant poaching

Alia Bhatt's superstar appeal cannot be overstated.

At the age of 30, she has become a megastar in Bollywood. For certain people she's one of the hottest names out there.

If you're not into Indian films, you might not have come across her - until recently, that is.

Last year, Bhatt made her Hollywood debut. All of a sudden, she was introduced to a global audience.

Now, she's backing a new drama series about wildlife crime.

"People have the power to make a difference, whether it's in this industry or any other," she says.

Bhatt was born into a Bollywood family, to a film-maker father, Mahesh Bhatt, and an actress mother, Soni Razdan.

Razdan was born in Birmingham, England, and Bhatt, though born in India, describes herself as British.

In an interview with *Wired* last year, she answered the most googled questions about her, one of which was: "Is she British?" Bhatt responded with a resounding yes.

Bhatt had her first leading role at the age of 18, and has starred in dozens of Hindi films since then.

She lives in Mumbai with her actor husband, Ranbir Kapoor, and their one-year-old daughter.

The pair are one of Bollywood's power couples. It's an industry that has always been ruled by family dynasties.

Bhatt starred in 2023 romantic comedy *Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani*, which was a smash hit at the box office.

Weeks later, she appeared alongside Wonder Woman actress Gal Gadot and 50 Shades actor Jamie Dornan in Netflix's *Heart of Stone*, which got mixed reviews.

She's not the first Bollywood star to break through to Hollywood - others such as Priyanka Chopra have as well.

But not all of them have. Shah Rukh Khan, also known as the "King of Bollywood", has never ventured into Hollywood despite having fans around the world. At an event in Dubai last week, he said he had to "learn to deliver to the audience that likes me, instead of spreading myself too thin".

When we meet, Bhatt was in London to attend a preview of *Poacher*, the new crime drama series she is executive producing. Based on true events, the series tells the story of the largest ivory poaching ring in India.



Alia Bhatt: taking Hollywood by storm

A worldwide ban on ivory sales came into effect in 1989. But elephant poaching is still a major problem globally, fuelled by demand for ivory in parts of the world where it is seen as a luxury status symbol.

More than 40 elephants a day are killed for their tusks, according to a 2020 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Bhatt, who is an animal lover, was asked to get involved in the series by its director Richie Mehta.

"He showed me a couple of episodes, and I wanted more," she says. "I'm just a lover of cinema or content in general that has the power to influence and really move you emotionally and

physically."

This is not the first time Bhatt has lent her voice to the cause of sustainability and conservation.

She has launched her own sustainable clothing brand, and last year she earned praise for re-wearing her wedding saree. She has also championed animal welfare before.

"We have to somehow as a society create our own conscience, things we want to passionately speak about, passionately support," she says.

"I've always said I don't have the answers but I have the questions," she adds. "I'm not saying I do everything right, but there's something within me that wants to know more."

PHOENIX

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Math Genius

Nigerian boy in UK creates new mathematical formula

A young Nigerian boy based in the United Kingdom, Chika Ofili, made a historical discovery in Mathematics by creating a new mathematical formula to make the study of mathematics easier to understand.

Chika's discovery proved that, if one takes the last digit of any whole number, multiplies such by 5 and then adds the result to the remaining part of the number, you will get a whole new number. This new theory by the young smart Nigerian has been subjected to credible tests and it proved positive.

Chika's Mathematics teacher, Miss Mary Ellis who doubles as the head of the Math department at Westminster Under School, revealed that he made the discovery during a holiday assignment. She added further that, she gave out a book-themed "First Steps for Problem Solvers" which contained several divisibility tests to check if numbers are divisible by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 or 9 before completing full math problems.

According to her, Chika discovered a flaw in the book's lack of a memorable test for dividing by 7 and went on to develop his own formula that best solves that problem. This significant contribution to STEM has earned him a TruLittle Hero Award in the United Kingdom. Apart from the award, the young genius was asked to demonstrate his discovery in front of the entire school faculty, which he did flawlessly.

Chika's Test
to test for divisibility by 7

Multiply the last digit by 5 and add it to the remaining number

For example, take the number 532

$$53 + 2 \times 5 = 63$$

63 is a multiple of 7, so 532 is a multiple of 7.

Or take the number 987

$$98 + 7 \times 5 = 133$$

$$13 + 3 \times 5 = 28$$

28 is a multiple of 7, so both 133 and 987 are multiples of 7.

If you keep going, you will always end up with a multiple of 7 if the original number is a multiple of 7.

Take the number 2996

$$299 + 6 \times 5 = 329$$

$$32 + 9 \times 5 = 77$$

$$7 + 7 \times 5 = 42$$

$$4 + 2 \times 5 = 14$$

$$1 + 4 \times 5 = 21$$

Chika Ofili: math genius



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Domestic to Doctor

At age 24, Dr Pamela Mahlangu is an example of determination

At the age of 13, Dr Pamela Mahlangu was a domestic worker; eleven years later after hard work, commitment and perseverance, at age 24 she graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal.

Born in Durban, South Africa, Mahlangu's parents were separated and later divorced, and because of that, she was raised by a single mother.

"Despite being the youngest of three children, Mahlangu was already the breadwinner of her family. At 13, she started working part-time as a domestic worker, a bold move for a 13-year-old who has her family at heart," she says.

"I started working as a domestic worker when I was 13. A lady at church who was working at Psalm Springs village in an estate at Mount-edgecombe asked me to help her with the dishes for Christmas dinner at her workplace. I gladly took up the offer and continued to work there during the holidays, even after she had retired."

Mahlangu worked as a domestic worker for 10 years, in which during that period he used part of her savings to fund her education from high school to university.

"Being the youngest of three children, I've wanted many things. I wanted to be an actress or an accountant, but in grade 10, I decided that being a doctor would best encompass who I was and who I wanted to be."

According to Mahlangu, she was earning R100 daily as a domestic worker, which is \$5. She would use that amount to cover her basic expenses and that of her siblings.

"It didn't make me much, about R100 a day, which helped with some of my basic expenses and toiletries. I believe that experience makes me more humble and understanding of people from all walks of life. Despite my current status, I can still relate to all kinds of people from all social classes and all race groups without looking down on any."

Growing up, Dr. Pamela Mahlangu faced numerous challenges, including financial hardships and her parents' divorce. In the aftermath, her mother, grappling with unemployment for an extended period, took on the responsibility of providing for the family.

During this time, Pamela had no choice but to rely on her siblings to support her education,



Dr Pamela Mahlangu: from domestic worker to medical doctor

placing a significant financial strain on them from an early age until high school.

"Growing up there were a lot of challenges, including our financial circumstances and my parents' divorce. My mother was left to provide for us and she was unemployed for the longest time. As a result, we had no choice but to rely on my siblings to put me through school from an early age up until high school which put a lot of financial strain on them," she notes.

Undeterred by these challenges, Pamela was resolute in her determination to fulfill her potential. She diligently applied herself to her studies, successfully juggling academic pursuits with part-time work against all odds, showcasing her ability to rise above challenging circumstances.

Even in her role as a domestic worker, Pamela refused to abandon her dreams or resign herself to a limited future.

Her unwavering commitment and hard work became a valuable lesson in humility, fostering a deeper understanding of people from various walks of life and enhancing her ability to relate to each individual.

Throughout this journey, she maintained a steadfast belief that positive outcomes awaited her, viewing it as only a matter of time.

"Even though I was a domestic worker, I

didn't shelve my dreams and think that it's over for me. I continued to work hard and I'm glad that I did, for me it really was just a lesson in humility and it has enabled me to better understand people from different walks of life and be able to relate to each person. I always knew that good things lay ahead for me and it was truly just a matter of time."

The culmination of Pamela's hard work and dedication to her studies materialized when she secured funding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme—a turning point that proved to be life-changing.

Reflecting on her experiences, Dr. Pamela Mahlangu emphasized the significance of not underestimating humble beginnings.

While acknowledging the challenges, she encouraged others not to let their origins define their future trajectories. With faith, she asserted, everything is possible within the span of 5 or 10 years.

"Never despise humble beginnings but equally, don't let them define where you will be in 5 or 10 years' time, with God, everything is possible."

Against all odds, Dr Pamela Mahlangu is now a Medical Officer at Tembisa Hospital.

"Don't give up, your dreams are still valid."

One Love

Bob Marley continues to make history, this time in the medium of film, as his biopic has stunning opening on Valentine's Day

Bob Marley made history in life and in death as a singer and songwriter. On Valentine's Day, 2024, he did it again – from the grave. Paramount Pictures' "Bob Marley: One Love" made cinematic history on Valentine's Day with a stunning \$14 million opening across 3,500 domestic locations, marking it as the top mid-week Valentine's Day debut ever.

Boasting an A CinemaScore and a perfect 5 out of 5 rating on Comscore PostTrak, the film is primed for success as it heads into the 6-day holiday weekend. Boxoffice Pro analyst Shawn Robbins projects an opening weekend range of \$30 million to \$40 million.

Exit polls revealed that an impressive 80% of moviegoers would enthusiastically recommend the film, further solidifying its potential for widespread acclaim. Additionally, "Bob Marley: One Love" currently holds an impressive 95% audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Internationally, the film was set to debut at the end of February in 47 markets, including Australia, Benelux, Brazil, France, Germany, Mexico, Scandinavia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Subsequent openings in Italy (February 22nd), Korea (March 14th), and Japan (May 10th) are scheduled for later this spring.

The movie focuses more on Robert Nesta Marley, the child and the man, who overcomes tremendous adversity and inner pain and anguish to become the most famous reggae musician in the world.

UK-born, Trinidad roots actor, Kingsley Ben-Adir, captures the essence of Marley on screen as does UK born Jamaican roots actress Lashana Lynch who plays the strong, powerful wife of Bob Marley, Rita Marley. The movie is directed by Reinaldo Marcus Green, who co-wrote the screenplay with Terence Winter, Frank E. Flowers, and Zach Baylin, from a story by Winter and Flowers. It is based on the life of Marley, from his rise to fame in the mid-1970s up until his death in 1981.



UK-born, Trinidad roots actor, Kingsley Ben-Adir, captures the essence of Marley

Bob Marley: One Love premiered at the Carib 5 in Kingston, Jamaica on January 23, 2024 and was released in the United States by Paramount Pictures on February 14, 2024. It received mixed reviews from critics, who praised Ben-Adir's performance but criticized the film as a "typical biopic."

Some online critics noted that while "Bob Marley: One Love" may not fully detail every aspect beloved by Marley's fans, it successfully captures the spirit of Bob Marley, with fantastic sound.

Writing on MetaCritic, JasmineBlue noted: "This film is a respectful, soulful, emotional, and inspirational tribute to Bob Marley. I am livid at the smear campaign and review bomb-

ing against this fine film. Kingsley-Ben Adir is sensational and perfectly captured his mannerisms, charisma, and essence. Lashana Lynch was also great at playing strong Rita. Rita Marley and Ziggy Marley were producers on this film. I think they understood Bob Marley better than biased journalists with an agenda. The film wanted to pay tribute to Marley's music, legacy, and message of harmony & peace. It definitely accomplishes that. Some of the criticisms show such a double standard. Oppenheimer focused on two singular events like this film, but critics lavished praise on that film while using that angle to deride Bob Marley: One Love. I think this film is a good introduction to the iconic Bob Marley..."

HAIR, HAIR!

Beyoncé launches new product to help invest in the stylist community to promote hair health

Beyoncé Knowles-Carter announced the launch of Cécred, a new haircare line that honors global traditions while delivering what hair craves: rich conditioners and fortifying protein, patent-pending technology and fermentation, sensorial luxury and exceptional performance for visible strength, moisture and shine. Inspired by hair rituals from global cultures, the products feature an array of butters, oils, honey, and fermented rice water to nourish hair. Cécred launches with the Foundation Collection, eight products that cleanse, condition, and visibly repair.

“The journey of creating Cécred has taken years, and I’m so proud to finally reveal what we’ve been working on,” says Cécred founder and chairwoman Beyoncé Knowles-Carter. “As a Black founder, it was important to me to concentrate on where I saw the greatest need for healthy haircare and to place scientific innovation and product performance above all else. We started by prioritizing the needs of textured hair like mine, along with other types and textures that need more moisture and strength. My entire life and career, I’ve worn my hair in so many different ways: natural, flat-ironed, braids, colored, weaves, wigs. I want everyone to have the freedom to express their hair in ways that make them feel good, so I began by creating the essentials for hair and scalp health. My vision is to be an inclusive force of excellence in the haircare industry while celebrating hair rituals across global cultures and helping dispel hair myths and misconceptions on all sides.”

Knowles-Carter’s passion for haircare is born from lived experience. She grew up sweeping hair in her mother Tina Knowles’ salon and saw firsthand how she thoughtfully mixed tech-forward formulas with natural butters and oils to cultivate healthy hair. Knowles joins Cécred as vice chairwoman, bringing her 40 years of influence as a hairstylist, salon owner, and entrepreneur. “In my own experience serving clients, I loved witnessing the joy they felt watching their hair grow healthier, shinier, and more vibrant,” says Knowles. “I have personally witnessed how these products have stopped breakage in its



Beyoncé: using hair care to further philanthropic work

tracks. I’ve seen the transformations from using these products on all different hair types and textures and the results have been amazing.”

Knowles-Carter’s decades-long career shaped her expertise in maintaining hair health while navigating the coloring, high-tension styles, hair adhesive, sweat, and build-up generated by her life as a performer. Her experiences inspired Cécred to redefine keratin recovery science with its Bioactive Keratin Ferment: a patent-pending technology made from wool-derived keratin, honey, and lactobacillus ferment.

Regarding quality and performance, Cécred refused to settle, devoting years of research and testing to the challenges of moisture restoration, strength, and hair health. They conducted extensive clinical, salon, and lab testing, ignoring industry norms and only working with global labs that prioritize inclusive testing. This exhaustive research, development, and evaluation resulted in a performance-driven, expert-vetted, validated range of hair solutions that are beneficial for hair textures from straight to coily and hair states—including virgin, color-treated, chemically processed, and heat-styled—that need extra moisture and strength. This philosophy is core to the Foundation Collection and remains central to the testing and development of all future Cécred lines.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience to work with a founder of Beyoncé’s global reach and raw

talent to change the narrative in haircare,” says Cécred CEO Grace Ray. “It’s gratifying to help build an inclusive brand that has benefits for a wide range of hair types and textures. Cécred is a union of visual storytelling, education, and performance, and we are uniquely positioned to service consumers with a prestige, science-validated experience that dispels outdated norms in the haircare industry. I’m honored to join the other brands working to change conversations around haircare.”

Knowles-Carter’s longstanding commitment to philanthropy has been recognized within various communities. From launch, it is essential that Cécred invests in the stylist community, which globally serves as a sacred space for people’s personal hair journeys. Cécred will partner with Knowles-Carter’s philanthropic foundation, BeyGOOD, to create the BeyGOOD x Cécred Fund, which honors the knowledge and influence professional stylists have on hair health.

Cécred’s formulas, infused with a signature Temple Oud fragrance, are cruelty-free and formulated under strict global guidelines for ingredient safety.

Knowles-Carter’s vision is to create a new standard in haircare that breaks down myths and helps to change the narrative in haircare. The Foundation Collection is now available on www.cecred.com.



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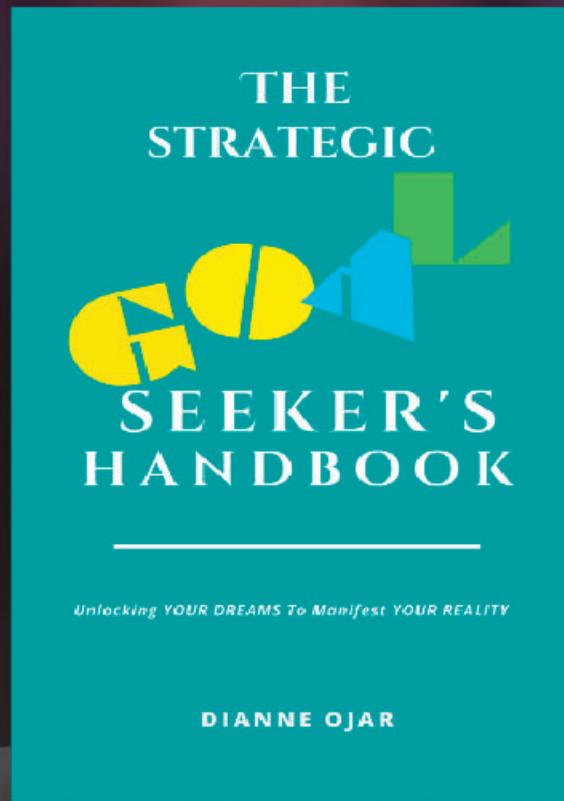
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