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Voters Look for Change in 2015 Elections Run Off



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Voters Look for Change in 2015 Elections Run Off



By Eric Craig
Data News Weekly Contributor

This weekend Louisiana voters will return to the polls in what political observers say could be a referendum on Gov. Bobby Jindal's eight years in office. While Jindal recently dropped out of the 2016 presidential

race, U.S. Sen. David Vitter is hoping to maintain republican dominance in Baton Rouge. Vitter was able to narrow down his competition within the Republican primary by narrowly defeating other republicans Scott A. Angelle and Jay Dardenne. But in defying conventional wisdom he has failed to enter the runoff as the clear frontrunner against the lone Democrat, State

Rep. John Bel Edwards ahead of this weekend's runoff elections on Nov. 21. Edwards, who received roughly 40 percent of the vote during the primaries, was endorsed, by his former Republican opponent in the primary Lt. Gov Jay Dardenne on Nov. 5. Sen. Vitter came in second in the primaries with 23 percent of the vote, and has support from Louisiana House Republi-

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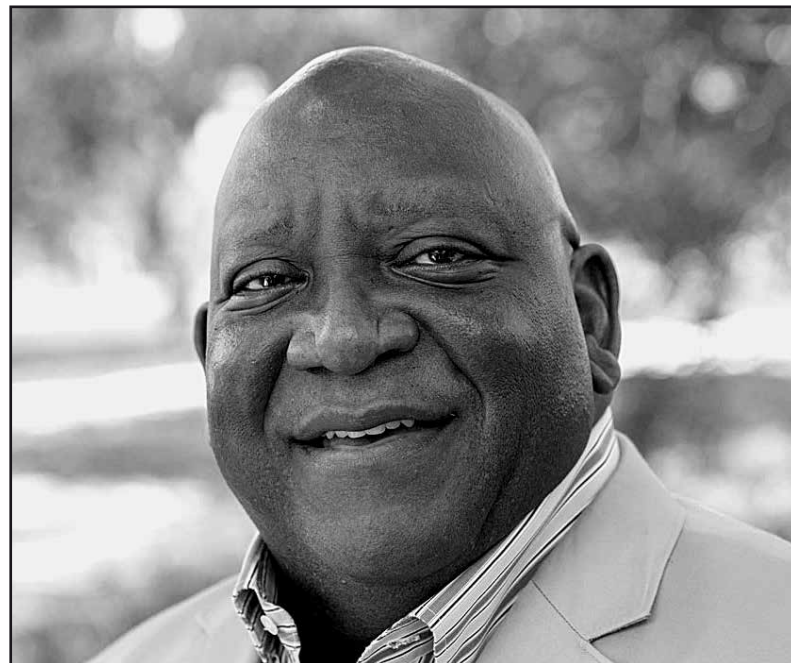
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“Edwards is conservative on some issues and moderate on other issues,” said Silas Lee, who also is a professor of public policy at Xavier University of Louisiana. “He would be able to build coalitions better than David Vitter. Vitter is not easy to work with and doesn’t have a track record of building coalitions,” Lee said.



Dr. Silas Lee (pictured above) has served as a pollster and strategist for a host of corporate, non-profit, public sector, political, and legal clients over the last 24 years.

cans. Pollsters at JMC Analytics, in their poll between Nov. 14 and 16, estimate that Vitter will capture 35 percent of the vote this weekend. Edwards is expected to capture 51 percent. Edwards is received Data News Weekly’s endorsement in the primary, and is again endorsed by Data for the run off.

The projections may confuse national pundits who consider Louisiana to be a solid red state. As local veteran pollster Silas Lee explained, it is also important to note that Louisiana has more registered democrats than republicans.

“There are lots of democrats that support republican candidates. But it depends on who is running. If Edwards wins, we cannot assume a state is tied to a particular party. It depends on several factors. We have to be aware that politics is something that is always linear,” he said.

The governor’s runoff may be the central focus of attention but this weekend voters will decide in other key races statewide and locally. Baton Rouge mayor Melvin “Kip” Holden and former Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser are competing for Lieutenant Governor. While Attorney General James “Buddy” Caldwell will seek to hold onto his office in the runoff for Attorney General against a fellow republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Landry of Louisiana’s third congressional district. Former City Councilman Troy Carter and state Rep. Jeff Arnold will face off in this weekend, the winner of which will represent the Senate’s 7th District in the Legislature. Carter appears to be the consensus candidate from a variety of supporting groups, with support coming from Mayor Landrieu and others who are actively supporting his candidacy. Data news Weekly

has endorsed Troy Carter as well.

What’s at Stake

Many experts see Vitter’s image as damaged, particularly by Edwards’ campaign’s emphasis on Vitter as being plagued by scandals and by describing Vitter as being “Jindal on steroids.” In Edwards’ most recent ad, the candidate notes “David Vitter chose prostitutes over patriots.”

Both Vitter and Edwards agree on many issues such as pro-life legislation and protection of second amendment rights and opposition of same-sex marriages. However, the primary distinctions between the two come down to policy. On healthcare, both candidates have stark differences. Vitter does not want to expand Medicaid, but would rather find a state-specific plan. Edwards supports adding to the Medicaid budget, using federal dollars to provide healthcare to thousands of Louisiana workers.

Economic development remains one of the main deciding factors for voters this election season and the candidates have different plans to move the state forward, said Russell Frazier, an assistant professor of political science at Xavier University of Louisiana. “We need a governor that understands the dynamics of economic development. There are so many programs that you can incorporate with adequate resources,” he added. Frazier believes that a strong tax base will help enhance the state’s economic diversity and could strengthen investments in education.

A Conservative Democrat

John Bel Edwards a native from Amite, La., graduated with honors from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1988. He served eight

years in the US Army 82 division airborne rangers. Later, Edwards graduated with a Law Degree from Louisiana State University in 1999. He began his political career in 2008 and currently Edwards serves as chairman of the Louisiana House

Democratic Caucus and is the Louisiana House Minority Leader.

Political experts say Edwards has run his campaign as a conservative democrat. Edwards does not oppose Common Core Standards, one of the staple issues of the 2015

elections, but does believe the policies need to be heavily advised by educators. Edwards also supports state-specific Medicare expansion, something Jindal refused to do during

Cover Story, Continued on page 9.



Our Right to Vote

Data's Endorsements



Terry B. Jones
Publisher,
Data News Weekly

Thank you Bobby Jindal!! It has been really hard for a Democrat to become governor in what is considered a red state. However after eight years with Bobby and of course David Vitter carries his own baggage and a lot of it.

I truly believe that **John Bel Edwards** has a really good shot at winning. Edwards seems to understand the overall problem that

is destroying not only Louisiana but the United States of America as well. And that is the absence of "we the people". The Republicans and Democrats' battle of egos in my opinion destroyed our country and the only way we can get out of this mess is to go back to basics. Our leaders should remember that they are here to serve the people and not to mislead the people. Mr. Edwards appears to understand that it takes a village and only together we can make a change.

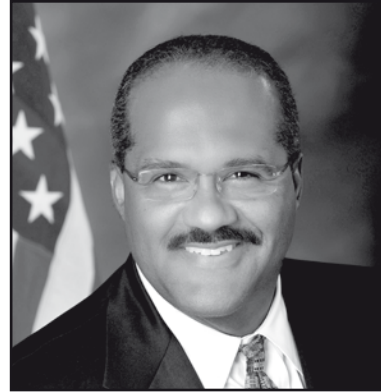
The election on Saturday can be historic but it is necessary for us all to do our part. We have some strong candidates not only John Bel Edwards but **Troy Carter** running for State Senator, District 7, he served on the City Council and as State Representative. He has served the community in different



John Bel Edwards

capacities throughout the years. We feel that he is strong, independent and dedicated to our community.

John Bagneris is running for State Representative, District 100, he has been a community activist. He has served as Legislative Aide to former State Representative Louis Charbonnet, II. I have personally



Troy Carter

known John for a very long time and know that he is committed to the welfare of our City.

I know that every election we talk about the importance of voting. However, this Saturday let's not just think about your obligation to participate in the voting process.

But how much pain we've felt



John Bagneris

over the last eight years by allowing Bobby Jindal to become governor twice because of a low Black voter turn-out; I guarantee you that we will have the same hell if not worse with David Vitter. That by itself should be motivation enough!!!

Go Vote!!!



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for their endorsement!**



TROY CARTER was born and raised on the West Bank, and has worked tirelessly for over 25 years as a small business owner and public servant to give back to the community that has given him so much. For 23 years, he has sponsored an annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner, a toy drive, and a school supply giveaway.

As a former state representative and city council member, Troy has knocked the doors of every neighborhood in District 7. He sees the great potential of the West Bank – too often neglected by the powers that be in Baton Rouge – and he knows what will help the working people of our community succeed.

Troy Carter has the qualifications and experience we need in a Senator. He is endorsed by the Democratic Party, and has the trust of our local leaders.



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WBOK Spotlight



WBOK's Janae Pierre

Nestled in the heart of Gentilly, WBOK 1230 AM has been an integral part of the New Orleans community for over 50 years. The station's urban talk format aims to enrich the lives of its listeners providing relevant and informative programming from an African American perspective.

WBOK is a station with a penchant for addressing the problems plaguing our community while cultivating new leaders to tackle these issues. Four years ago, Janae Pierre, a witty college student with a passion for gathering news, was placed in an internship at WBOK. Ms. Pierre began her radio career as a board operator for the station's morning show. Janae's talent and dedication was recognized by Paul Beaulieu, veteran journalist and radio show host, and she was promoted to producer of the station's flagship afternoon show.

Ms. Pierre is a native of New Orleans and proud graduate of Xavier University with Bachelor of Arts in Journalism. Janae believes the station is a valuable resource for our community and decided to begin her professional career at WBOK.

Ms. Pierre is currently the Outreach Director for the WBOK and serves as a liaison between the station, community and various organizations. She also coordinates events to increase awareness of the station and fulfill WBOK's mission of sustaining the black community by creating an informed and unified collective.

Janae is a stellar example of a young woman who has found her passion, knows her purpose and is on a path to success. In the words of her role model, Oprah Winfrey, Ms. Pierre's 'future is so bright it might burn your eyes.'

Dance Theater of Harlem Performance at Dillard University November 20 Sold Out!



The performance by the Dance Theater of Harlem at Dillard University on November 20 in the Cook Theater on campus is sold out.

The event is part of Brain Food, the Presidential Lecture Series at Dillard that provides an eclectic array of lecturers and other guests. Lectures are a way to stimulate the intellectual discourse on the campus. These noted scholars, authors, politicians and public intellectuals expose not only the campus community to their ideas and concepts, but also the broader community in which Dillard resides. The lectures are of interest to parents, high school and college teachers, lawmakers, clergy, activists, and anyone interested in understanding contemporary issues.

Last year, American Ballet Theater soloist and author, Misty Copeland spoke to a standing-room-only audience in Lawless Memorial Chapel. This year's lecturers have included Michael J. Morton, who spoke during National Hazing Prevention Week about his experience of being convicted of hazing offering solid advice to students who participate in fraternities and sororities. Recently, during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Karrine Steffans shared her experience in a "Violence as a Language" lecture to a full audience in Georges auditorium on Dillard's campus.

Upcoming lecture:
The Revis O. Oritque Jr. Lecture on Law and Society

November 23
Bryan Stevenson

Attorney, human rights activist, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and author of

"Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption"
Georges Auditorium, 7 p.m.

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Jason Williams, City Councilman-at-Large

Mitch Landrieu, Mayor

Edwin Murray, Retired State Senator

Helena Moreno, State Representative

Leon Cannizzarro, Orleans Parish District Attorney

Jared C. Brossett, City Councilman

Arthur Morrell, Clerk of Criminal Court

Cynthia Willard Lewis; Former State Senator

Austin Badon, State Representative

James Gray, City Councilman, District E

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CHOOSE CAR SEAT: BY AGE & SIZE

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY HAVE THEIR CHILD IN THE RIGHT SEAT.

THE ONES WHO ACTUALLY DO.

KNOW FOR SURE IF YOUR CHILD IS IN THE RIGHT CAR SEAT.

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Winterizing Your Plants

By LMG Calla Victoria
Data News Weekly Columnist

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to come up with a game plan to protect your more tender plant material, which will not survive the winter in your hardiness zone. Greenhouses make over-wintering your plants a quite easy chore. Some greenhouses are quite large and expensive costing thousands of dollars, but you can find small mini greenhouses that are quite affordable, around \$100 which consists of some vertical shelving and a plastic zip cover. If you are in the market for a greenhouse, please make sure that whatever you choose it has some hinged windows in the roof to let out some of the hot air. Although cold outside, on a cold bright sunny day, with the sun beaming down on that glass or plastic it is going to make it quite warm in the greenhouse; so you must to have a way to release some of that heat, or your plants can get burned. If you are fortunate enough to have a greenhouse, just pack you greenhouse with plants and all is well. But for everyone else, we have to get cracking.

I have heard many suggestions and tried a lot of way to protect my plants. The fact is you can use any old blanket or plastic tarps to cover your plants on cold nights. However once the sun comes out you are supposed to uncover the plants so that they get some sun. Or if you use plastic to cover the plants, you want to remove the plastic during the day so that the plants do not burn up under the plastic. This all gets to be quite arduous and annoying after a while, so you finally



give up and say whatever!

Please don't go away frustrated because there is an easier way. The most effective way that I have found to cover plants is by using "row cloth;" sometimes referred to as strawberry cloth because it is what strawberry farmers use to cover their crops. What makes this cloth my best choice is because not only does it protect plants from frigid temperatures as all covers do, but it also lets light as well as moisture through to

nourish your plants. Most other covers only provide warmth for the plant but do not allow the sun in, which plants need for photosynthesis; or water that plants need for nourishment. Therefore when you uncover your plants after the threat of a freeze is gone, the plants look pale and sickly and it takes a while for them to look healthy again. But with the row cloths, the plants are protected yet still get all of the light and nourishment they need. Therefore once you cover your plants with row cloth, they can stay covered throughout the entire winter, even if you get a few warm days.

Whatever you choose to use to protect your plants:

a. Make sure that you create some kind of teepee effect so the cloth covering your plants does not touch the plant's foliage.

b. Make sure the cover goes all the way to the ground. You can even put a

few boards or bricks on the edges of the cloth so that it does not lift up and let cold air in under the cover.

For your other trees and shrubs that can withstand the cold weather, apply an extra layer of mulch to insulate their root systems. Also, before a freeze give your garden (except for succulents) a good drink of water. I know this sounds crazy but the soil will trap the heat better wet than when it is dry, and evaporate slowly which warms the air around the plants.

Finally bring in your potted plants and put them indoors, in a garage, or somewhere they will be protected. Many plants like plumeria go dormant during the winter, so just put them in a corner somewhere and leave them until the spring. Plumerias are the trees whose blooms are used to make Hawaiian leis, so they are very tropical. If your plumeria is large and planted in the ground you can do one of two things. You can dig up the plant and take it inside, or you can use pipe insulation to cover the trunk of your plant and the branches, then use row covers to protect the foliage. At the New Orleans Botanical Garden in New Orleans, they dig up all of their plumerias and stand them upright in a corner of the greenhouse and leave them until spring. I hope this information has been helpful, and now you have some choices to make, but don't take too long thinking about it.

Check out my "Gardening Tip of the Week" and the full article at www.thegardeningdiva.com

Remember, never get too busy to stop and enjoy the beautiful flowers!

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

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Holiday Time = Movie Time

By Data Chatta

Blockbusters and long awaited releases are coming soon!

Its almost that time of year. Black Friday, Christmas trees, boxes, packages, ribbons and bows, and oh of course, Movies! Holiday time is when some of the year's most celebrated and long awaited movies hit the big screens. For fans, old and young, the holiday movie time is the best part of the year. Here are just some of the features coming soon to a theater near you.

Star Wars VII The Force Awakens

Thirty years after defeating the Galactic Empire, Han Solo (Harrison Ford) and his allies face a new threat from the evil Kylo Ren (Adam Driver) and his



army of Stormtroopers. YES! This movie brings back our old favorites, OG Han Solo, OG Luke Skywalker, OG Princess Leah and let's not forget OG Chewbaka! While we won't be seeing OG Lando Calrissian (Billy Dee Williams), we will be introduced to a new 'Intergalactic Brotha' John Boyega who will play Finn. We don't know yet exactly who Finn is, but

the dude wields a light saber so he can't be too shabby. Go see this one, and may the force still be with you.

In Movie Theaters: Friday, December 18, 2015

Sisters

If you love Tina Fey and Amy Poehler and that SNL type of comedy, then you



are going to love this one. Sisters, follows two disconnected sisters summoned home to clean out their childhood bedroom before their parents sell the family house. Looking to recapture their glory days, they throw one final high-school-style party for their classmates, which turns into the cathartic

Movies/Continued on page 9.

Please VOTE — John Bel Edwards #5
Election Day, Saturday, November 21, 2015

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Reflections from Paris Triumph over Terror



By Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

I must admit that while in my career as a journalist I have written thousands of articles, this is one that is extremely tough. My mind is in an utter state of confusion and uncertainty. After living through and covering our City post-Katrina I thought I'd seen it all. But coming to Paris, I never expected to live in a city that would become the site of a

major terror attack.

When I think of Paris, I must say, it is an amazing city that people from around the world come to visit. I am happy that I have been fortunate enough for the last few months to call it home. In my time here I have come to love it for it reminds me so much of New Orleans with its architecture, history and way of life that is akin to my native City. But on the night of Friday November 13th a reign of terror took place which has changed my perspective and many others of the city that for now I call home. Six different attacks took place that left 129 people dead and hundreds more injured. This being the worse killing in Paris since World War II, but most of all it left a great world city and its people in a state of uncertainty of what is



to come.

The night of the attacks I found myself receiving numerous phone

calls from friends and family in a panic checking to see if I was okay. I also spoke to Trombone Shorty who was scheduled to perform in Paris the following Monday. I was looking forward to seeing him for a slice of home away from home as I did when Jason Marsalis came to town. As I sat there looking at the horrific images on television and taking calls I could not help but look back to the chaos and uncertainty of the days following Hurricane Katrina. And admittedly, I began to feel a bit of fear and anxiety about what was happening in Paris.

I remember walking on to the street the next day and expectedly the usual joie de vivre that is a part of the French way of life, like people walking, smiling and sitting outside at restaurants was not present. It

seemed a dark cloud hung over the people and rightfully so. The city as well as the entire country is now under a state of emergency. The streets, where life is lived in Paris, where a relaxed vibe is usually the case, now feels tense as the presence of the police and military personnel are all over the city.

Since this has happened, I have talked to both French people and expats like myself and found myself tearing up listening to horrific stories of some who were near the shooting that night or just listening to people who are sincerely scared because they do not know what tomorrow is going to bring. It is really a sad and confusing time for many people in France, myself included.

**Buggage Commentary,
Continued on page 9.**

To Be Equal

The Higher Education Act

50 Years of Making College Achievable



Marc Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League

There is good news coming from the halls and classrooms of our nation's high schools.

High school graduation rates are on the rise, which means the dropout rate has fallen and continues to fall. For the first time since states began uniformly calculating graduation rates in 2008, the nation's overall graduation rate reached a high of 81 percent for the 2012-2013 school year. While deep achievement gaps remain the norm, preliminary data from the Department of Education for the 2013-2014 school year also reveals a narrowing of the gradu-

ation gap between white students and students from low-income families, students of color, students with disabilities and English language learners. As we usher greater numbers of high school graduates into the workforce, are we prepared to ensure that—for those who want it, but cannot afford it—their journey in education does not end on a high school graduation stage?

Today's technology-fueled, fast-paced, global economy was not our nation's reality when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Higher Education Act of 1965 into law half a century ago, but even then, Johnson had the foresight to recognize the value of a post-secondary education, understanding that our nation would ultimately, "reap the rewards of their wiser citizenship and their greater productivity for decades to come." In its 50 years of existence, the HEA has offered financial aid, grants, federally guaranteed loans and work opportunities to mil-

"This act means the path of knowledge is open to all that have the determination to walk it. It means a way to deeper personal fulfillment, greater personal productivity, and increased personal reward...It means that a high school senior anywhere in this great land of ours can apply to any college or any university in any of the 50 States and not be turned away because his family is poor...So to thousands of young people education will be available. And it is a truism that education is no longer a luxury. Education in this day and age is a necessity."

**– President Lyndon B. Johnson, Remarks
on Signing the Higher Education Act
of 1965, November 8, 1965**

lions of high school graduates. It has opened the once closed doors to higher education to low-income families, making college affordable for millions of families who

could not afford the necessity.

Like it's legislative companion, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—created to close the education achievement

gap between lower- and higher-income children in our nation's public schools—the HEA was a powerful cornerstone in the president's "War on Poverty" initiative. He understood, as we understand, that education continues to play an integral role in future opportunities and success. Our recognition of Johnson's foresight must move beyond appreciation and accolades. We must, and can, continue to build on the success of the HEA. This current generation has both the opportunity and the obligation to be the architect of the next great advance in higher education. We must ensure that colleges are held accountable for skyrocketing tuition hikes. Any reauthorization of the act must address the growing problem of students saddled with outsized student loan debt after graduation. Funding for Pell grants should not be compromised and there are still improvements to the stu-

**Morial Commentary,
Continued on page 11.**

Cover Story, Continued from page 3.

ing his terms as governor. Edwards also notes that he believes in equal pay for women.

"Edwards is conservative on some issues and moderate on other issues," said Silas Lee, who also is a professor of public policy at Xavier University of Louisiana. "He would be able to build coalitions better than David Vitter. Vitter is not easy to work with and doesn't have a track record of building coalitions," Lee said.

In retrospect, Edwards can reverse a lot of what Jindal has done in his term. "Jindal changed the mindset of governing," Lee said. "Where he didn't believe in a progressive agenda and was tied more to an ideology that led to actions [that were not] in the interest of the state," he added. He explained that Jindal's approach to governing lacked inclusion or balance.

"We are the last, if not, the second-to-last, [in the nation] in quality of life in education, healthcare, and infrastructure to name a few," Lee said. "Jindal could have done more to advance the people, but he refused to do so, holding on to his political ideology," he added.

The lack of investment during Jindal's terms, across a range of issues in the state, continues to weigh heavily on voters' minds. Charlotte Klasson, a resident of Louisiana for 11 years, said she is worried about quality of life issues and how the candidates will address these during this election. "When you're looking at a state that is ranking low in a lot of categories in quality of life like healthcare and higher education, there is a lot at stake to trying to improve its standing," she said. "The fact that the Jindal administration

did not do the Medicare expansion, which would have helped a lot, is a large problem that needs to be rectified," she said.

Klasson said she felt that another Republican as governor would be an extension of the Jindal years. "We cannot have someone like David Vitter to help Louisiana to advance. He is just not going to advance it in ways that Edwards can," she said.

Residents in the city say the state is in need of charting a new course and addressing some of the fiscal issues that have restricted growth and development. R. L. Sanchez, a resident of New Orleans for 57 years, said he hopes that things will turnaround in the state after the runoff. "Just getting a new direction for the state itself economically and for the lack of what's going on for the last four years with Bobby

Jindal trying to become president. We need to see some type of positive change one way or the other," Sanchez said.

At the same time, Sanchez said he wonders how much impact either candidate can actually have on turning the state around. "I'm not sure if either candidate could do a good job," he said. Sanchez said that he would prefer to see Edwards in office.

Voter Apathy

Across the metro area heading into this week's runoff, residents said they were concerned about turnout in the city, a democratic stronghold.

Klasson noted the low eligible voter turnout of Louisiana was roughly 38 percent last month. "It is imperative that women and communities of color that rely on educa-

tion and healthcare standards turn out to vote. It matters for the people who care about the quality of life," she said.

Frazier also agrees that voting is an important civic engagement exercise that is too often ignored in the city. "We live in a democracy, thus it is our civic duty to vote. If you care about maintaining our democracy, you should care about political participation," he said.

Lee noted that it is important to vote as in any other election. He notes that the questions voters should be asking is "Would you want the candidate to control your destiny even though you have the power to make your own decision?" he said. "That's what happens when you don't vote. You might let someone who does not have your best interest in mind determine your destiny," he added.

Movies, Continued from page 6.

rager that a bunch of ground-down adults really need. Tina and Amy are just plain crazy, so you know this one is full of slapstick laughs, and in times like these, who doesn't need some of those.

In Movie Theaters: Friday, December 18, 2015

Chi-Raq

Chi-Raq is a Spike Lee Joint written by Lee and Kevin Willmott. Set in Chicago, the film is a controversial look at the subject of gang violence prevalent in some neighborhoods on Chicago's South and West Sides, which is where the movie gets its title, Chi-Raq. A mixture between Chicago and Iraq. The controversy is big on this one, between Brotha Spike and many Chicagoans who think it is no small thing that Lee, a New Yorker, came in and macked off the name used only by Gang Bangers. They don't take to kindly to him painting their whole town with that name, but hey, he calls 'em like he sees 'em. We have to see what he came up with before we judge. The movie is satire, and should be good. We love Spike for his work on behalf of the NOLA with "When the Levees Broke", so we will have to go see how he handles tragedy in the 'Windy City'. We hope he's as good to those brothas and sistas up there as he was here. The film btw, is based on *Lysistrata*, a Greek comedy by Aristophanes, but of course, we knew that, Right?

In Movie Theaters: Friday, December 4, 2015

Buggage Commentary, Continued from page 8.

But what I realize is that to live in fear is like being dead, this is what I find myself talking to my friends about over here in Paris who are fearful about what happened on that horrendous night. I tell them stories of the resilience of the people of New Orleans; people, some who lost everything and came back to rebuild their lives and kept on living. That to be afraid is a real feeling of course, but do not stop living your life.

Today, several days later, people are still on high alert and this seems like this is what life in Paris is going to be like for quite some time since France President Francois Hollande called the attacks an act of war. And while the world prays for France, I ask in those prayers that you pray for peace not just in Paris but all over the world. Pray that people can find a way to co-exist and live in a world where intolerance can be replaced with bridges of understanding and the realization that our common humanity is real and that we need each other to survive.

Edwin Buggage, Editor of Data News Weekly is currently a Fellow at the American University of Paris to complete a Master's Program in Global Communications.

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A Bad Mouth Used to Speak the Word of God



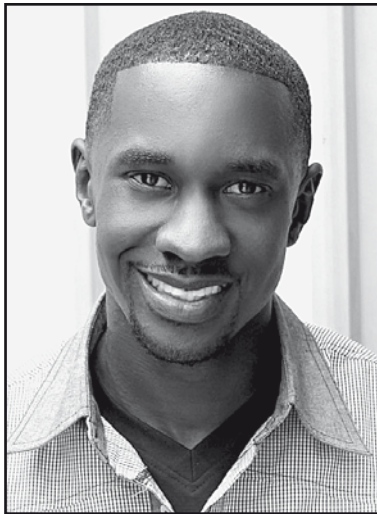
By Alexia Pierre
Data News Weekly Columnist

Darryl Manning's main focus behind his music is to attract those he could relate to because of his past. Manning, better known as Favor, is a street veteran, who was "doing everything that the enemy had me doing." The 34-year-old said he had a "bad mouth" that used to get him in a lot of trouble. After Katrina, while temporarily residing in Houston, Texas, his "bad mouth" got him into a life-altering situation. Favor said he had met his match and came across someone with a "bad mouth," as well. He wasn't able to

talk himself out of what would happen next. "I was staring down the barrel of two guns." However, the triggers weren't pulled. "[God] had something great for him and as well, had something great in store for me," Manning said.

This was an eye opener for the seventh ward native. As he got older, he began to question how many near chances at death he would narrowly escape. He questioned whether he was the man that he wanted his nieces and nephews to look up to. "I had to get that word in me and get that old me out and get that new me in so the Lord could do something with it," he said. Manning became a Christian Rapper in 2010.

He juggles his time in the studio with a full time job as a maintenance supervisor at St. Joseph Apartments, an elderly community. He has been married for five years and has three kids. Manning said he enjoys blessing God's people with



the word. "Some folks just feel like well if I don't get it from the pastor, I won't get it at all," Manning said. He believes most people will relate to somebody that looks and sounds like them. His mission is to "go back to the same hoods and show them that there is a way out that Jesus is the way."

"I believe folks would receive

it more because they could see somebody that was in the same situation," he said. Manning said churches should have an open mind and stop complaining about kids on the streets abusing and selling drugs. Instead, he wants less talk from churchgoers and more compassionate action. He cares less about whether a teen's pants are sagging low. His desire is to uplift their spirits, not their apparel. "Invite the folks that's going to be able to catch them and win them over in order to be saved," Manning said. "Spread the gospel, not the gossip."

Manning believes gospel rap is a tool that Christians should use to attract youth. His message to the youth is to not be a follower, but to love Christ, and trust in God's hand. In his song "Mind of a Winner," Manning wants listeners to know they will overcome all adversaries and change the course of their destiny. Manning believes in order to be a winner, the human spirit must

be strengthened through encountering a trial and then emerging stronger on the other side. "It has to be a test to receive the testimony for you to bless someone else. Our trials and tribulations aren't for us, they are for someone else," Manning said.

Manning has been a big supporter of other gospel rappers, such as Cory Ricks. Ricks said that Favor temporarily put his career on hold to support Ricks' album.

"[Favor] doesn't just have information with his ministry, but he has revelation," Cory Ricks, a fellow gospel rapper in New Orleans, said.

"A lot of folks want to change, they just don't know how," Manning said. He hopes is music will show them the path.

Stay tuned for next week's column as we continue to share opinions and highlights of the local gospel scene.

Dollars & Sense

Are You A Door Mat Or A Matador With Your Money?

By Stephen Gardner
Data News Weekly Guest Columnist

When it came to saving and investing, I used to be a door mat. I enrolled in a 401k because I was told to. I selected certain investments because I was told they were good. I saved money with a bank because that's what others did.

I basically let banks, Wall Street and the money system walk all over me like a door mat. It left me defeated, poorer and feeling out of control.

Then I lost 38 percent of my 401k in 2008. After being brought low in the depths of humility, I decided to rise from the ashes as a Phoenix. I now consider myself a Matador and strive to help others empower themselves through education, knowledge and sound financial strategies.

If you have ever felt like a door mat, now is the time to get educated, take control of your money and become the Matador that takes on the big bulls and wins.

You may be a door mat if...

- You've outsourced your finances and future happiness to someone else.
- You have little understanding of how your investments actually earn.
- Even after being burned, you've made few or no changes to improve your financial situation.
- You've settled for Wall Street's risk and the banks' low rates.

I meet with people every week who have no clear plan for how to achieve their financial goals. They use hope as a strategy instead of knowledge and understanding.

I meet people every week who have settled for what the banks will pay them instead of demanding more. I meet people every week who have the majority of their money on Wall Street with 100 percent risk exposure and no clue how their money will grow, except by luck or past performance.

I also meet people who want more and these are the people who become my clients. They are people who are willing to dig in to



learn and understand so they can dominate the money game.

You may be a Matador if...

- You refuse to settle and accept the banks' low interest rates.
- You're against the Wall Street plan – put up 100 percent of the money, take on 100 percent of the risk and give brokers 23 to 64 percent of the earnings.
- You have a clear understanding of how your money will grow and what you are paying in fees.
- You use contracts to grow your money instead of speculation and hope.
- You want to understand and con-

and predictability and don't want to have to babysit your money or the money manager.

Knowledge is the greatest tool we have at our disposal. I work with nearly 500 families a year and I consistently hear stories of losing money, little to no understanding of how investments grow and no clue what they are paying in fees for inferior results.

If you can't understand your investments and see exactly how your money will grow, walk away. Seek first to understand your investment and then seek the gains. Otherwise, you end up settling for

the gains or losses and seeking to understand what went wrong with your plan.

Become the Matador! You want a detailed understanding of the rules, an easy to follow plan, a contract on how your money will grow and a clear vision of your future.

You want control

and predictability and don't want to have to babysit your money or the money manager.

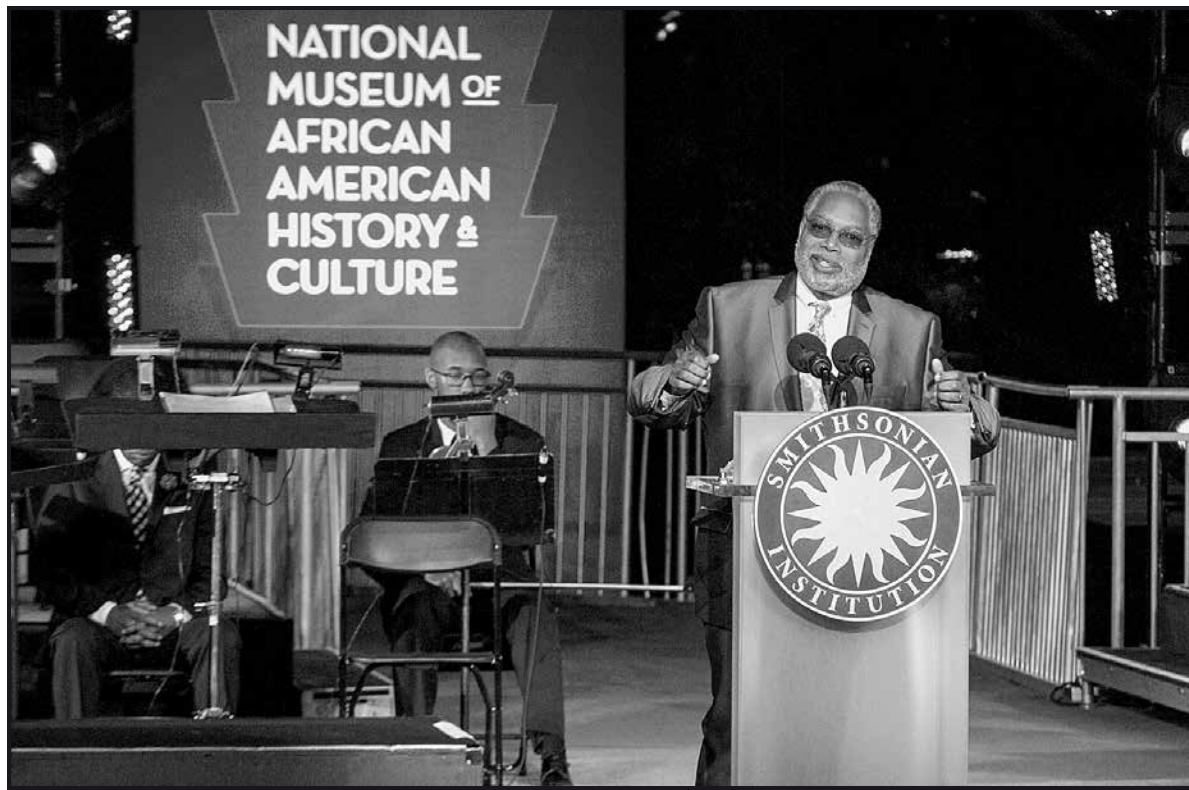
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Stephen Gardner is author of "A Bridge Over Troubled Wall Street: How To Avoid Wall Street and Beat the Banks." As owner and founder of the Safe Millionaire Club at YourBridgePlan.com, he helps families get safer returns on their retirement funds, independent of Wall Street's risks.

Hundreds Celebrate as Nation's African American Museum Nears Completion



Lonnie Bunch, the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African American History and Culture welcomes guests to the museum's special ceremony outside of the Smithsonian's newest museum that is scheduled to open in Fall 2016. (Cheriss May/HUNS)

By Savannah Harris
HU News Service

(NNPA Newswire) WASHINGTON, DC — Hundreds of people gathered at an inaugural event for the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture Monday night here to celebrate the completion of the museum's exterior in a year that marks three significant moments in American history.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War and the ratification of the 13th Amendment that abolished slavery, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act—events that greatly shifted the trajectory of Afri-

can Americans.

The museum's founding director, Lonnie Bunch, launched the night of celebration, which included music, a dramatic visual arts display, remembrances and congratulations.

"Tonight we commemorate the meaning of freedom, a term that was never abstract to African Americans," Bunch said.

African Americans' triumphs through centuries of harsh discrimination were honored and remembered during the celebration, including the premiere of a seven-minute projection depicting over 150 years of African American progress, from Harriet Tubman to the Black Lives Matter movement.

The visual piece, "Commemorate and Celebrate Freedom" by filmmaker Stanley Nelson, bounced 3-D images of the nation's Black heroes—Frederick Douglass, Ida B. Wells, the Rev. Martin Luther King, and Malcolm X—off the New Orleans-inspired ironwork exterior, tipping a hat to Black craftsmen of another time.

The projection ran on Tuesday (November 17) and Wednesday (November 18) evening from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

"This building is homage to the fact that so much of our history is hidden in plain sight," Bunch said.

When the building opens officially in the fall of 2016, it will include a wide array of Black

memorabilia and history, including Harriet Tubman's hymnal, a lace shawl given to her by Queen Victoria and family photographs of her funeral; a Jim Crow railroad car, Chuck Berry's red Cadillac convertible, remnants from a slave ship found off the coast of South Africa, works of celebrated Black artists and a Tuskegee Airman training plan, a slave cabin, Emmett Till's casket and Muhammad Ali's protective boxing gear.

Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser linked the history of Black Washingtonians to the history of African Americans, citing cultural contributors like composer, pianist and band leader Duke Ellington, singer and composer Marvin Gaye and actress and singer Pearl Bailey, all of whom were born and raised in the nation's capital.

Washington Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton called the District of Columbia, "a crucible of African American history."

After a reading of Margaret Walker's "For My People," scored by Darin Atwater and performed by the Soulful Symphony, gospel singer BeBe Winans sang "America" and "Stand" alongside the symphony and a gospel choir.

Winans said seeing the exterior of the museum was a special moment for him.

"As I stood in front, I felt like I was standing in the middle of my past and my future," he said.

Longtime activist and national radio personality Joe Madison said the museum has significance far beyond Washington.

"The message is very clear," he said. "This is not just a museum for African Americans, but for the world, and we are part of the world."

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Morial Commentary, Continued from page 8.

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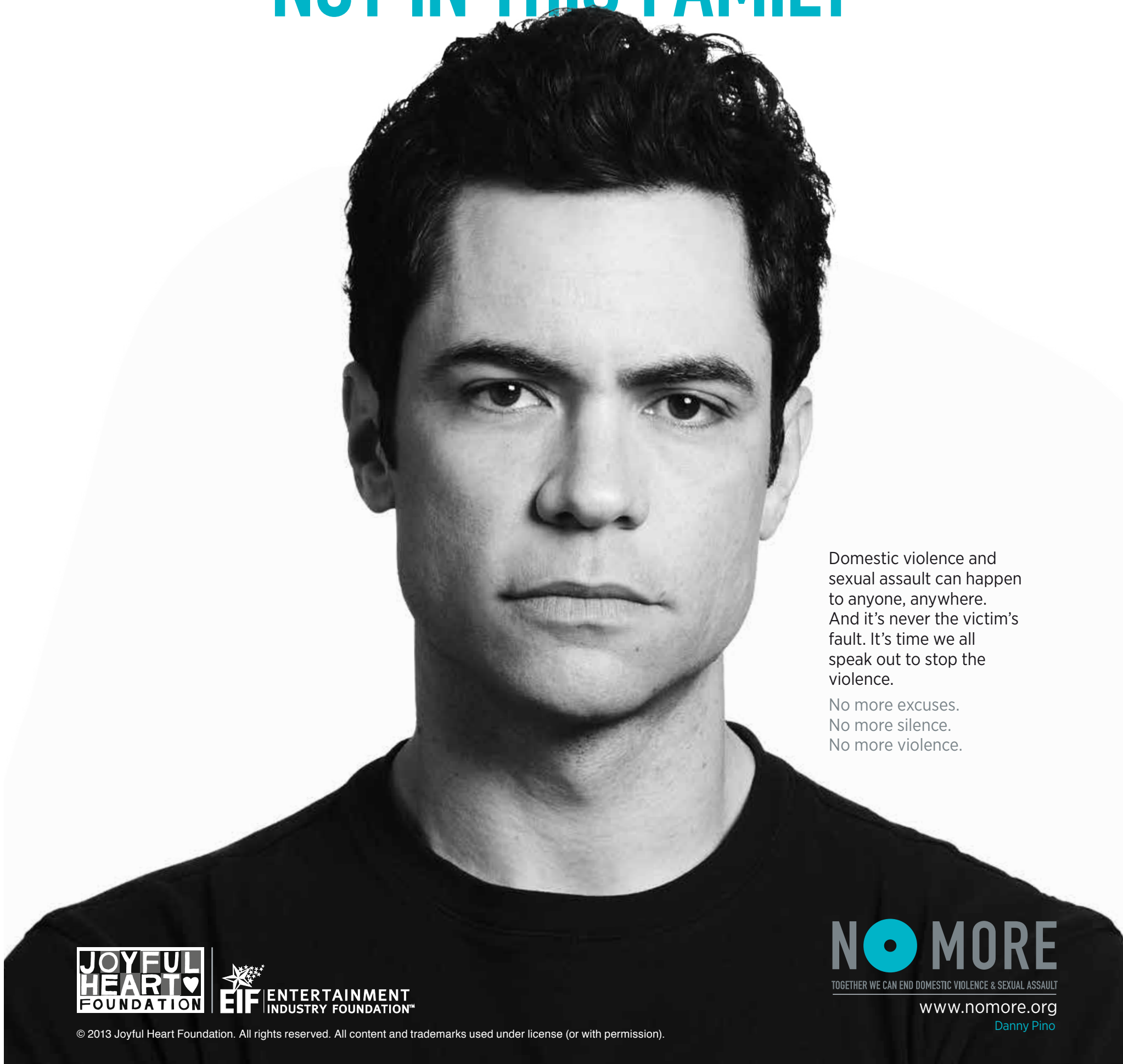
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