

I'm proud to be first Black MLA to be sworn in. It's wonderful for the community. Government should reflect the diversity of the population that it serves.



Culture
Page 3

Surviving Covid-19 isn't an easy task, especially now that many require a strong will to outlive the pandemic. How did this Somali man survive it?



Life
Page 5

African music, and African drumming to be particular, is the ultimate in terms of being the most interesting, most complex and most challenging form of music out there.



Music
Page 9

Is cricket a subcontinental game? Why cricket players in Manitoba appear to be from the same area? Plus Trinidad's Brian Lara best batsman of all time?



Sports
Page 10



- Audrey Gordon

Government Should Naturally Reflect Diversity.

Jaimacan-born Audrey Gordon successfully emerged the first-ever Black MLA to be sworn in during the 42nd general assembly of the Manitoba Legislature.

Before now, Audrey had served as Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Home Care Program. She has also held other government positions including, Special Assistant to the Minister of Health, Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Labour and Immigration, as well as Director of the Multiculturalism Secretariat and the Director of Settlement and Newcomer support.

An accomplished individual and politician known for her work ethic and delivering results as a proof of hard work, Audrey holds a Master of Business Administration Degree (Dean's List) from

the University of Manitoba, a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Certificate in Change Management as well as another Certificate in Applied Counselling. She is the MLA for the Southdale constituency.

When asked how she felt becoming the very first Black MLA in the entire history of Manitoba, spanning over 150 years, Audrey sounded philosophical. She said, "It feels very surreal. I'm so thrilled for the entire Black community in Manitoba. I'm thrilled for women in general, in our province, and it's been a hundred and fifty years and we haven't had a representative from the Black community. So, I'm proud to be one of three MLA's elected and the first to be sworn in. I think it's wonderful for the community because It's important to have a government for the people by the people and of the people. Government should naturally reflect the

diversity of the population that it serves."

On whether she was surprised that it took 150 years to achieve that feat. The Southdale MLA also had this to say, "I will say saddened that it has taken that long because it certainly is not the first time that Black candidates have let their names stand for election, but they have not been elected. So, candidates have put their names forward and I'm really glad that the day has dawned, and the time has come when we can actually enter office as officially elected individuals to serve our constituencies."

In addition to working right out of the constituency office during the Fall, despite the pandemic, Audrey made us understand that she hopes to continue to work out of the constituency office this Winter as well rather than work from home, adding that "being the first of

anything comes with added scrutiny and criticism."

When she's not delivering a turkey and potatoes and carrots to a fundraiser, something she does on a regular basis, she's busy meeting with local business owners, school board officials and health-care officials in her constituency.

It wasn't all chitty-chatty during the phone interview with Audrey. We had our little moments as well. For example, on whether Canada was ready for a Prime Minister of colour, the Southdale MLA was quick to point out that Blacks and people of colour still have to position themselves for that opportunity when it comes knocking, citing the case of US Vice-President elect, Kamala Harris, who she says is an incredibly smart, articulate, and well-educated individual who already [visit prairieafrican.com](http://prairieafrican.com) for full story





A Few Good Men



Movie Title: *A Few Good Men*

Scope covered: Ethical Dilemma

Teleological and Deontological systems,

Concepts: Ethical Formalism, Utilitarianism, Ethics of Care, Natural Law, Ethics of Virtue, Religious Ethics

A *Few Good Men* (1992) is a classic movie that has captivated my entire being, both for its portrayal of ethical dilemmas and the dramatization of those very dilemmas, by seasoned actors like, Jack Nicholson, Demi Moore, Tom Cruise, J.T. Walsh, and Kiefer Sutherland, to mention a few. I chose to review this movie, here, to show how far colleagues in a particular work space are willing to go, to cover-up a crime. And in doing so, I hope to bring up connections to the meaning of the terms, “duty,” “loyalty,” “authority,” “power,” “force,” “persuasion,” “discretion,” “group think,” “code of secrecy,” “abuse of power,” “conspiracy within the force,” “noble-cause corruption,” “blue curtain of silence,” and so on, especially as it affects the criminal justice system today. Though this movie can be located within the military setting, it will surely help us understand how other men in

uniform, today, handle issues, especially as it involves taking human life. Finally, we have all heard that famous cliché, “a picture speaks more than a thousand words,” hence my advise that you watch this movie, after reading this piece. Happy viewing.

In the movie, a U.S. Marine, William Santiago, had been accidentally murdered by two of his colleagues, Lance Corporal Dawson and Private Downey, while carrying out a “code red,” a military exercise designed as punishment to toughen-up a soldier. The movie thus opens with the selection of the defence team (Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, and Kevin Pollak), to represent both Marines, who have been charged with murder, in a system that was designed to punish the men for crimes they were ordered to carry out, while shielding the very brains behind the crime. As the plot thickens, the defence was able to bring to the stand, the Base Commander, Colonel Nathan Jessup, played by, the irrepresible Jack Nicholson, and through the intricacies of litigation and the adversarial processes of law, were able to indict him, while at the same time, rescue both Marines,

with what would amount to a slap on the wrist.

Lance Corporal Dawson and Private Downey had been ordered, by their commanding officer, to carry out a duty. And it was in the midst of carrying out this duty that Santiago died, necessitating a lot of cover-ups. Was it really an accidental death, or a retaliation for the deceased’s unwanted behaviour of ratting out his colleague for a fence line shooting that occurred earlier? I would be examining the movie from both the teleological and deontological approaches, and also consider Immanuel Kant’s (1724-1804) criteria of categorical imperative, which states that, “we act in a way we want everyone else to act, and not by using people.”

The deontological system examines only the duties carried out, by a soldier, for example, and not the consequences. So, if a judge was examining a police officer’s interaction with a suspect resulting in the death of that suspect, the judge (looking at it from a deontological point) will only consider how the officer carried out his duty. Was he complacent in carrying out the assigned duty? The system is not interested in the outcome. Whether the suspect died during the process of interaction is immaterial. The teleological system, on the other hand, judges the results of an action, irrespective of the process of arriving at that action.

First, such hazing exercise, like the ‘code red’ had been officially banned by the U.S. authorities, even though many knew they were still being carried out in military formations like that in, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the movie was set. But if the two Marines had refused to carry out the order, they would have been court martialled for disobeying superior orders. So, Dawson and Downey faced their first dilemma, at that point. Were they to obey their superior commander or not? Should they ruffle-up a weak Marine or not? Those were the initial dilemmas facing them. They obviously chose to carry out the order, as part of their duties to their superiors. In other words, they chose to be virtuous soldiers.

Under the deontological system, which is only concerned with the duties carried out, and not the consequences, the two marines may have been judged to be morally upright, because, as soldiers, they discharged their duties effectively. It can also be argued, under ethics of virtue, that they did the right things as virtuous soldiers, which involved showing courage, obeying the chain of command, and carrying out assigned or impartial duties. But morally, that particular duty, which led,

against all forms of natural law, to the death of their fellow Marine, may have been wrong, especially when examined under the teleological system.


Whereas, the deontological system only looks at the morality of the duties performed, the teleological system looks at the consequences of an action, and not just the act itself. Since the resultant effect of their action was cold-blooded murder, their actions are judged as immoral.

Even under religious ethics, they broke the golden rule that states, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” As captured in Dawson’s words, they had “failed to defend those too weak to fight for themselves” (*A Few Good Men*, 1992). And because of the code of secrecy that runs deep in



the military high command, they were duty-bound to keep quiet about the homicide, while their bosses handled the matter efficiently. However, both marines were shocked to discover that they were to be arraigned before a military tribunal facing grave charges.

Lieutenant Colonel Markinson, Colonel Jessup’s executive officer (and deputy at the Base) was faced with the ethical dilemma of whether to join in the cover-up or not. He was the embodiment of a virtuous man in the movie. Though an accomplished soldier, he always represented reason, fairness, and justice. One could see a mix of ethical formalism, natural law, and religious ethics, including ethics of care, in his disposition and characterization. He struggled with the decision to cover-up the murder, having earlier advised that Santiago be transferred out of the base for his own safety. He could not afford to go against the cover-up. The rank and file already derided him, as a weak soldier who could not keep a secret and had almost ostracized him in the camp. The weight of keeping this code of secrecy was too much for him to bear, and as a result, he committed suicide, by putting a bullet through his temple, after providing vital and relevant factual information to the defence team. It appears Markinson sacrificed himself for the greater good, adding a utilitarian persona to his disposition upon his [visit prairieafrican.com](http://visit.prairieafrican.com) for full story




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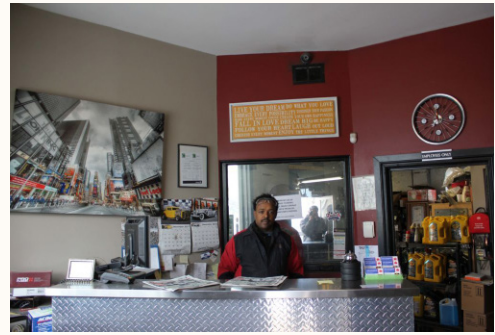
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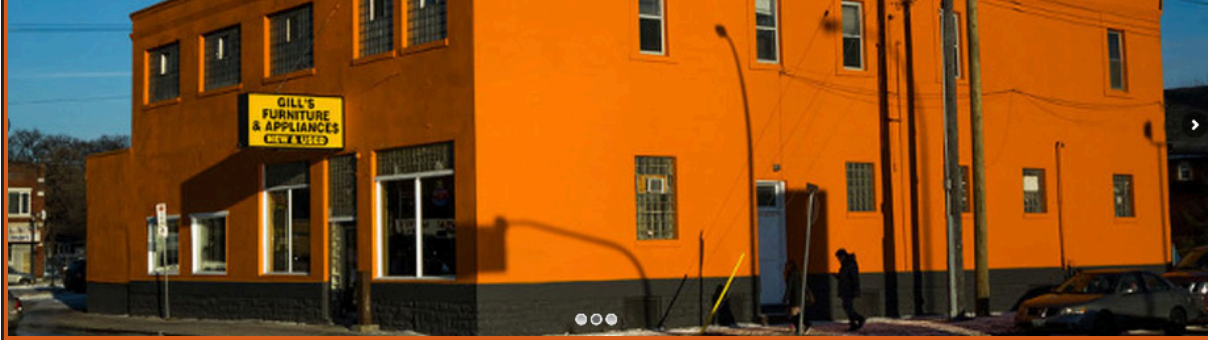
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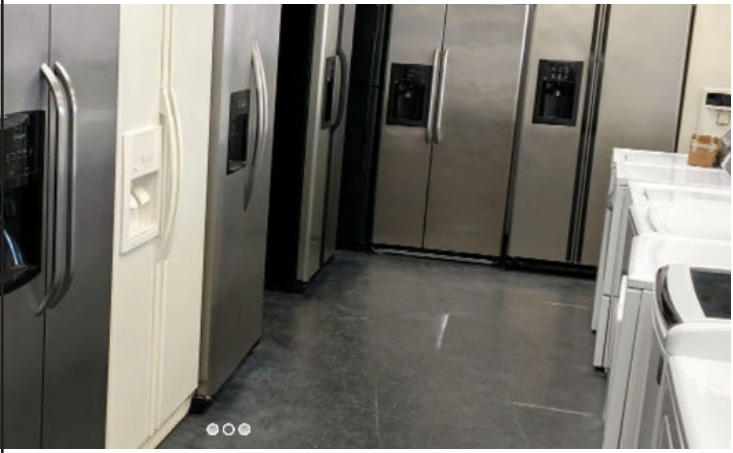
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Interview



- Audrey Gordon

I'm proud to be first Black MLA to be sworn in. It's wonderful for the community.

Our guest today is an accomplished individual and politician. She has worked as Director of Multiculturalism for the Manitoba government as well as the Director of Settlement and Newcomer support. She also worked in the health sector as a Director of Strategic Initiatives at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority's Home Care Program. For people who know her, they testify that she works very hard delivering results as a proof of hard work. She has also served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Health, and Assistant to the Deputy Minister of Labour and Immigration and holds a Master of Business Administration Degree (Dean's List) from the University of Manitoba. Ladies and gentlemen please meet Audrey Gordon, MLA for Southdale, and the very first Black person to be sworn into the Manitoba Legislative Assembly.

First, we want to congratulate you on your successful emergence as member of Manitoba Legislative Assembly representing Southdale. And not just as an MLA, but also, as the first-ever Black MLA, in the entire history of Manitoba, to be sworn in during the 42nd general assembly. How does it feel like being the first-ever Black MLA to be sworn into parliament?

It feels very surreal. I'm so thrilled for the entire Black community in Manitoba. I'm thrilled for women in general, in our province, and it's been a hundred and fifty years and we haven't had a representative from the Black community. So, I'm proud to be one of three MLA's elected and the first to be sworn in. I think it's wonderful for the community because it's important to have a government for the people by the people and of the people. Government should naturally reflect the diversity of the population that it serves. So, I think it is wonderful and I'm humbled and

honoured to be the first Black MLA to be sworn into the Manitoba legislature.

Are you surprised that it took 150 years to achieve that?

Well, I wouldn't use the word "surprised." I will say saddened that it has taken that long because it certainly is not the first time that Black candidates have let their names stand for election, but they have not been elected. So, candidates have put their names forward and I'm really glad that the day has dawned, and the time has come when we can actually enter office as officially elected individuals to serve our constituencies.

Has this affected your life in anyway, positive or negative?

Well, it's affected my life in so many ways than the one-hour interview would allow me to express.

Don't worry, we'll come back to talk to you when this (pandemic) is all over.

Okay, thank you. Definitely, being the first of anything comes with added scrutiny and criticism. I do at times feel very much under the microscope in terms of my work and how I fulfil my duties as an MLA. It's now I know what the stars in Hollywood go through because you just don't put your hair in a ponytail and go to the grocery store. It's always about your image, how you're presenting, how you're delivering, and it impacts your family as well. It certainly is a different life and it's affected me both good and bad. I do love community development and working closely with communities, so it's really given me an opportunity to roll up my sleeves and get involved in my community in many different ways. It's given me access to people and places and organizations I would not have had the opportunity to touch base with or connect with. So, it's been very rewarding and fulfilling in so many ways that is just so great. It's an opportunity to have the

continued on page 6



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Richard Elendu is an advocate for racial equality and social change in the community.

First, I want to say a big thank you to all who called, texted, messaged, and wrote me regarding our first issue. Also, I can never thank the African business community enough, for their immense contributions toward the success of this nascent African newspaper. It is with much pleasure and pain that I salute your courage.

In this issue, we bring to you the success stories of a Manitoban MLA of Jamaican descent as well as a (White) Canadian drummer who is announcing to all who care to listen that there's something unique about African drum patterns and why he chose to travel to Africa to study them. Also with the help of Mr Cricket (as I call him) we bring you the contentious topic of who the best Batsman in cricket is, as well as a story of resilience as epitomised by the survival tales of a Somalian who overcame Covid-19. Some of the interviews were conducted at the beginning of Winter and should have come earlier - no thanks to the pandemic. We have also included some educational materials for those who really love to read between the lines as well as

Our Mission

some history about Black heritage.

In preparation for Black History Month, we have provided information about the most important scientist of the first half of the 20th century as well as the contributions of the first Black judge in Canada.

As usual, we have our "In case you missed it" column, where we present, before you, snippets of various African and Black people who continue to do us proud around the world in spite of the discrimination and rejection they sometimes face. Personally, I believe this is important to have in every Black and African publication, to remind everyone of us that we are not alone in our ordeals. Black people are often treated with contempt by other races be it in a law firm, government office or security guard position. I am one Black man that will not accept that, even if I have to stand alone.

Racism is not a fight that one person can fight alone. No. It needs the collective effort of all Black, White and coloured peoples. You can contribute your quota

by speaking out against racism. Do not be afraid of losing your job. It is even better the world hears the story of how it happened than live in hell. This is my way of saying to you all, "let's help one another."

I am contributing my quota now, and history is recording it. Would you contribute your own quota?

We cannot overemphasize the need to continue to remind ourselves that we are a great people. And as a race have to look out for one another. Do not accept the mistreatment of an African or Black person around you whether they are of the same shade as you or lighter.

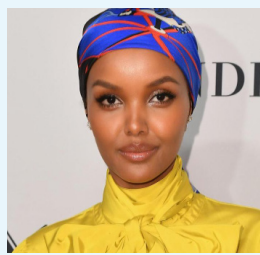
Many things around us are done by convention. Let us raise a standard that our children will be proud of. Go on and introduce those (positive) things that make us African, and if anyone challenges you remember you've got an ally in me.

Finally, I leave you with an African proverb: "Inviting friends and family over for dinner does not mean they cannot feed themselves, rather it is to show that you have a big heart." We salute you.

In case you missed it



That the world is looking forward to ending the Coronavirus pandemic anytime soon has a lot to do with Onyema Ogbuagu, an associate professor at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr Ogbuagu led the Pfizer/Moderna research into developing a potent vaccine for the virus. Onyema graduated from the University of Calabar. He's 42 years



Hijab-wearing Somali-born model, Halima Aden recently quit her job as a model on religious grounds. Born in the Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, this homecoming queen has graced the covers of Vogue and Allure magazines. She cited the "lack of Muslim women stylists" as a reason and is getting support from Rihanna, Bella and Gigi Hadid. She's only 23.



Mr Kenechukwu Ilochonwu has been elected into the governing body of The Law Society of Alberta as a Bencher. This is the first time, in its 113-year history, that a Black Lawyer will occupy that position. Kene works at the Parkland's Institute. He is a graduate of Abia State University and the Nigerian Law School. He's 49.



Congolese-born businesswoman, Amini Kajunju is a woman to be reckoned with. She works with African universities to enhance their capacity and partnership networks. Named among Forbes top 20 Women in Africa, she is the first African President and Ceo of the Africa-America Institute (AAI). Amini holds a Master's in Public Administration from NY University.



Ghanaian-born Nana Akiwowo, is founder of Africa Health Now, a community-based organization that provides primary healthcare to women, children and families in Sub Saharan Africa. This community hero is bridging the gap in healthcare provision and teaching Africans to look out for one another. Nana is married to a Nigerian. She's 42.



Known for "heroic portraits of young African-Americans in contemporary culture," Kayode Wiley is the first Black man commissioned to paint an official portrait of a US President (Barack Obama) for the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. He received NYC's Artist of the Year Award and holds an MFA from Yale University. He's 43.



Vanessa Nakate is a Ugandan climate activist who only started her activism in 2018. Inspired by Greta Thunberg, Vanessa founded Youth for Future Africa and Rise Up Movement which garnered support around the world. In December 2019, she spoke at the COP25 in Spain, and sent a letter to participants at the World Economic Forum in Davos in Jan '20. She's 24.



At 23, Emma Inamutila Theofelus is probably the youngest Minister in Africa. Only appointed in March 2020, Emma is tasked with leading public communication against the country's Coronavirus pandemic. She holds a law degree from the University of Namibia, and is a board member of the National Council of Higher Education.



Ghanaian-based Guinean entertainment entrepreneur and television executive, Abdoulaye (Abd) Traore is ranked among 100 Most Influential Young Africans. The Malaysian-trained Traore is the founder of the popular pan-African WatsUp TV which recognises African Music Videos and Artists airing on DSTV & Canal+ Channels.

Our programs are designed to assist our members in the pursuit of their goals.

- Yahya Mohamed



Canada's First Black Judge

Legal luminary and outstanding jurist, Maurice Alexander Charles, from Guyana, was the first Black person to preside as a judge in Canada, and had the honour of unlocking the doors to other Black people on the Bench. Justice Charles was appointed into the Ontario Court Bench in 1969 after articling for the late Attorney General of Ontario, Arthur Wishart. Canada has appointed 28 Black judges since then, among them George Carter who was appointed ten years later. As a pioneer Black Judge, Justice Charles faced a lot of challenges in a system that wasn't prepared to have a Black person preside as a judge and as a result, he had many head-on collisions with the Bar. For example, he was never shy to give the police hard knocks, as former Ontario court judge, Vibert Rosemay opined that he was judged more critically than others but stood his ground and exemplified his worthiness of the trust reposed in him. Vibert had this to say of him, "You will always face challenges and difficulties when you are the first in any system." Justice Charles served as a Magistrate to Her Majesty's Overseas Judicial Services, representing the Queen in Guyana and Ghana. Charles was trained at the University of London and passed his England Bar admissions examination in 1944 becoming an English Solicitor. It took ten years after [see prairieafrican.com](http://see.prairieafrican.com) for story

Yahya Mohamed aka Hashim, as he prefers to be called, is a Somali man who recently survived the dreaded Covid-19 virus attack. Not one to toot his own horn, Hashim who doubles as the executive director for the Somali Community Outreach Center, a nascent association formed in 2018 to help Somalis who were crossing the border from the south into Canada, after the change of government there, says he's too busy to be slowed down by any disease. A cancer survivor within the last 60 months and now Covid-19, Hashim said the doctors gave him no chance of survival given that he had been identified as having pre-existing conditions before his Covid attack. We had a chat with this cat with nine lives and learnt a thing or two we thought was worth sharing. Please enjoy the read. Can you please introduce yourself to our readers?

My name is Yahya Mohamed I'm the executive director of the Somali community in Manitoba. We created this community initially to help resolve immigration issues affecting Somalis who were crossing the border from the south soon after the change of government there. Thank you, Hashim. When was your association formed? The Somali Community Outreach Center in Manitoba was formed in August 2018. There was no Somali association before then. At least, there was no recognized office where our people could go to for assistance. So we agreed to come together to get a place where Somalis irrespective of their status could come for help. That's very nice. So, how long have you been the executive

director of your association? I've been the executive director since 2019 when I was elected into office. I am the eye of the community and responsible for the day-to-day running of the programs at our community centre. We also have the board members helping as well. Tell us about your programs and activities at the Somali Community Outreach Center. Yes, we have a lot of programs geared towards assisting our members in the pursuit of their immediate, mid and long-term goals. These programs include, in no particular order, translation services - for those that do not speak English. We have the resettlement program to cater for those needing immigration assistance, for example, filling out the necessary forms for asylum application and all the way to a citizenship application. Then we also have the outreach programs to help curb youth restiveness and provide practical leadership to our children. Under this, there's the after-school programs for kids, as well as youth programs like counselling and career advise. We also provide sewing lessons to the community. All these programs are ongoing as we speak and we have other programs in the works as well but we're hamstrung due to a limitation of funds. I was going to ask how you get funding for all these programs? Yes, we're actually limited to the number of programs we can support because of funds, but we have to work with what we have while at the same time seeking new avenues of funding for our programs. Are you getting any help from other agencies and organizations at all?

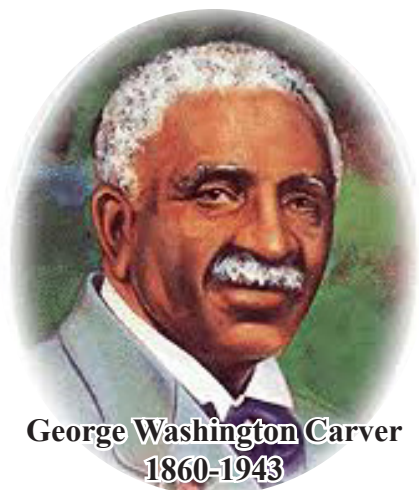
Yes. we have applied for a few grants out there and are still waiting. Last Summer, we worked with a number of organizations like the Canadian Disability group led by Dr Matanga. We provided volunteers in return for services rendered. That way we were able to help each other since we did not reach the benchmark for the Summer grant. To add to that because of the Covid pandemic there's no much activities. We're looking for ways to help our community who are really stressed because of the lockdown. There's a lot of restrictions on movement. Some of them lost their jobs and are staying at home 24 hours a day. I am hoping that after the good people in authority read this they'll be helpful in providing you with funds so you can continue to help African kids stay off the streets as you've been doing. Exactly. We're all hoping this pandemic can come to an end quickly. There's a lot of misinformation going around and we have always advised our people to follow the provincial guidelines on limiting the number of gatherings to putting on a face mask when outside their homes, all in a bid to help flatten the curve. Hopefully we come out of this horrible situation soon. I see you're really playing a vital role in your community. It seems you also double as a health liaison for your community?

I was one of them who got covid and that is why we need to educate our people on the need to follow the provincial guidelines. Last year we received some mask from the Red Cross and distributed them among families. 2020 was a horrible year. I hear you. We were advised it will get worse before it gets better. Did you have any fatalities? Fortunately, we don't have any Somali who has died of Covid. Some people confuse the Covid with the normal flu. Some of them were hospitalized but no one lost. Alhamdulillah. Now to a different topic. How did you get into community leadership? I have a degree in organizational leadership. You formulate a program that is good for the people and you work with them. We have input from every level of the community. Even sometimes marriage issues come up and we solve them through our elders. A lot of communities can learn from us. Everyone has a role to visit prairieafrican.com for story

Audrey Gordon
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Black History Month



George Washington Carver
1860-1943

Enough cannot be said about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., especially now that we celebrate Black History month. But this month we want to bring to attention the works and sacrifices of numerous other Black pioneers in agriculture, medicine, politics, government, engineering, education and law. Today, we bring to you a man that is not usually remembered a lot around this time of year, simply because of Dr King's towering influence, whenever Black History month is celebrated. This man lived somewhat before Dr. King, so we cannot actually call him a contemporary of Dr. King. I am talking about the most prominent scientist of the early 20th century, a man whom the famous Henry Ford built a replica of the place he was born, at the Henry Ford Museum, as a tribute and also dedicated a laboratory in Dearborn in his honour. He was so compelling that three US Presidents (Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, and Franklin Roosevelt) all met with him at various times. The Crown Prince of Sweden was once his student. A man the US Congress designated January 5th every year to commemorate his achievements. A man who has given so much to society that when he died at 78, in 1943, his life savings were \$60000, all of which went to his foundation. It is almost hard to believe that even a segregated America found it hard to ignore his contributions to society. An inventor, environmentalist, a thinker, botanist and painter. A man dubbed the "Black Leonardo" by Time Magazine. A man who has received so many awards, some in his lifetime and others posthumously (from 1923 - date). A US National Park was named after him over 70 years ago. Some of his awards include, the Spingarn Medal for outstanding achievement (1923), honorary doctorate from Simpson College (1928), the Roosevelt Medal (1939), a museum at Tuskegee Institute (1941), the Liberty Ship SS Carver (1943), US commemorative stamps (1948), US National Park named (1950), featured on US minted coins (1951-1954), a Ballistic missile submarine was named

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40,000-seat view of the entire province and know what is happening across all the sectors. So, instead of just working in health, or education or families, I have an opportunity in this job to see the full scope of how a provincial system is run across many sectors. So, it has been great. The best part of it for me, even though it's very tough right now with Covid, has been connecting with the constituents and being their voice in the Manitoba legislature.

Prior to your election in September 2019, there was this notable incident of racial slur on a bench bus. How have you been able to take in all that and still work with all groups including people who may have done such things?

One of the things that have really helped me is that I am a mature individual, so I have a lot of life experience. And I try to see things for what they are and that incident of the vandalism of my bench with the racial slur was the act of one individual who is trying to cause division in the community. And is spreading their own individual stereotype and hatred against Black people. I have been so warmly welcomed by this community and they have locked arms with me, and we have done so many great fundraisers and community development initiatives, but I think this is what I call a one-off situation of someone who has hatred towards Black people and wanted to make that known to me by vandalizing my bench. So, I take that (and) put it where it belongs, in the past, because we have a lot of work to do in the community and fixating on the past gets us nowhere and so, I have been able to deal with that because I took it for what it was – an isolated incident of hatred and I'm not deterred at all in my work for the community and I continue to be their strong voice in the Manitoba legislature.

You just delivered a turkey, some potatoes and other stuff in your neighbourhood. I'm guessing you're sharing some Christmas goodies already, right?

I delivered a turkey and potatoes and carrots to a fundraiser in the Southdale constituency that was being undertaken by a gentleman named Noah. And Noah was doing this on behalf of the Christmas Cheer Board. So, he was collecting toys, and food, non-perishable food items but he did ask me for a turkey. And what he wants to do is provide a full Christmas meal to families in our constituency as well as

toys for their children. This is something that I do on a regular basis where I am supporting fundraising activities like this in Southdale.

How have you incorporated the Indigenous question? Are you in anyway working for Indigenous people knowing that we actually live on their lands here?

Well, I've always worked with indigenous people. So even when I worked in healthcare, for three of the ten years that I worked there, I was working in driving and flying communities. So, I've always worked with Indigenous people. I think it's important that I recognize that we are on Treaty 1 territory which is the traditional gathering place of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota Dené and Métis people, and the traditional homeland of the Métis nation. So, I acknowledge that the land and territory that we're on is longstanding Indigenous cultural lands and they ought to be respected and considered in government policy, in government legislation and in the work that we do whether it be in healthcare and education. And coming out of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we have 94 calls to action. So, it's urging all levels of government - federal provincial, territorial, and even First Nations - to work together. So, we have to change policies and programmes in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and other atrocities. And so, I am able to work with Indigenous people and continue even right here in the constituency of Southdale.

How long has your party, the Progressive Conservative Party participated in government.

We formed govt in 2016 after 17 years of an NDP government being in power. And in 2019, we were re-elected with a majority government and that was when I was elected here in Southdale.

I know that the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau belongs to a different party. How do you hope to bring about the dividends of democracy to people in Southdale and Manitoba even though you're not in the same party with the center?

And that is probably the case for not just the province of Manitoba but other provinces in our country that are not Liberal held. So, what I focus on is my job as the MLA, how I will deliver the dividends

of democracy, of course, is to fulfil the provincial mandate I was elected to fulfil. I think it's important that we work across party lines to fulfil the requirements of the province of Manitoba and what Manitobans are wanting. From my level of being an MLA, I work very closely with my MP who is a Liberal MP, and I work very closely with my city councillor, and school board officials and healthcare officials. I am open to working with all levels of government to fulfil the needs of my community. So, I focus on the issues and not on the party politics. What we can do to make Manitoba a better province for all, and I think I could do that by working really hard to fulfil the mandate I was elected on.

Do you think the next Prime Minister of Canada should be a person of colour?

That's an interesting question. Given that the Prime Minister is a leader of a political party, that position of Prime Minister is the individual who is elected and receives the most votes and the majority of the seats. So, to be honest with you, I have little say whether this individual will be a person of colour. I do think that many Canadians want to see a Prime Minister that will reflect the diversity we see in our country.

Do you think Canada is ready for a Prime Minister of colour?

Well, I think that opportunity should always be available. We see Annamie Paul, who is leader of the Federal Green Party, and she is a Black woman who is Jewish. And she has risen to that position. We saw Dr. Leslyn Lewis run for leader of the Conservative Party federally. So, I think it still comes down to running a really good election, getting your candidates elected in their seats and winning the most seats and forming government. And if the person who does that happens to be Black or of colour then that is the person who will now become the Prime Minister. Politics is about running a campaign, running an election and winning the most seats.

In the US Barack Obama was elected President, about a decade ago, and it took the concerted efforts of both Blacks and Whites and other peoples for him to emerge the candidate of his party. We saw an America that was ready for a historic change, and they voted Obama in as the first-ever Black President to occupy the White House. Now, we

have a Kamala Harris who's poised to become the first-ever female Vice-President and she's Black and a person of colour. In Canada we don't acknowledge racism, but the reality on ground is that it does exist. We know it is ingrained in society. Do you see a Black person rising to this position in spite of this division between White and Black?

Kamala Harris is an incredibly smart, articulate, well-educated individual who already proved herself through many positions. She was positioned for the opportunity based on her prior accomplishments. We don't want to diminish or take away from the fact that individuals of colour are qualified for the positions they assume. So, I truly believe that anyone can become Prime Minister. I love to read Monster Kids at schools, in February, during "I Love to read," and I tell them all the time you can be anything you want to be. You'll have to work hard, and you'll have to overcome a lot of challenges and obstacles, and people coming against you. But this is a land of opportunity and we have to seize certain opportunities. It is important for our communities when we seize those opportunities to come around us and be the wind beneath our wings because that is what has happened in the US with Kamala. She's qualified. She's able. She's educated and ready to meet an opportunity with the support of many communities.

Thank you for that. We know you have two sons, right?

Yes.

Do they participate in sports?

They're adults now and still very athletic. Prior to becoming adults, they played basketball, cricket, baseball, hockey, and soccer. They were very very athletic. I have a son that played basketball at the provincial level, so they're athletes.

Oh, that's really good. Now, we have a lot of Black kids who are also athletes, some play basketball as well. Many of them live in the inner city. We have discovered that these kids do not have enough resources to allow them to engage in safe play. Yes, we acknowledge that government may be doing something but because of the number of kids and probably limited resources, it doesn't seem as if they're doing enough. How can we attract more resources for immigrant populations in our inner city?

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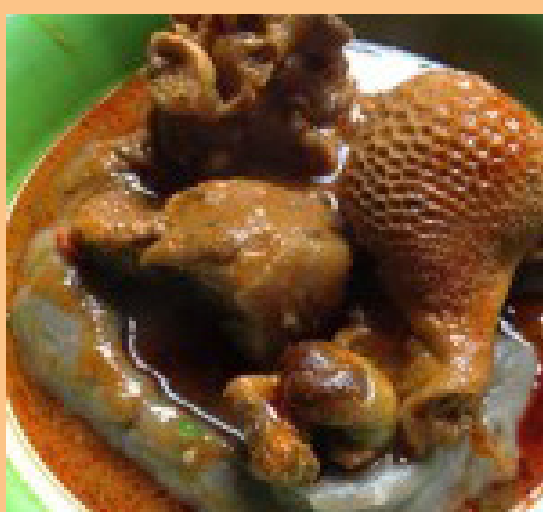
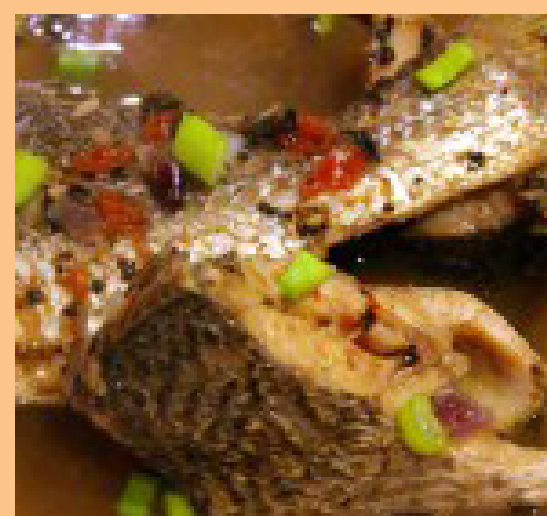
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The Highest Form Of Drumming Music Is The African Drumming Music

I was stunned when I first met Jay Stoller. Not stunned because he was a musician and a drummer, but more so because of his style which is fascinatingly African. Born in the country side, on the outskirts of the city, and St. Andrews to be precise, Jay took to African drumming after a chance encounter with the Ghana Dance Group which stopped by, in Winnipeg, and held a few performances as well as workshops at the University of Manitoba. Then he was a freshman at the university studying for a Physical Education degree. According to him, "It afforded me the opportunity to see the real drumming and dancing that was going on."

After graduating from the University of Manitoba, Jay proceeded to the University of Ghana, in Legon, to study for a Diploma in African Music and lived in the country for four years.

Even though he is a substitute teacher in the Louis Riel School Division, Jay still finds time to go round schools in Manitoba teaching kids how to play drums and also getting them to know about Africa from his own perspective. Travelling to and actively living and participating in African culture had come to shape his worldview about Africa and Africans. He says of himself, "I grew up in the country. I remember growing up with my dad. We used to race

sled dogs in the winter, we had about 15 - 20 dogs at a time,. But I've always been interested in music." Jay began to play the drums and jazz bands in high school. His interest in drumming and percussion led him to Evans Koffi, a Ghanaian, who taught him the rudiments of Ghanaian drumming patterns.

And what does Jay think about his chosen form of music? "My opinion is that the ultimate or the highest form of drumming music is the African drumming music in terms of being interesting, being complex, and being challenging." I'm not sure I heard that right. I'll be connecting with Jay to talk some more after the pandemic. prairieafrican.com story



Photo by Leif Norman

The Spiritual Drummer

Yaya Diallo was born into music. His father was a semi-nomadic Fula (what we call Fulani) herdsman, healer and Nia messenger - one who could tell the future. This world music icon was a protege of the old musician, healer and sorcerer, Nangape Kone, whom he



understudied as a child. He was raised "in a culture that works, worships, lives and breathes to the beat of the drum." Yaya graduated with a Chemistry degree from the University of Montreal in 1973, and long before that, he experimented with herbs in his native Fienso and Minianka neighbourhoods in modern day Mali. Yaya has performed throughout the USA, Canada, Asia (Japan, Singapore), and Europe (France, England, and Belgium). He was a co-founder of the music and dance groups Djembe-Kan and Cleba and a member of the African Troubadours with the World Music Institute as well as a faculty member with the Creative Music Studio, Woodstock, NY. Yaya is currently teaching Applied World Percussion at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY. He also offers workshops in traditional African healing, music and dance for the community. He was a seasonal lecturer at Carlton University, teaching Aural Training I & II from 1987 to 1992. In the meantime Yaya worked for Multiculturalism [visit prairieafrican.com](http://prairieafrican.com) for full story





Jorgensen



Pantilimon



Courtois



Van Hout



Oblak



Alisson

The Tallest Goalkeepers In The World

Clubs these days like to sign very tall players, especially when it comes to manning the goal post. The illusionary factor seems to be the driving force in their decision - that is making the goal post appear impregnable, by placing a figure that is towering between the post. This obviously creates a defensive image, like that of a fortress, in the minds of attacking players, necessitating doubts in their minds as to how to approach an opponent's goal area. Any good coach will tell you that the moment you are able to create a doubt in the mind of an attacker, you have succeeded, half way, in narrowing down his options, the rest just depends on well-calculated guesses. Major clubs around the world have employed this strategy to their advantage. The likes of Real Madrid, Atletico, and Barcelona, in Spain, are a few examples. In England, Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal, Manchester City and Liverpool are currently doing the same. Not forgetting other notable teams in Germany, Italy, France and elsewhere. The effect has so caught on that spectators are not even aware that most goaltenders in the English Premiership, for example, are taller than the average player. Yes, there is the occasional outfield player who pops up every now and then to disrupt the statistics. But on average goaltenders are now growing taller than other outfield players. National teams have also jumped on the train. The USMNT goalkeepers Carlos Dos Santos and Bill Hamid stand at 1.94m and 1.91m respectively. Former Canadian under 20 goalkeeper, Asmir Begovic, stands at 1.99m. Given the backdrop, one wouldn't think of England's No 1

choice stopper, Jordan Pickford, as a very tall player. But Pickford standing at 1.85m (one of the shortest for modern day goal keepers) is almost at the average height for NBA players in America. Like I already said, you could make the argument that there are outfield players towering above Pickford, like Peter Crouch (2.01m), Southampton's Jannik Vestergaard (1.99m), Brighton's Dan Burn (1.98m) and Aston Villa's Tyrone Mings (1.96m). These are exceptions to the new norm, and, mind you, the clubs get them as back-ups for situations when their last man in defence has been sent off and they've run out of substitutions from the bench. A player like the legendary Peter Crouch comes to mind. Even though Crouch is a striker, and currently holds the record for the most headed goals in the English Premiership, we saw him being deployed as a goalkeeper, at least once in his career, when the situation demanded for it. Presently, Southampton's Fraser Forster appears to be the tallest goalkeeper in the Premiership, standing at 2.01m or 6.7", the now comfortable new height for a goalkeeper in a very competitive club, he is undoubtedly not the tallest goalkeeper in the world. That title belongs to Denmark's Simon Bloch Jorgensen who currently plies his trade with the Danish club, Dulwich Hamlet. Jorgensen standing at 2.10m or 6.10^{1/2}" is arguably taller than Kobe Bryant and Micheal Jordan, and may be the tallest sportsman in all of modern sport. How tall is the tallest active NFL player for example, 6.9"? Other tall goalkeepers in the Premiership include, Liverpool's Alisson Becker (1.91m), Burnley's

Nick Pope (1.91m), Manchester United's David de Gea (1.92m), Tottenham's pair of Joe Hart (1.96m) and Paulo Gazzaniga (1.96m), Southampton's Angus Gunn (1.96m), Palace's No 2, Wayne Hennessey (1.98m), Burnley's No 3, Lukas Jensen (1.98m), and Arsenal's third-choice stopper, Matt Macey (2.01m). Interestingly, non of them is on the list of the world's tallest goalkeepers. In Spain, the likes of former Atletico shot-stopper, Antonio Adan (1.92m), former Osasuna and Arsenal goalkeeper, Manuel Almunia (1.93m), Sevilla's Sergio Rico (1.95m), Real Betis' Joel Robles (1.95m), Espanyol's Diego Lopez (1.96m) and Madrid's Thibaut Courtois (2.0m) all failed to make the list as well. Bayern Munich's Manuel Neuer stands at

1.93m, a far cry from the tallest goalkeepers in the world. Other tall goaltenders in Germany include the trio of Fabian Giefer, Philipp Tschauner and Ralf Fahrmann who all stand at 1.96m. And then, there is the Nigerian international, Maduka Okoye (1.97m), who plies his trade with Fortuna Dusseldorf but transferred to Holland with Sparta Rotterdam. The pair of Lars Unnerstall (formerly of Dusseldorf but now with Eindhoven) and Michael Esser (Hannover) stand at 1.98m, Paderborn's Till Brinkmann (1.99m) with Dortmund's fifth-choice Jonas Hupe, the overall tallest keeper in Germany at 2.01m. But still did not make the cut. So also was Ligue 1's Lovre Kalinic (Toulouse) and Serie A's Vanja Milinkovic-Savic (Torino) who both



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Discussing Cricket with Ray



Ray Ramrattan

kid in 1982. And at that time my uncles here, in Winnipeg, were already involved with Cosmos Cricket Club. Two of my uncles and several other people from Guyana formed Cosmos Cricket Club in 1978. So, together with my brothers I joined Cosmos. It was great to see that Cricket was already being played here. And it was one thing that helped us stay in Winnipeg

organized sport that I have been passionate about outside of cricket. **I think I can attest to that because when I was looking for somebody to give me information about cricket, you volunteered the moment I reached out to you even within your busy schedules.** Now I don't have time for any other sport. I used to golf 20 times a year. Last year I was able to golf only 3 times and that's a lot compared to some other years. My weekends are fully occupied because of cricket. Cricket is essentially played all year round. In January, we launch our year with the Indoor Training Programme. This starts on the last Saturday in January until the end of April and that's for everybody. From May to September, we play all weekends with 5 teams. We usually have a game every Saturday and Sunday. This past year we played 64 games as a club. For me personally, I also have commitments outside of the game days. During the week, I am involved in some form of planning, training and supervision for all of our athletes.

stamp out racism and ethnic bigotry. **So, tell us about the Indian Premier League (IPL). It seems to be one of the biggest cricket leagues in the world, right?**

I will correct you there. They're not one of the biggest but the biggest.

Wow, that's huge.

Yes, they are the biggest cricketing nation and the richest cricketing body in the world. I will say they're the richest national sporting body in the world for all sports. The IPL which started in 2008 is known for its drama and excitement; that is why it is called the Great Tamasha or great entertainment. For example, they import cheerleaders just to add that excitement. The very first Cheerleaders in the IPL were from the NFL. The Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders were brought in because India was a very conservative country.

Are there any favourite teams to look out for there?

Yes, everyone has their favourite. My favourite team in the IPL is the Mumbai Indians, not because they won this year's championship. This year's playoffs were held outside India, in the UAE. The players were held in 3 different bubbles - Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi - due to Covid-19 restrictions in India. This is the second time the IPL is being hosted outside of India; the first time was in 2008 when it was hosted in South Africa because of some concerns around the Indian general elections at the time.

Is Cricket just a Game played in and around the Indian subcontinent or is that just my perception?

It appears so right now. The composition of the cricket league has changed over time primarily because of Canada's immigration policies. In the 60's, Manitoba cricket players were essentially expatriates from Britain and the Caribbean. Then in the 70's, 80's, and early part of the 90's, it was 80% Caribbean people that played cricket here. From the mid 90's until now, it is primarily people from the Indian subcontinent. That includes, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. But we do still have cricketers from Australia, New Zealand, England, UAE, Kuwait, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Kenya, and of course, the West Indies. We also have first-generation Canadians as well, though very few. But yes, you're right. Majority of players now are of Indian ancestry. I will send you a shirt I made at our 35th anniversary, in 2012, showing all the nations represented in Cosmos Cricket Club.

So, cricket is a very good way to eliminate racial biases then since players from every continent of the world are involved with the game here in Manitoba.

You are very correct. We ought to leverage on the unity that cricket provides us to

Is the IPL the most prestigious cricket tournament in the world?

You can say that of individual leagues. So, there's the Caribbean Premier League, Bangladesh Premier League, Australian Cricket League, South African and so on. Among these leagues, India's IPL is the biggest. The Cricket World Cup is still the most prestigious Cricket tournament in the world based on country representation. There are two World Cups: the ODI (One Day International) based on 50 format, and the T20. But the most prestigious of all is the Test game, the 5-day game played among nations.

You mean like the World Cup in soccer?

Exactly. **I know this is a very controversial issue**

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It was hectic reaching a consensus on who the best Batsman in Cricket is. Some say it's Don Bradman, others say it's Sachin Tendulkar, and yet some others claim it is definitely Trinidad's Brian Lara. It was even a bigger argument on who the best All-Rounder should be. Mr. Cricket, as I call him, tried to put these questions to rest plus provide us a lot of information about the prestigious Indian Cricket League. How successful was he? Please enjoy excerpts of the interview below.

Even though we've already met, I would want you to introduce yourself for the benefit of our readers.

My name is Ray Ramrattan. I am the President of Cosmos Cricket Club. I have steered the ship since 2003 when I took over. Before then, I served in the Manitoba Cricket Association for 13 years between 1990 - 2003 and held various positions like Vice Chairman, League Chairman, Treasurer, and League Secretary. I am very much involved with the growth and development of players within the Cosmos Cricket Club. We have 5 teams in the league. I'm also the convenor for the very first Junior Cricket League in Manitoba which was launched in 2019 but was put on hold in 2020, as you know, and we look forward to 2021. I also help manage our club's introduction of cricket in schools. We have our own academy program and other programs for all ages and skill sets within our club and I'm the overall general manager for that. I also work as an IT technology manager.

You must have your hands full. How did this all start for you?

I first came to Canada as a 12-year-old

despite the cold weather. Coming from a tropical country we arrived in the middle of Winter, November 1982. So, Cricket was a life saver. We were able to connect with Manitoba through Cosmos and cricket. Cricket was an avenue for social and cultural interaction, just to get out of the house, not much for fitness for us at the time. It was just a social network. To be honest with you, I never excelled as a player, but I was somehow drawn to the administrative side of things even at a very young age. Eight years later, when I was 20 years old, I first served on the board of the Manitoba Cricket Association and began holding positions with the Cosmos Cricket Club at the same time. I became Secretary of the Cosmos Cricket Club while serving on the board of the Manitoba Cricket Association from 1990 onwards. When I left the Manitoba Cricket Association, I became the President of Cosmos Cricket Club and have remained so until now. When I took over as President, we had only 8 players and were at the bottom of the league. We barely could muster a team together on the field to play a game. I oversaw and nurtured the rebuild and growth of the club from 2003 onwards. By 2008, Cosmos Cricket Club had enough players to register 2 teams in the league. Now, we have 80 players in 5 teams in all of the divisions. We have the Junior Cricket program and the Junior Cricket League. All that growth was under me, and of course with the help and support of our many members.

I'm just curious Ray, did you play any other sport, or you've just been playing cricket all these years?

Well, I golf a little bit but there is no other

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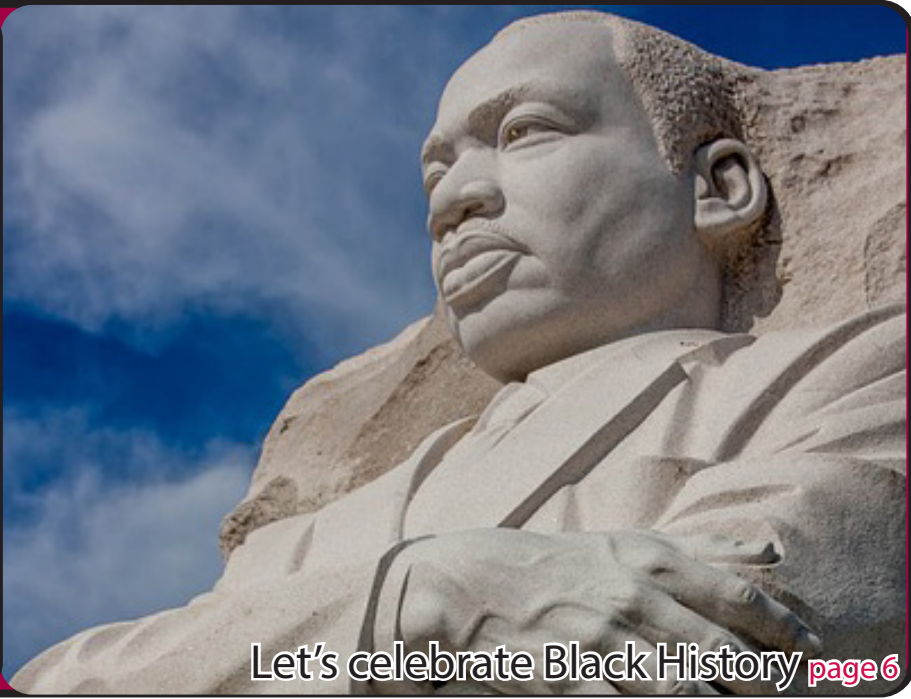
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An elder cannot fold his arms watching while a nanny goat gives birth to her young tied to a tree.



GROUP A

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Bayern M.	6	5	1	0	18	5	16
Atletico	6	2	3	1	7	8	9
Salzburg	6	1	1	4	10	17	4
Locomotive	6	0	3	3	5	10	3

GROUP B

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Real Madrid	6	3	1	2	11	9	10
M/gladbach	6	2	2	2	9	7	8
Shakhtar	6	2	2	2	5	12	8
Inter	6	1	3	2	7	9	6

GROUP C

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Man City	6	5	1	0	13	1	16
Porto	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
Olympiacos	6	1	0	5	2	10	3
Marseille	6	1	0	5	2	13	3

GROUP D

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Liverpool	6	4	1	1	10	3	13
Atalanta	6	3	2	1	10	8	11
Ajax	6	2	1	3	7	7	7
Midtjylland	6	0	2	4	4	13	2

GROUP E

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Chelsea	6	4	2	0	14	2	14
Sevilla	6	4	1	1	9	8	13
Krasnoda	6	1	2	3	6	11	5
Rennes	6	0	1	5	3	11	1

GROUP F

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Dortmund	6	4	1	1	12	5	13
Lazio	6	2	4	0	11	7	10
Brugge	6	2	2	2	8	10	8
Zenit	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

GROUP G

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
Juventus	6	5	0	1	14	4	15
Barcelona	6	5	0	1	16	5	15
Dynamo	6	1	1	4	4	13	4
Ferencváros	6	0	1	5	5	17	1

GROUP H

Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	P
PSG	6	4	0	2	13	6	12
Leipzig	6	4	0	2	11	12	12
Man Utd	6	3	0	3	15	10	9
Basaksehir	6	1	0	5	7	18	3



UEFA Champions League



Alphonso Davies

Profile

Age: 20
Club: Bayern Munich
Number: 19
Position: Left Back
Height: 1.81m (5ft 11)
Birthplace: Ghana
Nationality: Canada
Youth Clubs
Edmonton Internationals
2005
Edmonton Strikers
2006-2014
Whitecaps FC Residency
2015-2016
Whitecaps FC 2
2016
Vancouver Whitecaps
2016-2018
Bayern Munich
2018-date
National Team
2016: Canada U16
2016: Canada U20
2017: Canada Men



The kick-off for the Uefa Champions League round of 16 fixtures are just around the corner. This time we will see a two-legged fixture play out as Uefa seemed to have figured out a way to contain the virus. In the first round of matches beginning February 16th, Leipzig who finished second in Group H take on the defending champions, Liverpool, who topped their group. On that same night, PSG and Barcelona go head to head at the Nou Camp. That will be fun to watch. Neymar will finally reunite with his long-lost pal, Messi. And as for the result, might just be a drab draw. I hope I am wrong about that. On February 17th, reigning Europa champions, Sevilla take on Group F winners, Dortmund in a show of enterprising football. Porto and Juventus also lock horns on the same night. Then, a week later, on February 23rd, it will be Chelsea against Atletico at the Wanda Metropolitano, while Lazio and Bayern slug it out at the Stadio Olimpico on the same date. Surprise entrants, Monchengladbach, host Manchester City on February 24th, even as last year's revelation, Atalanta, square off with Real Madrid. Four players are currently tied on 6 goals as leading scorers in the current

campaign. They are, Halaand, Morata, Rashford and Neymar. In another development, German legend, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has called for the scrapping of the group stage of the competition which he says is too boring. The idea seems to be generating some heat as well as support from football pundits and administrators. Rummenigge wants to see a situation where the big teams are not paired with minnows, where they are more than likely to suffer heavy defeats (Bayern's lopsided win against Barcelona last season doesn't really work as a good example here). The German legend is also in favour of a single-leg format, like was played last year, because of the hurried Covid arrangements. His point is that those matches generated much intensity to the admiration of the fans. But let's say fans are finally allowed into the stadium in their numbers, of course after the pandemic is done and dusted, Uefa will definitely have to take a pay cut, as a single-leg fixture will mean loss of revenue for the soccer governing body, and probably for clubs also. In a related vein, Robert Lewandowski who became the first player, in over a decade, to displace both Messi and Ronaldo atop the scorers chart, last season, is already on song to win

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