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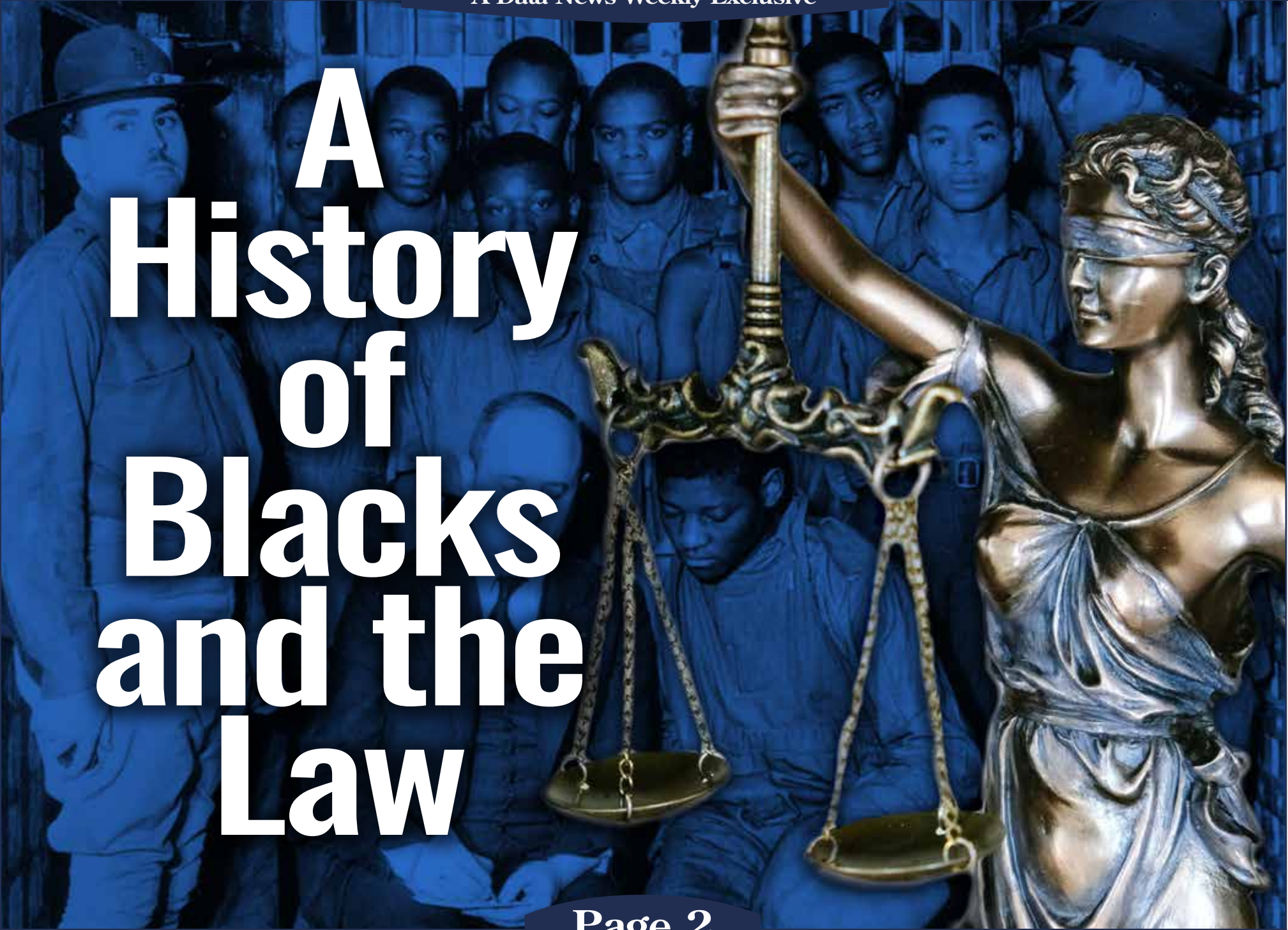
New Orleans Celebrates Mardi Gras 2023

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February 25 - March 3, 2023 57th Year Volume 44 www.ladatanews.com

A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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A History of Blacks and the Law



The legal struggle for justice and equality continues for African Americans in the United States.

Data News Staff Edited Report

In a country where the promise of liberty and justice for all appears in the founding documents. While this is a laudable goal, the United States continues to amend itself into becoming a more perfect union. Blacks and the struggle for equal rights and protection is a journey that spans from 1619 until today. Data News Weekly, in honor of Black History Month is giving our readers a brief snapshot of this history in hopes to educate, inform and inspire our community.

September 17, 1668 — October 20, 1669

Casual Killing Act of 1669

Passed by the Virginia General Assembly, the Casual Killing Act declared that if a slave died while resisting his master, the master would be deemed not to have acted with malice. The law effectively made it legal for masters to kill their slaves at will in the process of inflicting punishment.

February 28, 1803

Ban on the Importation of “Any Negro, Mulatto, or Other Person of Colour”

Fearing that anti-slavery sentiment would spread across the United States, Southern slaveowners sought to restrict the migration of Black Freeman. The 1803 act prohibited the importation of “any negro, mulatto, or other person of color, not being a native, a citizen, or a registered seaman, natives of countries beyond the Cape of Good Hope.”

March 6, 1857

Dred Scott v. Sanford

Amid increasing political division, Dread Scott, a slave, had been transported from a slave, from the slave holding State of Missouri to free areas where slavery was illegal. Scott sued for his freedom, claiming he had been freed when he was taken into a free U.S. territory. In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court held that Scott and other Black people, whether slave or free, were not citizens of the United States and could not enjoy the rights and privileges of the Constitution, including the right to sue.

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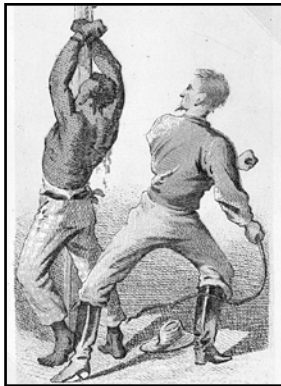
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June 19, 1865

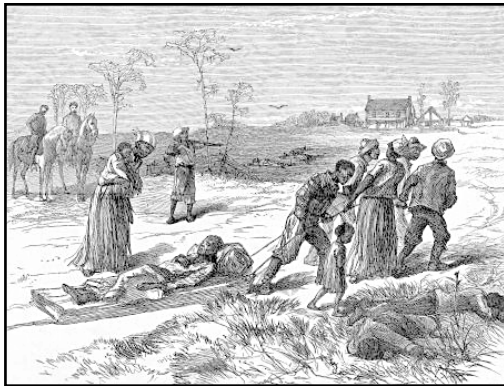
Juneteenth

Although President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation had officially outlawed slavery over two years earlier, this information only gradually spread throughout the country as Union troops advanced. June 19, 1865, marks the date that Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, at the far reaches of the Confederacy, and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery.

March 27, 1876

United States v. Cruikshank

Following a disputed gubernatorial



election in Louisiana that led to the massacre of dozens of African Americans by White supremacists, federal charges were brought against several Whites who had conspired to deprive citizens of their First and Second Amendment Rights. The Supreme Court reversed the convictions of White supremacist and severely weakened efforts to protect African Americans' civil rights and left them at the mercy of state governments.

April 1, 1935

Scottsboro Case

Nine African American teenagers in Alabama were accused of raping two White women. In a case



now considered a miscarriage of justice in the nation's legal system, the rushed trial included an all-White jury and disruptive lynch mobs in a state that had long disenfranchised Blacks. All but two of the two teenagers served prison sentences, even though one of the alleged victims later admitted fabricated the rape story.

June 12, 1967

Loving v. Virginia

Mildred Loving, a woman of African American ancestry, was imprisoned along with her White husband Richard Loving for violating Virginia's Racial Integrity Act of 1924, which criminalized marriage



between White people and people of color. The Supreme Court held laws banning interracial marriages unconstitutional.

February 24, 2021

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

In response to the police killings of George Floyd in Minnesota and



Breonna Taylor in Kentucky, and other Black Americans, House Democrats introduced the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act to combat racial bias, excessive force, and misconduct in policing. The act seeks to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct, improves transparency through data collection, and reforms police training and policies.

ROUSES MARKETS

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New Orleans Celebrates Mardi Gras 2023

Photos by Shannon Fields
Data News Weekly Contributor

Mardi Gras 2023 was an incredible celebration with good times had by all. All Over the City people enjoying the festive activities during the first full Carnival Season since COVID. Showcasing the best of America's most Amazing City.



Zulu King 2023 Nicholls 'Nick' Spears and Queen Dr. Christy Lagarde Spears.



Zulu Queen Dr. Christy Lagarde Spears with proud father Irwin Lagarde, Sr.



Data Zone, Continued on page 5.

Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Data Zone, Continued from page 4



Data News Weekly Editor-in-Chief Edwin Buggage and Civil Rights Icon Jerome Smith enjoying Mardi Gras "Under the Bridge Celebration" in the historic Tremé neighborhood.



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events.

Organizers For Mayor LaToya Cantrell Recall Election Say They Have Received Enough Signatures

Data News Staff Edited Report

NOLATOYA.org Co-Founder Eileen Carter stated on February 20, 2023, that the organization had secured more than 49,000 signatures on its petition for a recall election.

Last week, organizers said they were 1,029 signatures shy of the nearly 50,000 signatures needed to petition for a recall election. The deadline for the signatures is Wednesday, February 22nd.

The organization said that simply meeting the minimum number of 20% of registered voters might not be enough as there is a chance some of the signatures could be deemed invalid by the Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters.

New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell will be able to appeal the recall effort.

The announcement follows a lawsuit filed by the recall organiz-



New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell.

ers against the Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters, claiming that voter rolls are not accurate.

Eileen Carter and Belden Batiste are taking legal action trying to get the Orleans Parish Registrar of Voters to purge the voter rolls.

They are claiming in a writ mandamus that more than 25,000 people in New Orleans are listed as active voters but are not.

They claim, in the legal filing, that 546 dead people are still listed as active voters in the city.

And they say that 21,436 people are listed as active voters in the city but have moved out of Louisiana.

The number of active, registered voters is key to their effort as the required signatures are based on the number of active, registered voters.

This is a developing story, and Data News Weekly will keep our readers informed.

State & Local News

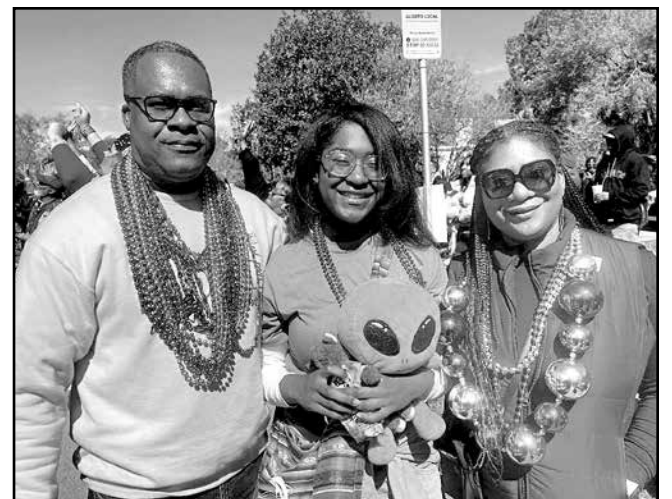
NOMTOC Parade Celebrates Literary Culture



Married couple Sheryl and Marion Floyd share their excitement and gratitude for the NOMTOC Krewe as they prepare their float for the parade.



NOMTOC's Main theme float "Fantasy Library" at the start of the parade.



Left to right: West Bank residents Robb Richardson, his daughter Emerald Richardson and his wife Brittney Richardson, are NOMTOC parade regulars.

Story and Photos by Zaria Townsend Data News Weekly Contributor

The Krewe of NOMTOC (New Orleans Most Talked of Club) featured the theme of "NOMTOC's Fantasy Library" this year as it rolled its 26 floats along Holiday Drive and General Meyer Avenue featuring some 600 plus riders, a

dozen marching bands and groups across the West Bank.

"A lot of the parades were not open to Black people for a long time, NOMTOC is for the people that look like me," said Marion Floyd, the leader of the Sesame Street float.

NOMTOC is sponsored by the Jugs Social Aid and Pleasure Club which formed in 1951. The krewe is known for its signature Jug Man

dolls and jug banks as its throws. It has grown into a large community service committee in the West Bank, supporting All Saints Catholic Church and many schools to help put on its Annual Carnival Parade. The krewe selects high achieving students in the community to ride in the floats each year.

Many generations over the last 70 years have come out to not only support their parade, a signature

event across Mardi Season that is unique for the West Bank, but to immerse themselves in a culture that they've built for themselves all those years ago.

This year, the krewe selected as its theme a tribute to literary and popular culture. The krewe's floats and designs included crowd favorites such as "Beauty and the Beast," "Sesame Street" and "Toy Story."

Residents and visitors come to

see the parade, no matter their ages. Residents shared that NOMTOC is popular on the West Bank because it has proven committed to inclusivity for everyone by making the parade a safe space.

Among the regulars who make NOMTOC a family tradition were the Richardson family. The family of three attended the parade,

Commentary,
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No One in the World Like Anita

Renetta Perry
Data News Weekly
Contributor

If you were coming of age in the early '80s like me, you probably experienced the tumult of love and heartbreak with an Anita Baker song playing in the background of your phone conversations on WYLD's "Mellow Moods" radio show. Whether it was the formidable, yet dreamy love ballad "Angel," where her voice floats through the first 32 bars with the mesmerizing and ethereal OOOOOO's, or the gut-wrenching "No more tears," the painstakingly beautiful ballad that evokes the emotion we all feel when love is lost, Anita was definitely the third person in our young relationships. She guided us through it all with carefully and powerfully architected lyrics; a raw, yet silky voice that wrapped us like a cashmere sweater, and a dramatic musical sound that seemed instinctively aware of when to crescendo and decrescendo, right along with our highs and lows/joys and pains.

To say that her voice dominated the soundtrack of a generation would be an understatement. Her innate ability to know, and connect to her audience, as evidenced in her writing and delivery, is textbook. When she emerged onstage at the Smoothie King Center last Friday



Musical legend Anita Baker recently dazzled the audience in New Orleans along with special guest Babyface.

night, grown men and women collectively and audibly gasped as if there was a God appearing. (I've witnessed countless artists performing in countless venues, but I had never witnessed audible gasping in this way). The realization that we were in the same room with Anita Baker, no matter where our seats were in the arena, was surreal, nostalgic, and euphoric, simultaneously. She seemed similarly in awe because the arena was, in her words, "sold out," despite the concert's timing at the height of the Mardi Gras season and when the Zulu Ball or at least four other parades could have been our choice.

Like her vocal intro on "Angel," she seemed to float onstage, don-

ning a red, floor length, sequined coat, atop a black, sequined catsuit, punctuated with a bold rhinestone belt. All but for her slight limp, she has aged impeccably, and has kept her voice in stellar condition, not missing a note in the two hours that she graced us with her presence. Mid-show, she brought back Babyface, her opening act, and introduced him as her "friend." He, in-turn, publicly regretted not being able to take credit for writing any of her songs and declared her to be one of the most prolific songwriters of our time.

As she effortlessly belted out hit-after-hit to an audience who sang along (at the top of our lungs) to every song, word-for-word, she

ended set one with "Fairytale," a song she said she wrote in the "junk room" of her house when she was only 16 years old and before she knew she would become a world-renowned singer/songwriter. Confetti bombs and on-stage pyrotechnics seemed to signal the show's end, but Anita came back, managing to craft her second act as an intimate set where she stood next to her piano, mic in hand, and thanked the massive audience for our support of her 40-plus-year career. Then she repeatedly asked us, "what y'all wanna hear now?" prompting the audience to yell out our wishes as if we were right on stage with her. "I Apologize," "Body and Soul," and a blizzard of other hits followed.

She filled our requests like a human juke box. "Same Old Love," brought the crowd to our feet and her last song, "Giving You the Best that I Got," brought many to tears as she prefaced the song with the story of how she has been doing this for many years, and how grateful she is that at 65-years-old, she is still doing just that.

As we left the arena, hundreds broke into an impromptu, unison version the New Orleans bounce classic, "No One in the World," a song that Anita seemed to neglectfully not perform. Feeling the void, the audience took matters into our own hands and created the perfect NOLA ending to a perfect night with the "Queen of Love" herself.

Commentary, Continued
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enjoyed the family atmosphere and took some family photos. Brittney Richardson, her husband Robb Richardson, and their daughter Emerald Richardson are West Bank residents who said

they come to the parade annually as part of the long-awaited Mardi Gras festivities.

"Being around people and getting to know them is such a surreal experience," said daughter Emerald Richardson, as she watched the parade floats go by.

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Compensation is competitive and great story ideas will be appreciated.

If you are interested, please email your resume and 3 writing samples to: terrybjones@bellsouth.net and datanewseditor@bellsouth.net.

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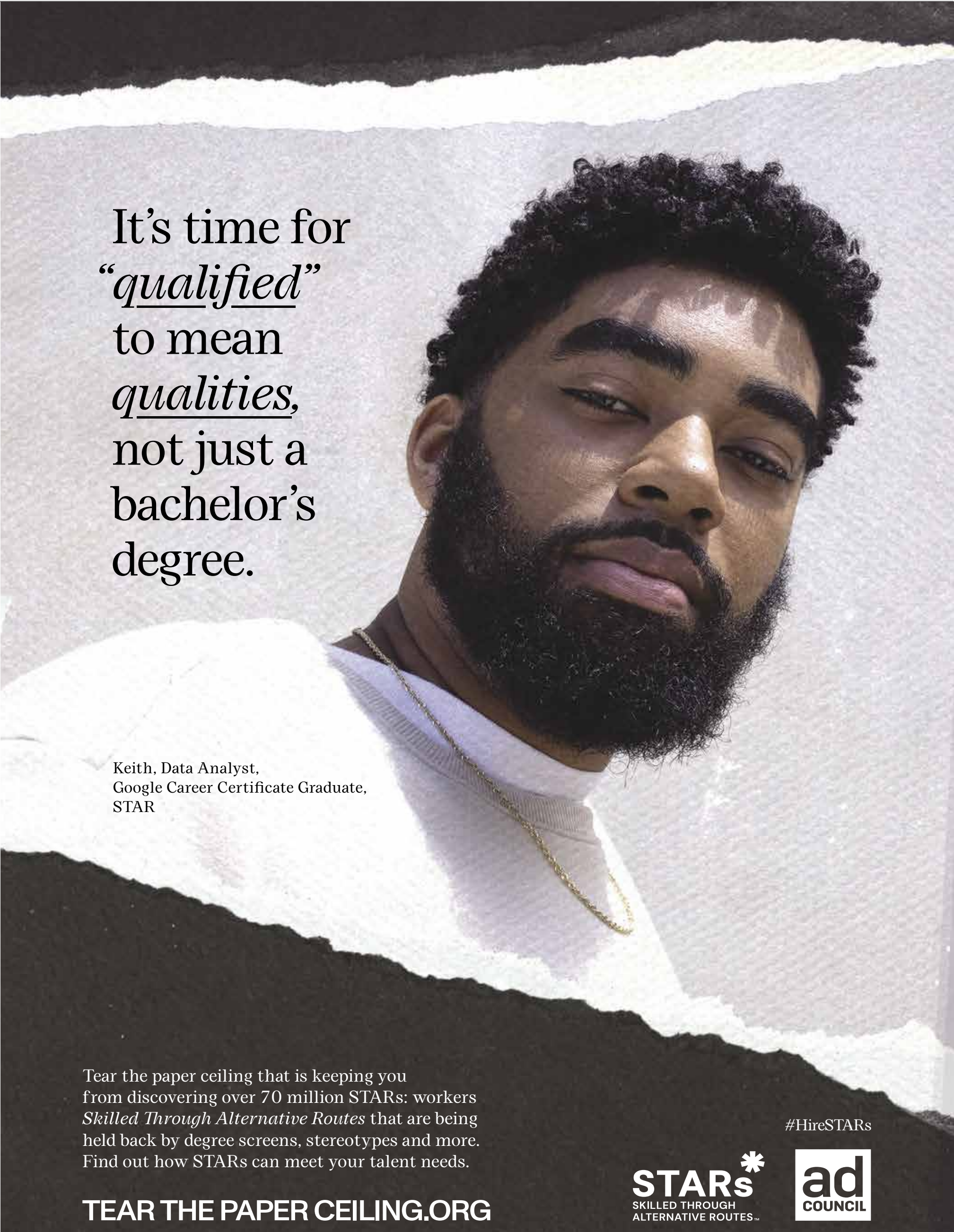
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