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**ABCT Musical The
Bodyguard Premiere**

**Data Zone
Page 5**

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RETURN OF THE WHO DAT NATION

Bigger Than Football

Page 2



Newsmaker

**First Gentleman Jason
Cantrell Passes Away
at Age 55**

Page 6

National News

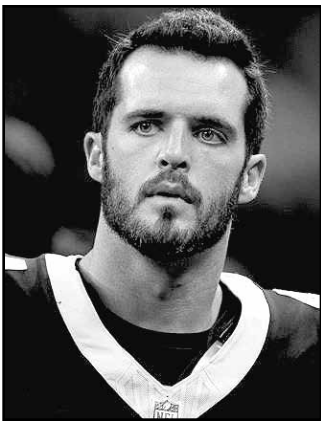
**Former Mississippi Officers
Plead Guilty for Torturing
and Abusing Two Black Men**



Page 7

The Return of the Who Dat Nation

Bigger than Football



The Black and Gold are back for the 2023 season, and the Who Dat Nation is ready to support their team. The Saints have many of its stars coming back, as well as some off-season acquisitions that include QB Derek Carr.

Fleur De Lis
Data News Weekly Contributor

It is that time of the year again. Where the Who Dat Nation will be cheering on the Black and Gold. In the pre-season opener, they were victorious against last year's Super Bowl Champs, The Kansas City Chiefs.

While we understand this was not an accurate reflection of things to come. The Saints looked good on both sides of the ball, and some of the new talent on the team seems they will have a positive impact on this year's team. But as we are hoping for a winning season, our relationship with the Saints goes way beyond football. Local sports teams have a unique ability to in-

spire and unite a city in various ways. Our Saints do that for us in so many ways: The Fleur De Lis is a symbol of local pride and identity. We feel connected to our city through the achievements of our sports team, leading to a sense of community and belonging. For better or worse our Saints boost our morale

Cover Story, Continued on page 3.

INSIDE DATA	
Cover Story	2
Data Zone	4
Newsmaker	6
Opinion	6
National News	7

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.

when they are winning. A Saints win uplifts the spirits of the people of our city. It is our hope this year that we can have more of those times than not.

Of course, during football season, we see a boost in our economy. During the season, the Saints create jobs for many workers and have a several hundred-million-dollar impact. While these numbers are impressive, it is important that local and particularly African American businesses benefit.

While New Orleans is a city rife with division among racial and class lines, during the games we are all Black and Gold. This is a beautiful thing, as the Superdome and other places around the city are transformed into places where differences are forgotten during the games.

During the season there is much community engagement by the teams giving back to the youth. Our Saints players do many charitable things around town inspiring our young people to become involved in sports. This can lead to them having positive things to do, have healthier lifestyles and gain valuable life skills.



Win or Lose, Saints fans are loyal to the Black and Gold. Additionally, the Saints and what they represent are much bigger than football. For it is a time for people to get together with family and friends, as well as a source of local pride and identity.

As we are a city with so many talented people, the season showcases it at its best. Every year there are several Saints songs that catch fire. This year is no different, we will see what anthem(s) will have us celebrating the Black and Gold.

The Saints are more than just a local and regional team. Due to the recent success over the past decades the Saints have gained media attention, which shines a spotlight on the city itself. This has led to opportunities to showcase not only the sports achievements but also

the city's unique attributes that are world renown.

Overall, our Saints are truly a source of pride, inspiration, and unity for our city, contributing to the overall well-being and vibrancy of the community. It is our hope that this year's squad can have a

winning season, make the playoffs, and hopefully reach the Superbowl. Either way, we will support them, as we understand that our relationship with the Saints is bigger than what happens on the field. It is just another way for us to celebrate living in one of the world's greatest cities.

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Seeing Red



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

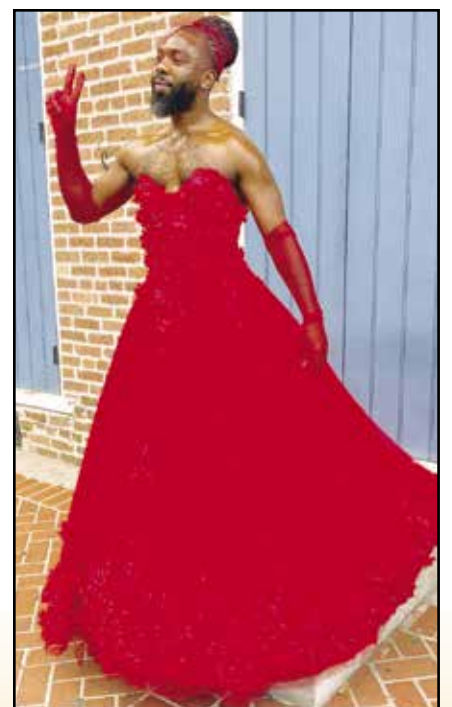
The New Orleans Red Dress Run is a unique event that takes place annually, where participants from all walks of life come together to run or walk through the vibrant streets of the city while sporting one common attire - a red dress. This tradition, which started in the early 1990s, has become a symbol of fun, camaraderie, and a way for attendees to let loose and embrace the spirit of New Orleans.

When it comes to fashion at the Red Dress Run, participants have truly embraced individualism and creativity. The only requirement is to wear a red dress, regardless of gender or age. The freedom to choose any style, length, and design has given rise to a variety of eye-catching fashions.

Attendees have been spotted in an array of red dress styles, ranging from elegant cocktail dresses to whimsical tutus. Some opt for vintage-inspired looks with polka dots or floral patterns, while others choose bold and vibrant solid-colored dresses. The streets are filled with sparkles, sequins, and feathers, as participants accessorize with boas, tiaras, and other fun embellishments. Many participants take advantage of the opportunity to get creative with their outfits, incorporating New Orleans-themed elements. It's not uncommon to see red dresses adorned with fleur-de-lis details, Mardi Gras beads, or mini brass instruments.

Overall, the fashions at the New Orleans Red Dress Run embody the spirit of celebration, individuality, and the vibrant energy of the city. It's a chance for participants to wear their red dress with pride and showcase their unique style while joining in the revelry that makes this event so special.

Photos Courtesy of Runnings
via Facebook
Photographer: Lucas Barrios



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

ABCT Musical The Bodyguard Premiere

Elise Schenck
Data News Weekly Contributor

It was a packed house at NOJO on Oretha Castle Haley filled with a who's who across the city to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Anthony Bean being a positive force in theater. His most recent play based on the smash hit 1992 film, *THE BODYGUARD* follows former Secret Service Agent turned bodyguard Frank Farmer, hired to protect Superstar Rachel Marron from an unknown stalker. Each expects to be in charge; what they don't expect is to fall in love. A breathtakingly romantic thriller, *THE BODYGUARD* features a host of irresistible Whitney Houston classics, including "Queen of the Night," "So Emotional," "One Moment in Time," "Saving All My Love," "Run to You," "I Have Nothing," "I Wanna Dance with Somebody," and one of the biggest selling songs of all time – "I'll Always Love You."

It continues its successful run on the following dates August 17th, 18th, 24th, 26th and 27th.

For more information go to: www.anthonybeantheater.com

Tickets: VIP Box Seat includes \$75.00. VIP Floor Seats: \$60.00 and General seating: \$45.00.

Tickets are now available online at anthonybeantheater.com or purchased by phone at the Theater's Box Office at (504) 862-PLAY.



L to R, Uptown Angela Charles, MC of the event, Assata Renay, as Superstar Rachel Marron, Sally Ann Roberts, Anthony Bean, Jake Wynne-Wilson as Frank, The Bodyguard, Councilman Oliver Thomas, Rachel Marron's son, Fletcher, played by Carter Wilson, and Eliza Sonnenschein as Rachel's sister, Nicki.



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

First Gentleman Jason Cantrell Passes Away at Age 55

Data News Staff Edited Report

The City of New Orleans was recently shocked by the untimely passing of Jason Cantrell, known for his role as First Gentleman of New Orleans. As his wife LaToya made history, he also did as the first male in his role.

Throughout his meaningful and purposeful life, he spent much of his life as an attorney with a private law practice, working in criminal defense, civil and family law and was also a former public defender. He also worked as a city attorney.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell ordered all City of New Orleans flags to fly at half-staff in honor and in memory of First Gentleman Jason Cantrell.

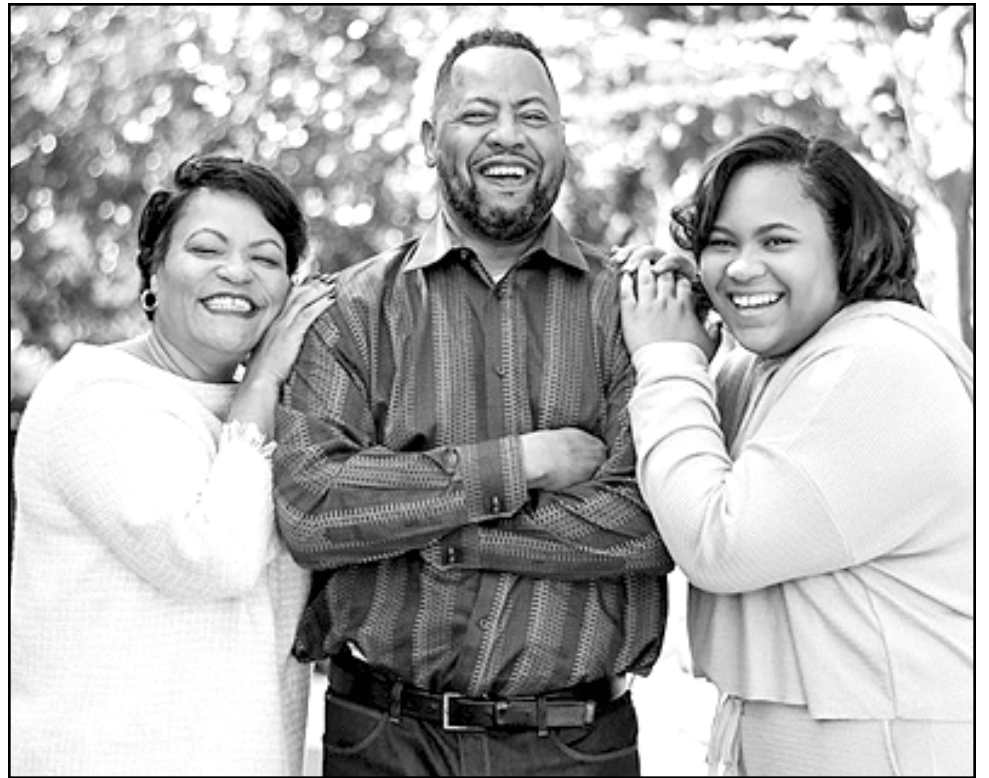
In light of his passing, the City of New Orleans issued the following statement on the passing of First Gentleman Jason Cantrell:

"It is with great sadness and heartache that we announce the passing of First Gentleman Jason Cantrell," said Director of Communications Gregory Joseph.

"He was a devoted husband and



First Gentleman Jason Cantrell, recently passed away at the age of 55.



Jason Cantrell and family, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell and daughter RayAnn.

father, as well as a dedicated public servant who valiantly served the residents of this city not only alongside Mayor Cantrell but also

as an experienced family, civil and criminal attorney. First Gentleman Cantrell will forever be missed and cherished by his beloved family,

the legal community and the entire City of New Orleans. May he rest in God's eternal peace.

Our love and prayers remain with

Mayor Cantrell, their daughter RayAnn and the entire Cantrell family. We ask that you please respect their privacy during this challenging time."

Opinion

Higher Education is Still Attainable for African Americans Despite the Supreme Court Decision on Affirmative Action



James B. Ewers Jr. Ed.D.
Education Consultant
and Youth Advocate

If you are Black like me, struggles and hardships have always been a part of our lives. It is just never easy for us. That is why our achievements and accomplishments are so gratifying. Hard work, determination and resolve have been hallmarks of our lives. That is what the African American experience is and has always been. We

hear the term, "against all odds." That longstanding and venerable expression belongs to us. While we didn't coin the phrase, it certainly is a part of our life story.

Our pathway to greatness has been steeped and solidified in our core values. One of our long-held beliefs is the importance of education. Having a good education has been an ancestral attribute. Black families understood early on the importance of "book learning." They knew that once we had it that it couldn't be taken away from us. My parents gave me a daily dose about the importance of education and how it could improve the quality of my life. It didn't matter about your possessions, it mattered more that you possessed an education.



Old school parents realized that possessions were fleeting but an education was permanent.

More African Americans are attending college today, yet the numbers must improve. According to reports, in 2021, there were 2,717,000 African Americans attending college. We made up 15.7 percent of those enrolled in higher education. We can do better, and we must do better. Recently,

the United States Supreme Court said, "Colleges and universities can no longer take race into consideration as a specific basis for granting admission." Affirmative action as we know it has been sidelined and sidetracked.

Some would say that we have become even more marginalized when it comes to getting a higher education. Critics have weighed in, saying that our quest for higher

education has been severely damaged. Even President Biden has decried the Court's decision. He said, "In case after case, including recently, just as a few years ago in 2016, the Court affirmed and reaffirmed this view: that colleges could use race not as a determinative factor for admission, but as one of the factors among many in deciding who to admit from an already qualified pool of applicants." Now colleges are going to determine what to do about building diverse student bodies. One strategy already being discussed is having applicants write more about their backgrounds and economic means in their college essays. There is great merit in that approach so we will see if it works.

Opinion, Continued on page 7.

Former Mississippi Officers Plead Guilty to State Charges for Torturing and Abusing Two Black Men

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

Six ex-law enforcement officers from Mississippi have admitted guilt for their participation in the torture and abuse of two Black men earlier this year.

Christian Dedmon, Hunter Elward, Brett McAlpin, Jeffrey Middleton, Daniel Opdyke, and Joshua Hartfield, who are all White, have admitted to conspiring to obstruct justice.

Five former deputies from the Rankin County Sheriff's Office and one former officer from the Richland Police Department have admitted to federal charges related to a racially motivated attack that occurred in January.

Also, Dedmon faced charges of home invasion, while prosecutors charged Elward with both home invasion and aggravated assault.

McAlpin, Middleton, Opdyke, and Hartfield each bore an extra charge of first-degree obstruction of justice.

The former officers appeared in Rankin County court on Monday, Aug. 14th, clad in prison jumpsuits and wrist shackles.

The names of the county jails where they are incarcerated were concealed by duct tape.

Prosecutors said the ex-officers, who called themselves "the goon squad," barged into a home in Braxton, Mississippi, without a warrant.

They subjected the Black men inside for two harrowing hours to unspeakable violence.

The 13 felony charges included torture and physical abuse.

Michael Jenkins and Eddie Park-



Michael Corey Jenkins and Eddie Parker were assaulted by Mississippi State Sheriff Deputies.

er filed a federal lawsuit in June, alleging that the officers forcibly entered their home, handcuffed, kicked, waterboarded, and repeatedly tasered them.

Their claims also include an attempted sexual assault, and how the officers poured liquids on them and forced them to shower to erase evidence.

One of the officers placed a gun in a victim's mouth and fired, severely injuring him.

Throughout the brutal assault, Jenkins and Parker said the officers used racial slurs, including "monkeys" and the n-word.

"These former law enforcement officers have committed heinous and wanton acts of violence disgracing the badge which so many others have worn with pride and honor," said U.S. Attorney Darren

J. LaMarca for the Southern District of Mississippi.

"They violated their oaths and have become the criminals they were sworn to protect us from."

Special Agent in Charge Jericha Fomby of the FBI Jackson Field Office said citizens deserve credible law enforcement to safeguard the community from crime.

"The actions of these deputies and the officer significantly deprived the citizens of that protection and eroded the trust earned each day by honest law enforcement officers throughout the nation," Fomby insisted.

"The FBI is committed to aggressively investigating those who misuse their authority, violate the color of law, or inject biases in the execution of their duties."

Further, without a relationship of

trust between law enforcement officers and those they swear to serve and protect, the fight for justice and against crime is doom to fail, added Mississippi State Attorney General Lynn Fitch.

"This brutal attack caused more than physical harm to these two individual victims, it severed that vital trust with the people," Fitch asserted.

"This abuse of power will not be tolerated. The Attorney General's Office is committed to delivering justice for these victims and all Mississippians, and we are grateful for this strong partnership we have with our U.S. Attorney's Offices and FBI Field Office. Working together, it is my hope that we can help these victims heal and restore confidence in our criminal justice system."

Opinion, Continued from page 6.

As affirmative action is being discussed and debated, HBCU's (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) have grown in popularity. These schools were established because we could not attend White colleges. I graduated from Johnson C. Smith University, an HBCU located in Charlotte NC. I have always valued and cherished my education there because JCSU gave me the confidence to aspire towards my goals. I suspect if you attended an HBCU, you would echo

my sentiments. In HBCU's, we saw the inspiration that gave us the aspiration to succeed and to achieve our goals.

I believe with the Supreme Court's ruling, it will mean a few strategic moves for African American students and HBCU's. First, African American students will begin to be more intentional in looking at HBCU's, to attend. They will make campus visits and find out more about their program offerings and campus life. For Historically Black Colleges and Universities, it will mean developing new programs and enhancing existing programs.

HBCU's are just not competing against themselves, they are also competing against PWT's (Predominantly White Institutions). These are my opinions.

Students of color should not be in a woe as me mindset, but in a wow as me mindset because of the opportunities that await them. The decision by the Court, while disheartening, will only be an educational detour, not an educational roadblock.

This column is dedicated to Mrs. Myrna Angelain who served the City of New Orleans for over 40 years in a variety of positions.



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Freelance Writers Wanted

Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for freelance writers to join our team print and digital team. We need writers who can cover New Orleans news stories, ranging from local high school sports, community events, City Hall and entertainment. Experience in print is necessary, experience in digital and social media are encouraged.

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.

We can't wait to
hear from you!

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Data News Weekly, "The People's Paper," is looking for an administrative assistant.

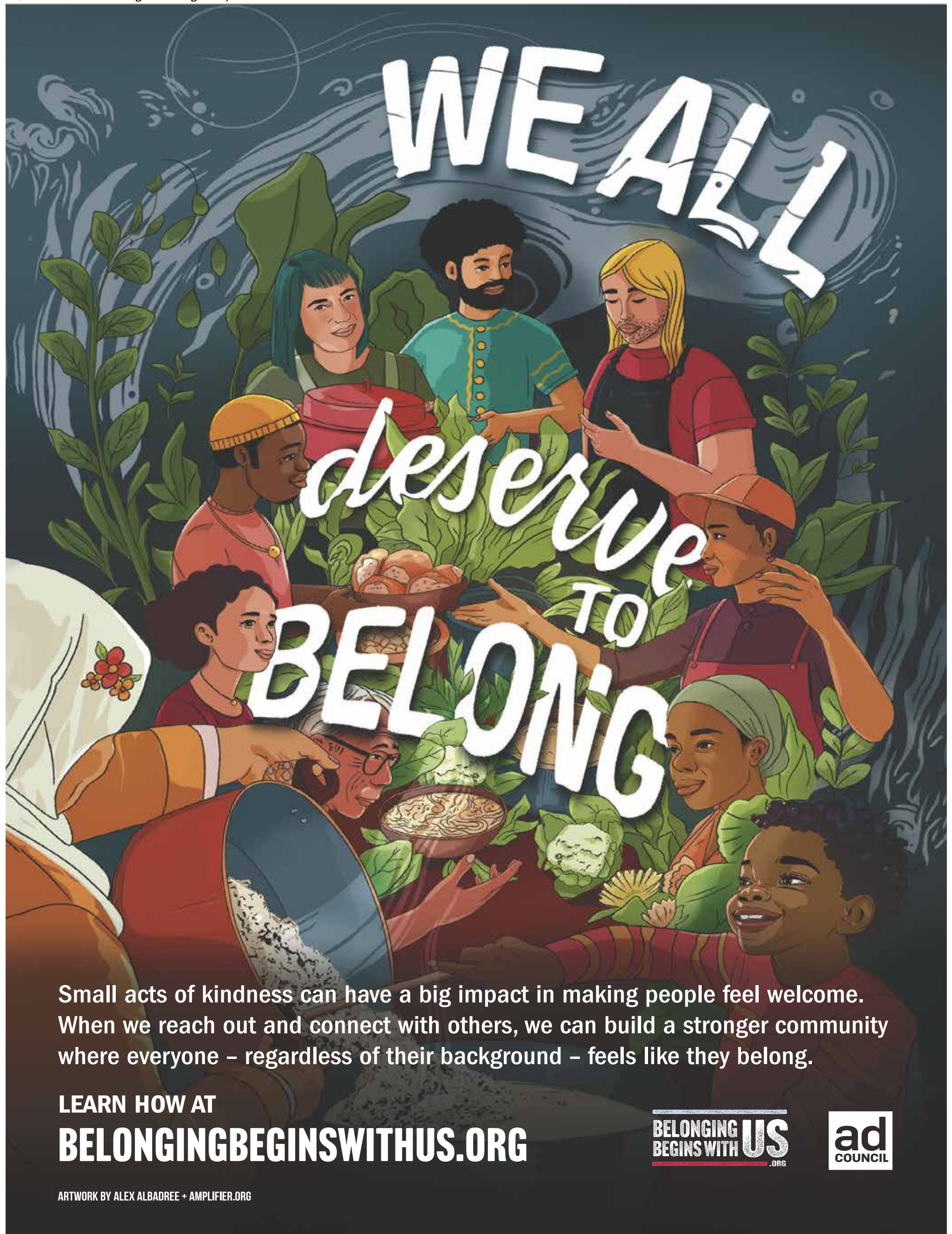
Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

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