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New Orleans

Data

News Weekly

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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2023

A Year in Review Reflections & Resolutions

Terry B. Jones
Publisher New Orleans
Data News Weekly

As we approach the final hours of 2023, it's time to pause and reflect on a year that has been nothing short of extraordinary. In the face of unprecedented challenges, the resilience and adaptability of our citizens have shone through. Specifically, we've witnessed a year that's seen our city face many crises that include public safety, economic challenges, and apathy at the polls during elections. This is not something we can let be the image of our city.

Of course, this year we continue to be the place where we can throw the best festivals in the world. People from around the globe have come to enjoy our amazing city and all that it has to offer culturally. In terms of tourism dollars, we see hundreds of millions if not billions of dollars of economic impact. The problem is that we still have a tale of two cities. This issue must be addressed as we enter into 2024, and we must demand that our leaders do their part to eradicate this problem. It is at the core of why our city continues to have problems that affect the quality of life for us all.



Data News Weekly continues to tell the stories of the issues that impact the African American community. In the City of New Orleans and around the nation, we must begin to make a deeper investment in supporting our African American-owned businesses. So, this year let's be more intentional in how we spend our dollars as we work to build generational wealth and also work towards solutions to the problems facing the African American community.

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DATA NEWS WEEKLY

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Support Local Black Businesses

At Data News Weekly we continue to put the spotlight on the best of who we are as a community. It is important in the development of narratives that inspire our community. But for not only Data News but other African American-owned businesses to thrive, we must be more intentional in our support of them. Let us commit in 2024 to spend more of our money with each other. Of course, we are asking all people to see the value of African American-owned businesses, but we have to do a better job ourselves. As the majority of this city, if we did this, we could build a viable business infrastructure and wealth in our community.

Lessons Learned and the Path Forward

As we bid farewell to 2023, we take with us the lessons learned. The importance of community, the need for sustainable living, and the value of adaptability and innovation have been underscored in our daily lives. We've also learned that, despite the challenges, hope and perseverance remain our strongest allies.



Looking ahead, 2024 presents new opportunities and challenges. Our resolutions should focus on building a more inclusive, sustain-

able, and resilient community. We should strive to support local initiatives, promote environmental stewardship, and foster a culture of

kindness and cooperation.

As the clock ticks towards midnight, let us welcome 2024 with open arms and optimistic hearts.

May it be a year of growth, prosperity, and peace for all.

We at Data News Weekly wish you all a Happy New Year!

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Stores open regular hours New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

A Holiday Reception

Senator Troy Carter and other city political leaders hosted a Holiday Reception at Gallier Hall on Thursday, December 21, 2023. Entertainment was provided by Jada Tanner and DJ Captain Charles. It was a Gala Affair that was well attended, and Data News Weekly was there!!!



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

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A Time to Reflect

Welcoming a New Year



Diva Dionne Character
Female Empowerment
Columnist

As the year comes to an end, we should prepare to reflect and embrace a new beginning with new possibilities while looking back at some of the things we survived, those things that almost took us completely out but didn't because we were able to dive deep into our will to survive because we are in control of our own journey.

Perhaps you are dealing with loss, need to improve your health, or maybe you just don't know where to begin because you are stuck in the past and can't seem to find your way back to your higher self. This is okay because all you need to do is slow down enough to figure what's really important in your life.

Let's start making plans to really strive to make a dynamic change in our lives by making a resolution to consume more fruit, avoid processed



foods, learn a new exercise, set a routine to get more sleep, limiting your screen time with electronics, as you practice techniques to relax and heal while improving your wellbeing.

Start this New Year with happiness. Try loving yourself more. Do something that you've been afraid of doing to prove to yourself that you can do all

things. Write down your visions and dreams while moving towards a better future because it's time to heal with more love and attention.

Give thought to your past, so that can improve your mental wellness moving forward. Change your look, do one new thing you've always wanted to do while preparing yourself to live a

healthier lifestyle.

This is your season. Start it with positive affirmations. Take this moment to reflect and recharge as you welcome in the New Year with joy. Find your purpose, set some goals and let the good vibes flow.

Dionne Character can be reached at www.characterhollywood.com

Happy
New
Year

DATA NEWS WEEKLY

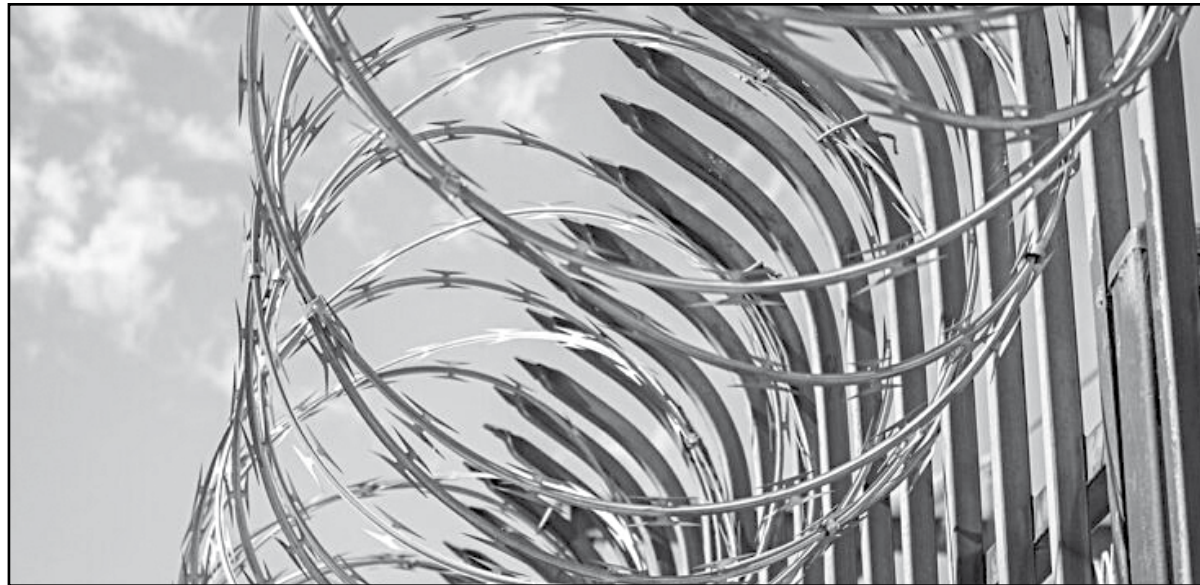
Biden Commutes Sentences and Pardons Marijuana Offenses in Sweeping Criminal Justice Reform

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior
National Correspondent

In what the White House called a decisive move echoing the core tenet of equal justice under law, President Joe Biden announced a set of substantial clemency actions aimed at addressing glaring disparities within the U.S. criminal justice system. The president, underscoring bipartisan consensus on the need for a fair and unbiased legal framework, declared a series of important measures toward realizing the promise of equal justice in American communities.

“I am announcing additional steps I am taking to make the promise of equal justice a reality,” Biden declared, emphasizing that equal justice is a “foundational principle on which America was built.”

The first measure involves commuting sentences for 11 individuals serving extended terms for non-violent drug offenses. Among the



notable cases receiving commutations are Darryl Allen Winkfield of Augusta, Ga., Leroy Lymons of Pensacola, Fla., and Earlie Deacon Barber of Dothan, Ala., each of whom was sentenced to life in prison. Winkfield was convicted in 1998 of conspiracy to distribute and to possess cocaine. Biden com-

muted the sentence, leaving intact a 10-year probation when Winkfield is released in April 2024.

In 2012, Lymons was sentenced to life for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms or more of a mixture and substance containing a detectable amount of cocaine.

The commutation clears Lymons for release after 27 years. In 2009, Barber was sentenced in Alabama for conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute five kilograms of a mixture and substance containing cocaine base. He will now be released in April 2024, with a remaining 10 years of supervised

probation.

In the president’s words, these individuals “would have been eligible for reduced sentences” under current standards. He said the move underscores his administration’s commitment to rectifying outdated and unjust sentencing practices.

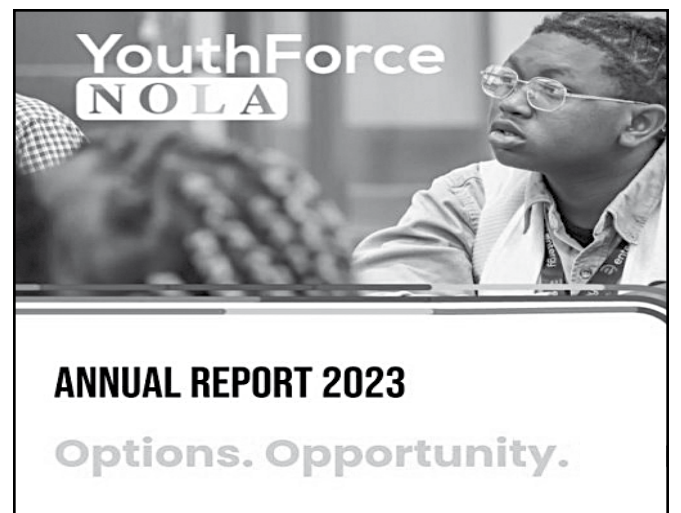
Drawing attention to the crack-to-powder sentencing disparity, Biden noted that he supports initiatives to eliminate the sentencing difference, asserting that it “does not advance public safety.” He said the move aligns with his broader push for criminal justice reform.

“I have exercised my clemency power more than any recent predecessor has at this point in their presidency,” Biden stated. “And while today’s announcement marks important progress, my administration will continue to review clemency petitions and deliver reforms that advance equal justice, address

Newsmaker, Continued on page 7.

State & Local News

YouthForce NOLA



Help Wanted

Administrative Assistant

- Data News Weekly, “The People’s Paper,” is looking for an administrative assistant.
- Compensation is competitive.
- Writing skills and detail orientation will be appreciated.

Call (504) 821-7421 to apply.

Data News Staff Edited Report

As 2023 winds down, our team is reflecting on the work the YouthForce NOLA Network has done in the past year and the change we aspire to enact. In particular, we want to share the work we’ve done to realign our messaging and more closely capture the role YouthForce NOLA plays in our community and the vision we

are working towards as a result of our collective efforts, our public-school graduates will thrive in meaningful, well-paying careers, including right here in New Orleans.

The theme of this year’s Annual Report highlights our new tagline:

Options. Opportunity. Future Ready.

Our new tagline emphasizes the greater options and opportunities available to youth who

have access to the full range of college and career planning and pathways for which YouthForce NOLA serves as a citywide connector. The addition of “Future Ready” makes clear that our work is rooted in the near future, so young people are truly ready for their next steps in life, whatever their futures may hold.

We hope these stories are a source of inspiration and hope as we look to 2024.

Sports Illustrated Names Deion Sanders Sportsman of the Year for 2023 Justice Reform

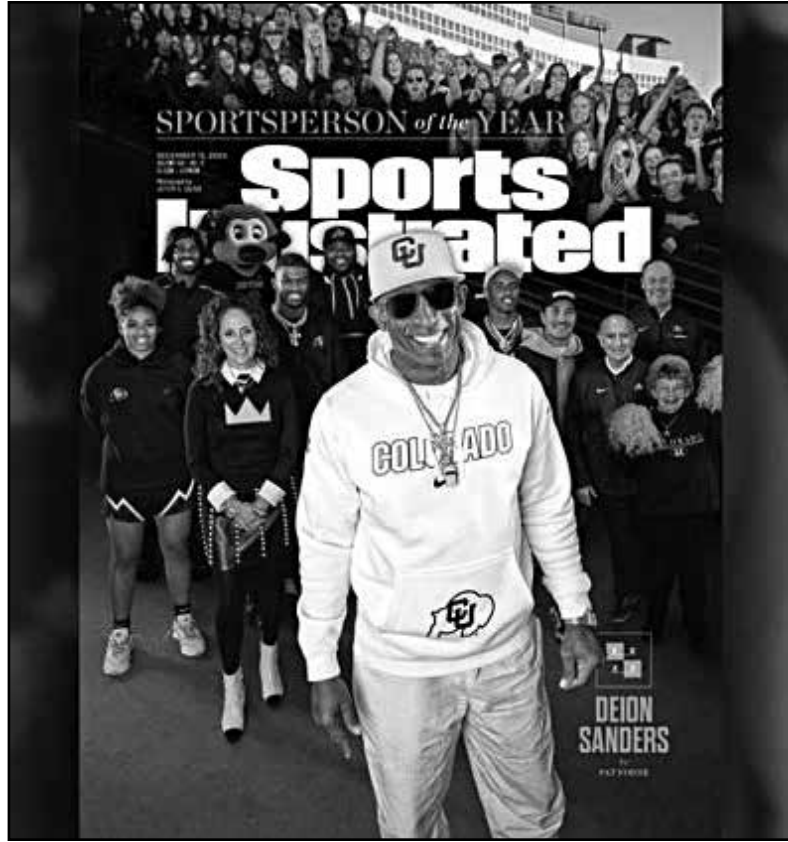
Lauren Victoria Burke
NNPA Newswire Contributor

New Colorado Buffaloes Coach Deion Sanders has been named Sports Illustrated's "Sportsman of the Year." After all the controversy that came with his decision to leave an HBCU, Jackson State University, Sanders remains a winner even after a losing season. The Colorado Buffaloes record is 4-8.

But the excitement around the Buffaloes, despite the record, led to excitement for all of college football.

Even though the Colorado Buffaloes did not make it to Pac 12 Championship and have lost their last six games, Sanders' short time as head coach has brought attention and money to a failing sports program in Colorado. Sanders' son, Star Quarterback Shedeur Sanders, did not finish the season for the Buffaloes after a leg injury.

But the excitement around Deion Sanders, 56, despite the team's record, has been undeniable. Sanders had already been a legend because of his exceptional skills on the field



and his impact on the sports world as a multi-sport athlete and a charismatic personality. Sanders was the first time two-time Super Bowl

Champion after winning with the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XXIX and the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl XXX. Sanders was known

for his exceptional speed and coverage skills, which earned him the nickname "Prime Time."

Deion Sanders attended Florida State University, where he played both football and baseball. In football, he played as a cornerback and a punt returner. He won the Jim Thorpe Award as the best defensive back in college football. Sanders was also an outstanding baseball player, playing as an outfielder. He was drafted by the New York Yankees in the 30th round of the 1988 MLB Draft.

Even after a season with an unimpressive record Sanders remains optimistic. "Coach Prime" is causing excitement in the same way he did at Jackson State even though the population at Colorado is only 1.3% Black. Sanders is promising improvement next year.

Lauren Victoria Burke is an Independent Investigative Journalist and the Publisher of Black Virginia News. She is a political analyst who appears regularly on #RolandMartinUnfiltered. She can be contacted at LBurke007@gmail.com and on twitter at @LVBurke.

Newsmaker, Continued from page 6.

racial disparities, strengthen public safety, and enhance the wellbeing of all Americans."

The White House insisted that law enforcement and experts now recognize that the crack-to-powder sentencing disparity is not supported by science, does not advance public safety, and disproportionately impacts Black communities.

Administration officials said Attorney General Merrick Gar-

land has also expressed support for eliminating the crack-to-powder sentencing disparity and has directed federal prosecutors to promote the equivalent treatment of crack and powder cocaine offenses.

"As the president proposed as a senator in 2007, a fair criminal justice system requires that Congress end, once and for all, this unjust and racially discriminatory sentencing disparity," the White House said in a statement.

"And Congress must make these changes fully retroactive." Building on his previous pardon of simple possession offenses, Biden added, "It's time that we right these wrongs."

The move extends to marijuana offenses committed on certain federal lands, encapsulating a comprehensive approach to marijuana reform, to which the president also signed a proclamation to pardon additional offenses related to the use and possession of marijuana under

federal and D.C. law. "Too many lives have been upended because of our failed approach to marijuana. It's time that we right these wrongs," Biden insisted.

"Just as no one should be in a federal prison solely due to the use or possession of marijuana, no one should be in a local jail or state prison for that reason, either. That's why I continue to urge governors to do the same with regard to state offenses and applaud those who have since taken action."

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Job Opportunity

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!

Job Opportunity

Administrative Assistant Wanted

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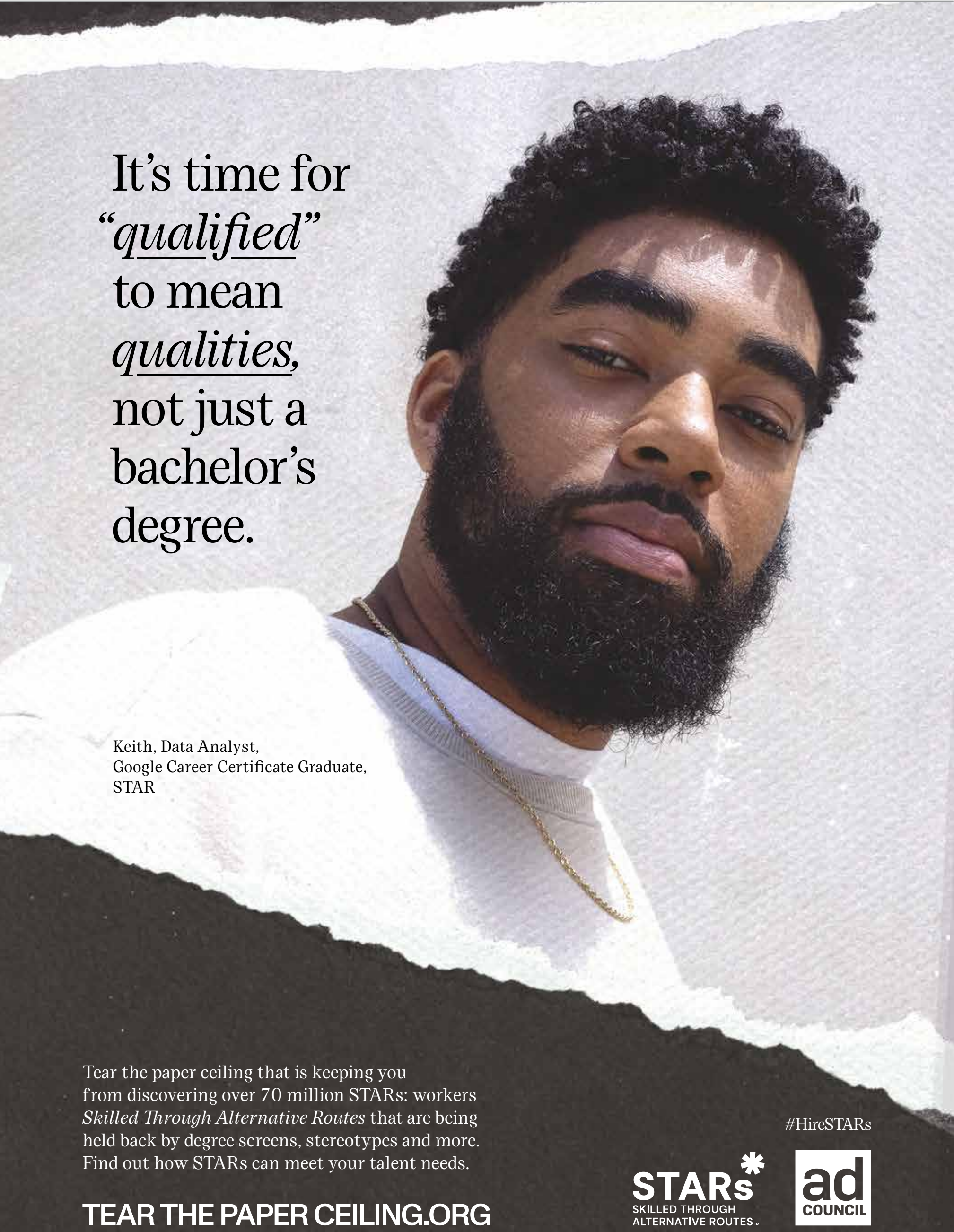
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