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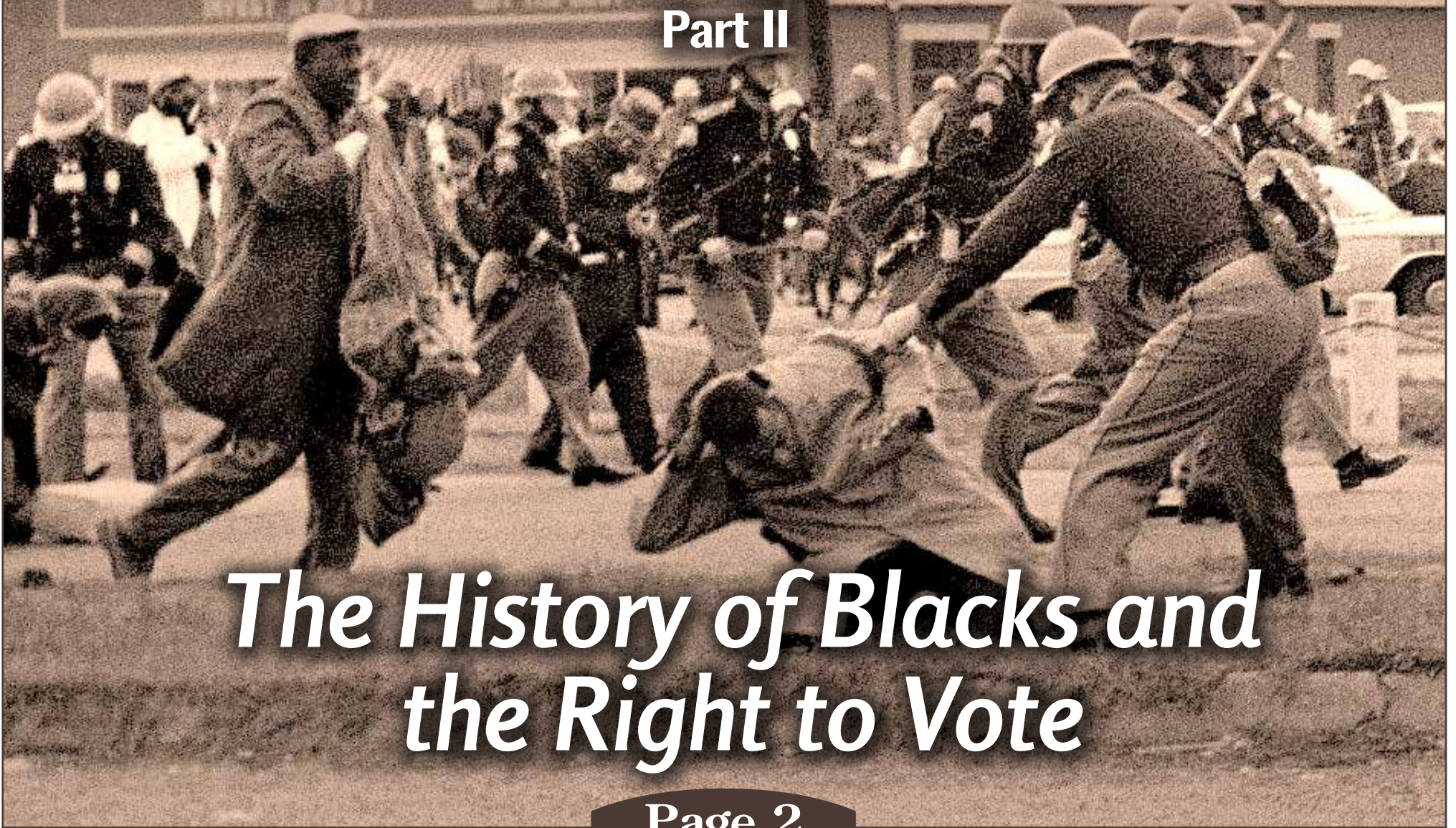
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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

Why Voting Matters

Part II



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Why Voting Matters

Part II

The History of Blacks and the Right to Vote

Data News Staff Report

We are again at a crucial point in the history of our nation, where raising our collective voices is not only important but necessary. So, it is important that we get out to the polls. In this part two of our series on elections we would like to take you through a brief journey through history as to why we must vote. The historical significance of Black people voting is multi-faceted, deeply rooted in struggles for civil rights and equity, and it plays a critical role in the shaping of democracies, particularly in the United States. Here are some of the significant aspects of this history:

1. The End of Slavery and Reconstruction (1865-1877):

- Following the Civil War, the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in 1865. Subsequent amendments—the 14th and 15th—granted citizenship to all born in the U.S. and forbade the denial of voting rights based on race, respectively.
- During Reconstruction, Black men (women did not have the right to vote until 1920) began participating in electoral politics, both as voters and as elected officials at local, state, and federal levels.
- However, by the late 1870s, the promise of Reconstruction was overturned by a combination of political, social, and economic forces, leading to the systematic disenfranchisement of Black voters.

2. Jim Crow Era and Disenfranchisement (Late 19th and Early 20th Century):

- After Reconstruction, Southern states implemented a series of laws, collectively known as Jim Crow laws, to disenfranchise Black voters through tactics such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses.
- Violence, intimidation, and lynchings were also used as tools to suppress the Black vote.



It is important that Blacks get out and vote not only in the upcoming elections taking place on October 14, 2023, but in all elections. Many have throughout the history of America, fought struggled, and died for the right to vote. For us to not participate in higher numbers is to dishonor their legacy.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



3. Civil Rights Movement (1950s-1960s):

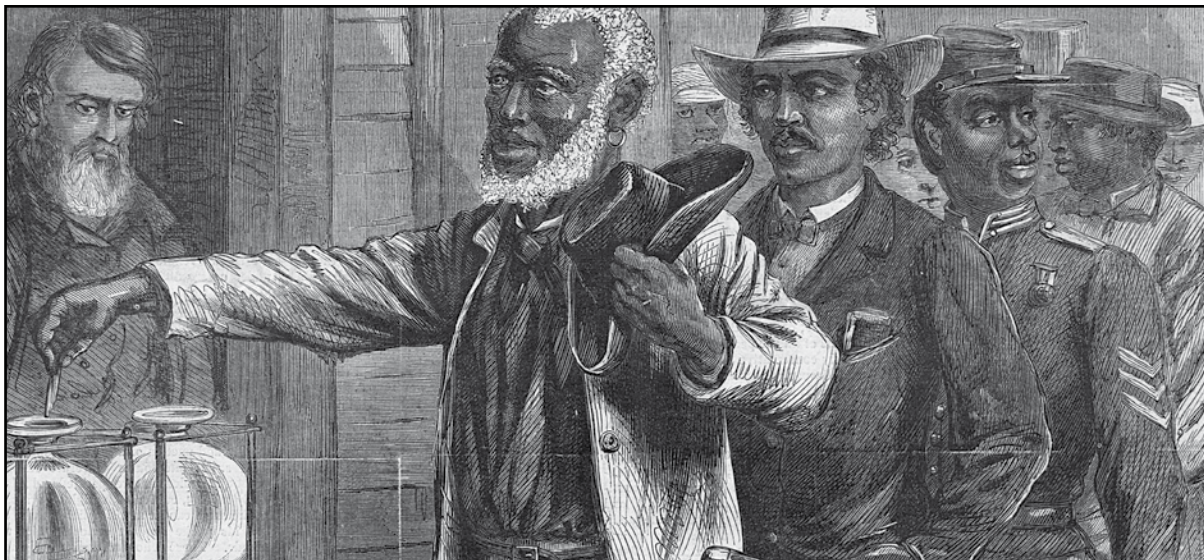
- The struggle to end segregation and ensure voting rights for Black citizens became a focal point of the Civil Rights Movement.
- Landmark events, such as the Selma to Montgomery marches and the murders of activists like Medgar Evers, highlighted the lengths to which opponents

would go to deny Black people the right to vote.

- This activism culminated in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which sought to eliminate racial discrimination in voting, especially in the South.

4. Political Power and Representation:

- The ability for Black people to vote enabled greater representa-



tion in political offices. This increased representation allowed for the promotion of policies that addressed racial inequalities and other issues pertinent to Black communities.

5. Modern Challenges and Continued Activism:

- While the Voting Rights Act was pivotal, challenges to Black voting rights persist. Issues like gerrymandering, voter ID laws, and the closing of polling places in predomi-

nantly Black areas continue to present obstacles.

- The 2013 Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* significantly weakened the Voting Rights Act by removing key protections, leading to new efforts to restrict voting rights in several states.
- Activism around Black voting rights remains vibrant today, emphasizing the continued significance of this issue.

The right to vote is a cornerstone of democratic governance.

When any group—based on race, gender, or other factors—is denied this right, it raises fundamental questions about the nature of that democracy. The struggle of Black people for the right to vote, and the forces arrayed against them, reflect broader societal tensions about race, power, and justice. The historical significance, therefore, is not just about the act of voting but about the broader quest for equality and dignity.

So, we are asking our readers to please get out and vote.

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Beyhive Fashion Fete



Tracee Dundas
Fashion Stylist

It was a lively night at the Beyoncé Concert, fans dazzled in an array of glamorous fashions that were as unique and vibrant as the pop icon herself. The atmosphere was charged with excitement, and dedicated Bey-Hives put their best fashion foot forward to pay homage to Queen Bey.

Many concertgoers embraced a bold and playful approach to their outfits. The ladies sparkled in sequined mini dresses and jumpsuits that glistened under the colorful stage lights. These shimmering ensembles were coupled with stiletto heels, over-the-knee boots, fringe cowboy hats, and gems framed sunnies; all the necessary extras requested by Queen Bey.

Not to be outdone, the gentlemen in the crowd ensured they were fashionably on point. From impeccably tailored suits in vibrant colors to maxi kimonos executed perfectly, one thing was evident everyone showed up correct and in formation.

As the concert filled the air with the electrifying sounds of Beyoncé's music, the audience couldn't help but feel a sense of unity in their fashion choices. Styles varied greatly, yet a shared love for the artist and her artistry brought them all together.

In true Beyoncé fashion, the concert was an unforgettable night of music, dance, and incredible fashion. BeyHives left the venue feeling inspired and invigorated, knowing that they had not only witnessed a legendary performance but had also been part of a fashion spectacle that showcased their individuality, creativity, and adoration for the one and only Queen Bey.

Photo Credits – T. Dundas &
Courtesy of Instagram



Fried Chicken Fest 2023

Founded in 2016 in New Orleans, the National Fried Chicken Festival (FCF) presented by Raising Cane's is a two-day outdoor festival bringing together hundreds of thousands from across the nation around a shared love of great food, music, and culture. The festival debuted its scenic new location along the New Orleans Lakefront in 2022, with added space to offer more restaurants, on-site activations, and family-focused activities for guests to enjoy.

FCF 2023 featured its largest and most diverse food lineup to date, with over 50 participating restaurants showcasing their unique spins on the iconic Southern dish for an opportunity to take home the festival's "Best Fried Chicken" and "Best Use of Fried Chicken in a Dish Awards." For the third year, the highly-coveted Culinary Icon Award will also be presented to a prominent chef who has made remarkable contributions to the culinary industry.

Music included Big Freedia, Kermit Ruffins, The Soul Rebels, Nayo Jones, A tribute to 50 years of Hip-Hop with a New Orleans twist featuring DJ's Mannie Fresh, Raj Smoove, and local icons DJ Jubilee, TT Tucker, Partners in Crime, Choppa and much more. It was a fun-filled event, and a great time was had by all.

Photo credit
Terry Jones and Fleur De Lis



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

Big Chief Shaka Zulu Receives Prestigious Award from the National Endowment of the Arts

Edwin Buggage
Editor-in-Chief Data News Weekly

The City of New Orleans is filled with many talented families that exemplify artistic excellence. One of those is the Batiste family.

Recently, New Orleans own Big Chief Shaka Zulu was one of several honorees during the 2023 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows Ceremony. This event was in-person since COVID-19, acknowledging the 2020-2022 honorees in a live ceremony in Coolidge Auditorium at the Library of Congress.

The NEA National Heritage Fellowships is the nation's highest



Big Chief Shaka Zulu

honor in folk and traditional arts. Each year since 1982, the program recognizes recipients' artistic excellence, lifetime achievement, and contributions to our nation's traditional arts heritage.

"It was an honor to represent my City and to receive this award. The work I have done over the years to be an ambassador and showcase who we are to the world has been a privilege. It is important in these times that authentic New Orleans artists and traditions are recognized. So, to receive this honor is a testament that our traditions matter and must be preserved not just for the people of New Orleans, but for the world," says Zulu.

State & Local News

LOUISIANA STATE SENATOR



SENATOR ROYCE DUPLESSIS

Thanks to
Data News Weekly
and the citizens of
Louisiana District 5 for their
support. I am sincerely grateful
for being given this
opportunity.

Renown Drummer Russell Batiste Jr. Passes Away at Age 57



The Batiste Family is one of the many talented musical families of New Orleans center Russell Batiste (L) his brothers Jamal and Damon (R) his son Christopher, his father David, and brother Ryan.

Data News Staff Edited Report

Russell Batiste Jr., the celebrated New Orleans drummer whose rhythms powered such bands as the Funky Meters and Vida Blue, has died. He was 57.

Batiste's death of a heart attack on Saturday was confirmed by his

brother Damon Batiste, according to NOLA.com.

"He was like a son to me," Meters Guitarist Leo Nocentelli said Sunday, shortly after learning of Russell's death. "I didn't know how much he meant to me until now. It's a helluva loss to New Orleans music and culture."

For decades, Russell served

as a pillar of the New Orleans music community. The long list of bands with which he performed includes George Porter Jr. & Runnin' Partners, Dumpstaphunk, Bonerama, Papa Grows Funk, Robbie Robertson, Maceo Parker, and many more, in addition to his own Russell Batiste & Friends.

Federal Court Blocks Grant Program for Black Women Entrepreneurs

Jovonne Ledet
Black Information Network

A federal appeals court has temporarily blocked an Atlanta-based venture capital firm from offering grants to Black women entrepreneurs amid a lawsuit alleging the program illegally excludes other races.

On Saturday (September 30), the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 that Fearless Fund could no longer offer the Strivers Grant, which awards \$20,000 to businesses owned by Black women, per AP.

The decision was a reversal of Tuesday's ruling by U.S. District Judge Thomas W. Thrash, which allowed the grant program to continue after conservative activist Edward Blum's American Alliance for Equal Rights filed a lawsuit claiming it violated the Civil Rights Act of 1866 by only making Black women-owned businesses eligible for the award.

Thrash said Tuesday the grants fell under "charitable donations,"



which is "expressive conduct" entitled to protection under the First Amendment.

However, the appeals court wrote Saturday that the Fearless Fund's program is "racially exclusionary" and Blum's lawsuit will likely prevail. The First Amendment "does not give the defendants the right to exclude persons from a contractual regime based on their race," the appeals court said.

Blum, who previously spearheaded the Supreme Court's move to reject affirmative action, praised the ruling.

"The members of the American Alliance for Equal Rights are gratified that the 11th Circuit has recognized the likelihood that the Fearless Strivers Grant Contest is illegal," Blum said in a statement. "We look forward to the final resolution of this lawsuit."

In a statement on Sunday (October 1), the Fearless Fund said it would comply with the court's order but maintained that it would prevail in the lawsuit. "We strongly disagree with the decision and remain resolute in our mission and commitment to address the unacceptable disparities that exist for Black women and other women of color in the venture capital space," the Fearless Fund said.

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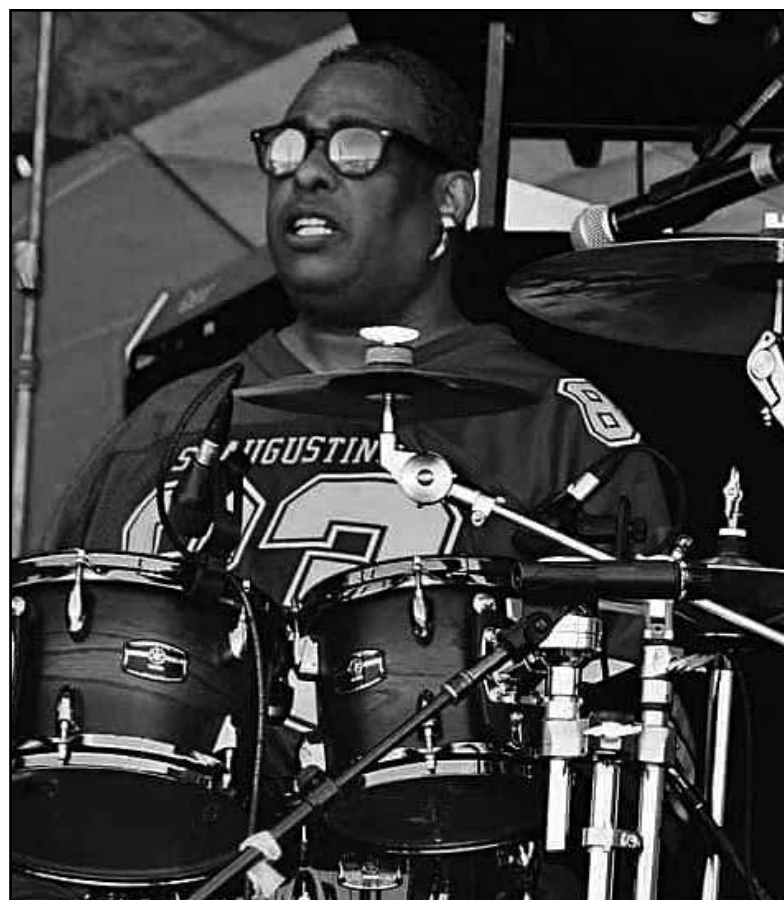
Freelance Writers Wanted

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!



The life and legacy of Russell Batiste will forever be remembered by the many lives he's impacted with his amazing musical talent.

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

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

Compensation is competitive and detail orientation will be appreciated.

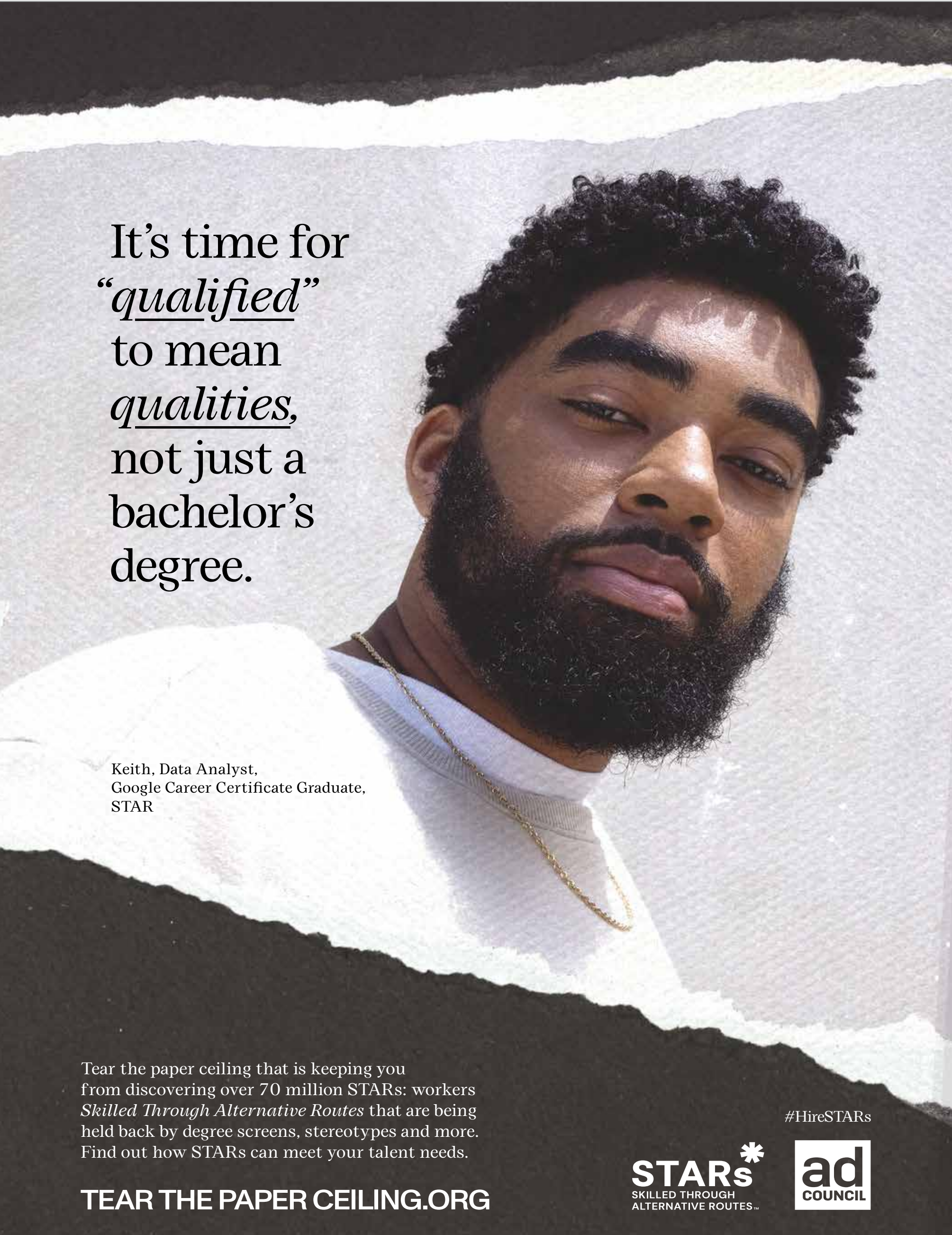
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