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I don’t know if you have noticed it too, but lately, it seems that the gap between the rich and the poor has widened deeply across the world like never before. It’s a disheartening reality that disrupts the spirit of hope and socio-economic equality. However, amidst this, there are still a handful of individuals whose humanitarianism shines brightly, and their contributions can never truly be repaid except in the loud voices of gratitude that showcase their efforts.

One such remarkable individual is today’s cover personality, Herbert Wigwe, the highly respected banker extraordinaire. Over the years, he has, through his foundation, given back just as generously as he has received from life. One of his latest endeavours, Wigwe University, holds the promise of contributing significantly to our society. This ambitious project aims to provide world-class education right here in Nigeria, bridging the gap in educational opportunities and raising the bar for academic excellence. It’s a step towards empowering future generations with the tools they need to succeed globally.

Thinking about Herbert’s dedication to giving back has led me to reflect on the concept of giving itself. Wealth may primarily be a power unlike any other, but it is also a responsibility. It’s a privilege that should be wielded with care and a sense of duty to those less fortunate. I firmly believe that anyone fortunate enough to find themselves in a comfortable position to give should open not just their purse strings but also their hearts. Our efforts are even more critical in times like these when our country is grappling with a recession. The impact of our collective generosity can alleviate the suffering of countless individuals and families.

For those with substantial means, the call to action is even more profound. It’s time to support and invest in nation-building projects that will help steer our country back onto the right path.

Moving on, how are we gearing up for 2024? It might sound premature, but the reality is that it’s just six weeks away. If you are unsure of how to start making plans, the article “Revitalise Your Life in 2024: A Fresh Start Begins Now!” is an excellent place to start. It provides valuable insights and guidance to help you impact in the coming year.

On that note, I hope you find this week’s issue as uplifting, inspiring and fun as we have found putting it together. Cheers to a fabulous day and an even more fabulous week ahead.

Love,
Konye

Herbert Wigwe’s storied career in finance spans over two and a half decades, Understanding the transformative power of education, Wigwe has emerged as a vocal advocate for accessible, quality education. He firmly believes that education is not just a right but a cornerstone for the development of any nation. Through his advocacy, he emphasises the role of education in empowering individuals and shaping the future of countries.
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The GTCO Fashion Weekend 2023 was a vibrant gathering for fashion enthusiasts and shoppers from Lagos and beyond, who came in large numbers to support over 120 fashion and beauty entrepreneurs. This annual event spanned two days and featured prominent fashion leaders and industry experts from around the globe. It offered hundreds of local small fashion businesses a chance to enhance their online presence, access new markets, and grow sustainably.

The 2023 edition of the GTCO Fashion Weekend was notable for its innovative fashion retail experiences. It included a series of online masterclasses led by renowned experts in the fashion industry, as well as a stunning runway show. This show highlighted a selection of exceptional fashion brands from Nigeria and other parts of the world.

As a consumer-centric fair, the GTCO Fashion Weekend aims to present Africa's finest fashion to an international audience. Over the years, it has become a significant platform for nurturing diverse talent, creativity, and enterprise in the fashion retail sector. The event brings together some of Africa's leading fashion brands and emerging labels, allowing them to interact with globally recognized fashion icons and engaging style personalities.
Martell Cognac and Davido announce latest collaboration with limited edition Martell XO.

Maison Martell, in collaboration with its global brand ambassador, the renowned artist Davido, is celebrating their enduring partnership with a special release of Martell XO cognac. This limited edition, expertly crafted in collaboration with Davido, reflects his dynamic personality and inspiring journey, resonating with young individuals across Africa and beyond.

This exquisite Martell XO Limited Edition by Davido is a rarity, with only 1,200 bottles available. Each bottle is adorned with a unique label designed by the talented local artist Chidinma Mordi. The brand, which intriguingly glows in the dark, encapsulates elements of Davido’s life, global acclaim, and his mantra of empowerment: “We rise by lifting others.” The design features elegant circular motifs symbolizing community, music, and the unity of people.

Following the April release of Davido’s Exclusive Blend, this collaboration further cements the strong bond between Maison Martell and Davido. Known for his musical prowess and philanthropic efforts, Davido’s values align perfectly with Martell’s ethos of boldness and liberation.

NBA Nigeria recently hosted the second edition of “NBA Meets Art” at Tiffany Amber Gardens in Ikoyi, Lagos. The invite-only evening reception was curated to celebrate the game of basketball through the lens of Nigerian art and culture.

The centerpiece of the event was an inspiring installation titled “Passing / Building / Victory,” a collaboration between NBA Nigeria and Nigerian visual artist Dennis Osadebe, which explored the essence of teamwork on the basketball court and its parallel impact on community collaboration in line with the NBA’s global mission to connect people everywhere through basketball. The true masterpiece installation was open for public viewing at ART X Lagos 2023 from Nov 4-5th.

In the company of a remarkable hostess, Eku Edewor, the event boasted an eclectic guest list that included basketball stakeholders and art culture enthusiasts.

The highlight of the evening was a fireside chat between Abudu and Osadebe, an insightful conversation that shed light on the collaboration and its symbolism, which is focused on celebrating how basketball unites people from all walks of life. The entertainment was equally captivating, with a spoken word rendition by BIquake, dance performances by Ex BBN Housemate Hermes and choreographer Jossie, a moving choir medley, and DJ Consequence ending the night on a high note.
Do you often feel overwhelmed by the mountain of clothes in your wardrobe? Are you guilty of having items with their tags still on, months after purchase? You might be suffering from an over-abundance of attire! Here’s a guide to understanding the six tell-tale signs that your closet is bursting at the seams and it’s time for a change.

1. Reflect on the Past Year You Have Clothes You Only Ever Wore Once
Another indication that you have too many clothes is if you’re holding onto items that you’ve only worn once. You can probably let them go if you constantly push them aside in favour of other things on a daily basis. It might be hard to let them go, especially if you didn’t buy them cheap, but think about giving them to people who will treasure them just as much as you would.

2. You’re Holding Onto Unfitting Clothes
It is a fact that many of us hold onto items that don’t fit in the hopes that they will eventually fit. In due course. Maybe one day! But here’s the thing: It might be time to accept how your body has changed if you still need to start that diet, exercise programme, or whatever else it will take to fit back into those clothes. Give up the clothes and embrace your new size to live your best life.

3. Dressing Up Is A Stressful Process
Wearing the same outfits repeatedly is one of the easiest ways to tell if you have too many clothes. Your lack of options in your closet is less of a factor in this. Quite the reverse—there are too many options, which makes dressing up stressful. Instead of wasting valuable closet space, why not organise some of your clothes and mix and match them in ways you would like to wear them.

4. You Own Clothing That Still Has Tags Attached.
Many of us are guilty of having clothing in our closets that still has tags on it. Having a few clothes with that tag still on is not unusual. Nonetheless, an excessive amount of these things is a fairly obvious sign of a cluttered wardrobe. This is particularly true if you discover that you purchase new clothing more frequently than you wear it. This is not only a financial waste but may also make you feel ashamed. Yes, letting go of things like this can hurt a little. You almost feel as though you’re confessing your own failure to yourself. Plus, the money you have parted with to think of can hurt!

5. You Have Clothes You Never Wear.
You might adore them, and occasionally, you might even put them on to take a good look at yourself in the mirror, but there are some clothes you never really wear. It’s simple: they most likely don’t fit your way of life, and if you have those clothes in your wardrobe, it’s time to give them up. If you have workwear you no longer need, consider giving them out. Alternatively, you could try your hand at the pre-owned store, which is a great way to recoup some of the money you spent.

6. Your Clothing Is In Poor Shape.
Tears, rips, stains, scuffed leather, and broken zippers. It might be time to let go of those clothes you’ve been holding onto that have seen better days. Determine whether the item can be fixed, and if it can, whether you’re willing to invest the necessary funds or time to do so. If not, either recycle them or throw them all away.

The GTCO Fashion Weekend runway has once again left us in awe, and as we sift through the fashion extravaganza, we can’t help but marvel at the stunning looks that grazed the runway. The designers brought their A-game, showcasing a breath-taking array of styles that left us in awe. Whether it was bold prints, elegant silhouettes, or daring accessories, each look told a unique story and captured the essence of contemporary fashion. Here are seven standout looks that stole the spotlight and set the runway on fire:

By Oroma Jumbo

Our Top 7 Picks from the GTCO Fashion Weekend Runway.

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THANK YOU FOR MAKING ART X LAGOS 2023 REMARKABLE

Your participation and creativity have made ART X Lagos 2023 truly special.
We appreciate your unique contributions and look forward to more shared moments in the future.

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Herbert Wigwe's storied career in finance spans over two and a half decades, a testament to his enduring dedication and expertise. As a pivotal figure in Nigeria's banking sector, he has been instrumental in major bank mergers in Africa, advising companies across diverse industries, including construction, telecommunications, energy, and oil and gas. His unique approach? A blend of deep industry understanding and robust financial support tailored to the nuanced needs of each sector. Beyond his boardroom, Wigwe's philanthropic impact is felt through the HOW (Herbert Oyewunmi Wigwe) Foundation. This venture is more than just a charitable arm; it's a beacon of hope for African development. The foundation’s primary focus? Building to enhance Africa. This mission has recently led to an ambitious and heartening project: establishing a university-Wigwe University.

Understanding the transformative power of education, Wigwe has emerged as a vocal advocate for accessible, quality education. He firmly believes that education is not just a right but a cornerstone for the development of any nation. Through his advocacy, he emphasizes the role of education in empowering individuals and shaping the future of countries. His is a story of ambition, vision, and an unwavering commitment to Africa’s future.

Interview - Konye Chelsea Nwabogor
Photography-Kelechi Anadi Obi

Going straight in, everyone is talking about Wigwe University. Some have described it as world-class and the next big thing in education. Please tell me a bit about it. Where and how did you get the inspiration? Everyone is talking about Wigwe University because it is very special. You know, it is an opportunity for me to give back to society through the HOW Foundation by providing world-class quality education for the development of Nigeria and Africa. The inspiration for the project came from the desire to build people who would alter where Nigeria and Africa are going and ensure that we remain a very competitive place. The project’s primary focus is nurturing and building responsible, fearless, and thoughtful leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs who can ignite the continent’s potential and take its rightful place as far as the global stage is concerned.

So, how do you envision Wigwe University influencing Nigeria’s educational system in the next decade? We are setting a pace which will be unrivaled in Nigeria’s university system. The curriculum at Wigwe University is very unique. The curriculum at the university is such that it reflects the future of work. Although the present curriculum at Nigerian Universities is good, more is needed to provide people with the relevant skills to thrive. I tell you, the revolutionary curriculum at Wigwe University will compete with that of the best universities in the world. That would greatly influence the Nigerian educational system and, indeed, Africa in the next decade. If we look at our curriculum, you’ll find elements of leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship from the first year till graduation. It is not just going to be a taught course but will have a practical element to it, which ensures that irrespective of what course of study, those three elements remain an integral part of the student’s academic life. Our students will also have the opportunity of getting relevant international exposure through a structured one-year overseas to enable them understand the global market and compete favourably. Additionally, they will be trained to have the local grit to survive and thrive in Nigeria. I believe Wigwe University will serve as a reference point for the Nigerian educational system in the next decade.

I imagine it hasn’t been an easy ride. Were there any major setbacks? Yes, we could not have achieved all we did without facing some challenges. I don’t think any project can thrive without them. We have faced challenges in terms of funding, regulatory frameworks, and the need to develop the curriculum. However, we have managed to overcome these challenges, and we are now poised for success.

When does the first academic year begin, and what’s the process? The first academic session for Wigwe University begins in September 2024. The process is in 3 simple steps. Step 1: Students will have to take the UTME exams by JAMB and sit for merit marks. Step 2: Successful students of the previous step, would take a Wigwe University Post UTME examination. Finally, step 3 is a rigorous interview process involving both prospective students and their parents.

Talking about giving back, which you touched on earlier. How’s the HOW Foundation doing? What really is the story behind its inception? The HOW Foundation is doing great. It was founded in 2016 and has its headquarters in Lagos. The Foundation was created out of my desire to give back to society and my passion for touching lives in the most significant way. The Foundation is dedicated to a mission to change Africa, one life, one community, and one future at a time. We are focused on three major areas with the potential for exponential impact - Education, Youth Empowerment and Healthcare.

We have carried out quite a number of projects since inception, like the support given to 13,000 almajiri children in Kaduna, training of 75 doctors in Israel and the US, and revamping and management of 25 primary healthcare centres across Nigeria and then, we have the Wigwe University. If you look closely, you’ll realise these projects cut across Education, Youth Empowerment and Healthcare.

On leadership, how do you foster innovation within your team and organisation? And what’s the most valuable lesson you’ve learned? My leadership style is a cross between visionary and democratic. I would effectively communicate my vision to inspire and motivate my team to key into the vision and work towards its actualisation. All members of the team are part of the decision-making process. If there is one lesson I have learned, it is that you can not downplay the value of open effective communication and collaboration. How do you balance work and personal life, especially in high-stress environments? I am intentional about compartmentalising my time between work and my private life. This helps to keep me grounded and to decompress or destress.

Could you please share an unexpected personal fact that might surprise people? Not many people know I attended secondary school in northern Nigeria, Sokoto State, to be precise - Federal Government College Sokoto. I became independent at a very young age because of that. I later attended Federal Government College, Aba, and I could see the difference between going to school far away and being independent and staying close to home.

Looking back, what advice would you give your younger self at the start of your career? Be Fearless and never give up on your vision and dreams. Always consider failure as a lesson for growth. Lastly, what legacy do you aim to leave through your professional and philanthropic work? I want to be remembered as a man who contributed to building generations of inspiring, fearless African leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs through Wigwe University.
Inherited Style – Is Fashion in your Genes?

When it comes to fashion, many of us believe it’s a matter of personal choice and individual taste. After all, we spend hours scouring the internet for style inspiration, flipping through glossy magazines, and keeping an eye on the latest fashion trends. But have you ever wondered if your fashion sense could be influenced by something more innate? Could it be that fashion is in your genes?

For many people, the idea of inheriting a sense of style from their parents or older siblings may seem far-fetched. We’ve all heard the phrase “like parent, like child,” but in the world of fashion, it’s not always that simple. However, for the lucky few who have indeed inherited their parents’ style, it can be a fashion jackpot that pays off in spades.

The Science Behind Style Genes
To understand the concept of fashion in your genes, we need to take a closer look at the science of genetics. Our genes play a significant role in determining many of our physical traits, from eye colour to height, and it turns out that they can also influence our fashion preferences. Recent studies have suggested that there may be a genetic component to our clothing choices. These studies have identified specific genes associated with sensory perception, mood regulation, and personality traits that can influence our style preferences. For example, individuals with a heightened sensitivity to textures may be drawn to soft, comfortable fabrics, while those with a more adventurous personality may gravitate towards bold, avant-garde fashion choices.

Fashion Dynasties: The Power of Family Influence
While genetics may play a role in our fashion sense, family influence is another crucial factor. Many of us recall moments from childhood when we raidied our parents’ closets or watched in awe as they effortlessly put together stylish outfits. These formative experiences can shape our fashion sense for years to come.

The Art of Fashion Hand-Me-Downs
One of the most tangible ways in which we inherit style from our parents is through hand-me-downs. Many of us have cherished clothing items that once belonged to our parents or grandparents, and these pieces carry with them a sense of history and nostalgia. Vintage fashion has made a comeback in recent years, and there’s something special about wearing a piece of clothing that has been passed down through generations.

Style Icons and Their Fashion-Forward Offspring
While inheriting a sense of style is one thing, some individuals are lucky enough to be born into families of fashion icons. These offspring have the unique opportunity to learn from the best and grow up surrounded by the glitz and glamour of the fashion world.

Nature vs. Nurture: The Fashion Debate
The age-old debate of nature vs. nurture applies to fashion as well. While genetics and family influence undoubtedly shape our style preferences, personal experiences and cultural influences also have a significant impact. Many of us develop our own unique sense of style through trial and error, experimenting with different looks and finding what makes us feel confident and authentic. Even within families where fashion is a big part of their DNA, individuals often carve out their distinct styles. Siblings may have different fashion personas, influenced by their own interests and experiences. This diversity within families only adds to the richness of the fashion landscape.

Fashion Forward: The Future of Style Inheritance
As we continue to explore the concept of fashion in your genes, it’s clear that the relationship between genetics and style is complex and multifaceted. While some may find themselves naturally aligned with their family’s style sense, others may blaze their own trail.

Ultimately, fashion is a deeply personal expression of self, influenced by many factors. Whether you’ve inherited your parents’ impeccable taste or cultivated your own unique style through your journey, what matters most is that you feel confident and comfortable in the clothing you choose to wear.

7 Fashion Trends to Start Shopping Now
As the fashion season comes to an end, it brings with it a lot of trends that are as diverse as they are captivating. From the revival of vintage classics to the emergence of bold new styles, this season is a testament to the fashion world’s dynamic and ever-evolving nature.

- Colour Blocking: Gone are the days of subtle colour palettes. This season, fashion is all about bold and bright colour blocking. Think statement-making pieces paired in unexpected combinations, creating looks that are both striking and joyful.
- Puff Sleeves: Adding a romantic and whimsical touch to outfits, puff sleeves are everywhere. This trend is all about adding drama and volume, creating a silhouette that’s both feminine and powerful.
- Sheer Fabrics: Translucent materials are being used to create an ethereal and delicate look. Sheer fabrics are being incorporated into all types of garments, adding a layer of sophistication and allure.
The holiday season is almost here! Are you seeking a peaceful escape where you can relax and relieve your worries for a few days? We’ve got some hidden gems for you to rediscover! Here are four enchanting travel destinations in Nigeria where tranquillity meets adventure:

1. Obudu Mountain Resort
   Nestled high in the Obudu Plateau, the Obudu Mountain Resort is a haven for nature enthusiasts and those in search of serenity. Surrounded by lush green fields and trees and a cool mountain breeze, this resort offers breathtaking views. From the swimming pool to the cable car ride and scenic hikes through the surrounding hills, there’s lots to explore here!

2. Ikogosi Warm Springs
   We move west to Ekiti State and find the rarity that is the Ikogosi Warm Springs, where warm and cold springs meet in a tranquil confluence. The soothing ambience and natural beauty make it an ideal destination for relaxation. You can indulge in the therapeutic qualities of the springs, explore the lush botanical gardens, or enjoy a quiet picnic by the water’s edge.

3. Tarkwa Bay Beach
   Just a short boat ride within the bustling city of Lagos, Tarkwa Bay Beach offers a peaceful escape from urban life. This secluded beach is perfect for those looking to unwind by the ocean. Visitors can try their hand at water sports, savour freshly caught seafood at beachside shacks, or simply lounge and enjoy the serenity it offers.

4. Awhum Waterfall
   For a rejuvenating experience in nature, head to Awhum Waterfall in Enugu State. Surrounded by dense forests, the waterfall running down rugged cliffs into a serene pool below is a beauty to behold. The area is not only a visual delight but also holds spiritual significance. Visitors can take a refreshing swim in the calm waters or explore the nearby Awhum Monastery, adding a touch of spirituality to their retreat.
1. Reflect on the Past Year

Before diving into the future, it’s essential to look back and reflect on the year that’s coming to a close. Take some time to think about your achievements, setbacks, and the lessons you’ve learned. What were your goals for this year, and how close did you come to achieving them? What changes or improvements do you want to make in your life?

Use this reflection as a foundation for setting new goals and intentions for 2024. Whether aiming for personal growth, career advancement, or improved relationships, clearly understanding where you’ve been can guide you toward where you want to go.

2. Set Meaningful Goals

Goal setting is a powerful tool for creating a sense of purpose and direction in life. In the final months of the year, take the time to set meaningful and achievable goals for the coming year. Ensure they align with your values and aspirations. Whether it’s a fitness milestone, a career move, or a commitment to personal development, well-defined goals can serve as a roadmap for the year ahead.

3. Embrace a Healthier Lifestyle

Refresh your approach to life by prioritizing your health and well-being. Start by incorporating small changes into your daily routine, such as adopting a regular exercise regimen, improving your diet, and getting sufficient sleep. These habits will boost your physical health and enhance your mental and emotional well-being.

4. Cultivate Mindfulness

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it’s easy to get caught up in the chaos. Make mindfulness a part of your daily routine to stay grounded and present. Practicing mindfulness through meditation, deep breathing, or simply taking moments to appreciate the beauty around you can help reduce stress and increase your overall sense of well-being.

5. Embrace Learning and Growth

Never stop learning. One of the most enriching ways to refresh your approach to life is by seeking new knowledge and experiences. Consider taking a new hobby, enrolling in a course, or reading books that inspire and challenge you. Embracing continuous growth and learning will keep your mind sharp and your life fulfilling.

6. Connect with Others

Building and maintaining meaningful relationships is a vital aspect of a fulfilling life. Take the time to nurture your connections with friends and family. Schedule regular catch-ups, plan memorable outings, and show appreciation for the people who bring joy to your life. Remember that meaningful relationships provide support, happiness, and personal growth.

7. Embrace Positivity

Cultivate a positive mindset by focusing on gratitude and optimism. Start each day by acknowledging the things you’re grateful for and practicing positive self-talk. By maintaining a positive outlook, you’ll be better equipped to handle challenges and embrace opportunities as they arise in 2024.

8. Prioritize Self-Care

Self-care isn’t selfish; it’s essential for maintaining balance and well-being. Dedicate time to activities that rejuvenate and relax you, whether it’s a spa day, a hobby you love, or simply quiet moments of reflection. Prioritizing self-care ensures you have the energy and resilience to tackle whatever the future holds.

9. Plan for Adventure

Inject excitement and anticipation into the year ahead by planning adventures and experiences that push you out of your comfort zone. Whether traveling to a new destination, taking up an adventurous sport, or exploring your creative side, adventures are the spice of life that keeps it exciting and memorable.

10. Stay Flexible

While setting goals and intentions is crucial, remember to remain flexible and open to change. Life is unpredictable; sometimes, the most remarkable opportunities emerge from unexpected circumstances. Be adaptable and ready to pivot when necessary, all while staying true to your values and priorities.
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