

**WAMU 88.5 American University Radio**  
**Quarterly Issues/Programs List**  
**January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020**

**Section One – Issues of Importance**

WAMU 88.5 American University Radio is the only public news and information service in the nation’s capital and has consistently ranked among the country’s top stations in audience share and size. The station supports diverse, award-winning programming. Our listening area includes the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia, and Suburban Maryland which comprises a population of six million people.

Issues of importance are addressed by two locally produced programs:

**The 1A Program** is about a changing America. On weekdays, the host convenes a two-hour conversation about the important issues of our time. While the program brings insight to issues unfolding across the country and the world, issues of local importance are inherent in the discussions because the nation’s capital is the heart of our listening area.

**The Kojo Nnamdi Show** airs weekdays at noon. It is a locally focused, live, call-in program that features news, political issues, and social trends of the day. Guests on the program include leaders and opinion makers from throughout the listening area.

In the first quarter of 2020, there were 239 individual program segments on the 1A and Kojo Nnamdi programs with each segment averaging 3 guests.

## **Special Programming Report**

During the first three months of 2020, two issues were of overwhelming importance to our listeners. They dominated the station's programming. These issues, the race for the Democratic presidential nomination and the Coronavirus pandemic, accounted for over 28% of all air time.

### **Democratic Presidential Primaries**

The race for the White House captured the attention of the nation but especially here in the nation's capital. Issues and persons that influence the federal government are of great importance to our listeners many of whom are employed by the departments and agencies of the government.

In this reporting period, there were 29 individual program segments about this topic which amounted to over 17 hours of broadcast content. Following are highlights of this coverage.

The 1A Program launched its "Foresight 2020" series which featured one-on-one interviews with the major candidates for the Democratic nomination. "Foresight 2020" also provided in depth discussion of major issues in the campaigns such as immigration policy, Russian influence on U.S. elections, gun policy, the impact of minority voters, and the China- U.S. trade negotiations.

Expanded coverage by 1A interim host, Todd Zwillich, and seasoned political observers was devoted to the Iowa and Nevada caucuses and primary elections in Virginia and on Super Tuesday.

The Kojo Nnamdi Show also featured expanded coverage of the Democratic nomination hopefuls through its weekly "Politics Hour" program. Kojo Nnamdi and resident commentator Tom Sherwood hosted dozens of local and regional elected officials to focus on their views of the politics surrounding the run-up to the general election in November. Particular attention was paid to the primary election and political landscape in Virginia where a large portion of our listeners reside.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

Effects of the Coronavirus epidemic were felt early on in our listening area. As the number of reported cases and deaths continued to rise, the depth and frequency of the station's programming increased dramatically.

In this reporting period, there were 35 individual program segments amounting to over 21 hours of broadcast content. Following are highlights of this coverage.

Beginning in late February and continuing through March, the 1A Program featured informed content relating to the Coronavirus virtually every day. Examples of programs include *The Global Effort to Control the Coronavirus Outbreak*, *Your Questions Answered*, *Fewer Hugs More Elbow Bumps*, *Protecting Health Care Workers*, *How Do We Feed Ourselves During Pandemic*, *Dealing with the Virus in Churches and Synagogues*, and *The U.S. Slow Response to COVID*.

Coverage by the 1A Program also featured assessments of conditions throughout the United States and around the world. Interim guest host Todd Zwillich provided daily updates from locations particularly hard hit such as Colorado, California, New York City, Italy, Japan, and China. Guests on the program included governors, members of Congress, health care professionals, and reporters covering the pandemic.

The Kojo Nnamdi Show delivered localized coverage of the virus in the listening area including examining the effect of the pandemic on the arts, the digital divide, consumer habits, and the court systems serving the area.

In addition to the above overriding issues of magnitude during the reporting period, other issues of importance that were addressed include:

**Arts and Culture:** The local arts scene including museums, cultural awareness programs, the performing arts, literary offerings, entertainment venues, and the effect of neighborhood gentrification on the arts in the region

**Education:** Issues relating to public and private school operations and educational policy in the metropolitan area. This includes discussions of national educational issues as they may have local impacts

**Environment:** Covering widespread sensitivity to environmental issues including energy conservation; pollution sources and solutions; air and water quality issues; alternative sources of energy; and global warming concerns that affect quality of life in our listening area

**Law Enforcement:** Covering the actions of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies that affect the safety and well-being of our residents; immigration issues as they affect our region; driving while impaired issues

**Relationships:** Examining the issues of race and culture that both divide and unite our community; considering the influence of national trends that have local impact; religious attitudes and conflicts that manifest themselves locally. Relationships of a personal and familial level are also explored.

**Note:** Two of our locally produced programs, the 1A Program and The Kojo Nnamdi Show have regular weekly programming on Fridays that touch on many of these issues in the same weekly edition. The 1A Program features “Friday News Roundup – Domestic and International” spanning two hours. The Kojo Nnamdi Show produces “The Politics Hour” which focuses exclusively on issues of local importance in our listening area.

## Section Two – Our response to Other Issues of Importance

Following are examples of programming during the reporting period that WAMU 88.5 has produced to address the identified community issues.

### Arts and Culture

March 30: The 1A Program; 11:06am; 52 minutes; “1A Movie Club: Why Are People Watching “Contagion” in the Midst of a Pandemic?” Sam Adams from Slate, John Horn, and Pamela Rutledge discuss this unusual behavior that is prevalent during the Coronavirus pandemic.

March 4: The Kojo Nnamdi Show; 12:32pm; 26 minutes; “Who Funds Washington’s Iconic Monuments?” Kojo talks with philanthropist David Rubenstein who has given millions of dollars to projects such as the addition to the Kennedy Center and the restoration of the Washington Monument.

### Education

January 2: The 1A Program; 11:06am; 51 minutes; “How Should We Regulate Home Schooling?” Dr. Brian Ray, Samantha Field, and Joshua Lofland present differing views on how far regulation should go into the practice of home schooling.

February 26: The Kojo Nnamdi Show; 12:32pm; 26 minutes; “Should Schools Stop Active Shooter Drills?” Kojo talks to Ed Clarke, Director of Safety and Security for Montgomery County Public Schools and others about recent studies that have concluded that active shooter drills are ineffective and generate significant levels of anxiety among students that impairs their educational experience.

### Environment

January 14 and 28; February 4, 11, and 18: The Kojo Nnamdi Show; “A Kojo Climate Series”. Over the course of these 5 programs representing 5 hours of air time, Kojo delves in depth on *The Loss of Species, Extreme Weather and the Fingerprint of Climate Change, Water, Water Everywhere, Rachel Carson and the Environmental Revolution, and Hope and Action*. He talks with environmental experts, professors, government officials, and environmental activists. Particular emphasis is given to environmental concerns that directly affect the station’s listening area.

## **Law Enforcement**

March 31: The 1A Program; 10:30am; 28 minutes; “The NRA: An Unauthorized History”. Interim guest host Todd Zwillich interviews Frank Smyth who authored this examination of the NRA’s evolution from a gun safety and training organization to a formidable force that is influential in American politics.

March 11: The Kojo Nnamdi Show; 12:06pm; 24 minutes; “What Can Be Done to Curb Gun Violence in D.C.?”. Kojo talks with District of Columbia Chief of Police, Peter Newsham about the current level of firearm usage in the District and what steps are being taken to reduce gun related crimes.

## **Relationships**

March 3: The 1A Program; 11:06am; 52 minutes; “The Legacy of George Wallace”. Shreya Pokhrel, Dan Carter, and Horace Huntley participate in a round table discussion of the life of George Wallace during the era and environment in which he lived. Now, years later, they assess his impact on race relations in the United States.

February 13: The Kojo Nnamdi Show; 12:32pm; 26 minutes; “Dating While Gray”. Kojo interviews Laura Stassi who hosts WAMU’s new podcast which explores relationships for those over 50 years of age.