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**New Orleans**

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**News Weekly**

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**Nathanael Scales  
6th Annual  
Christmas Party**

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A Data News Weekly Exclusive



# The City of New Orleans

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# The Holiday Season in New Orleans

*A Special Time of the Year in America's Most Unique City*



This year, both ABC's Dick Clark New Year's Rockin Eve and CNN will broadcast the Central Time zone countdown from New Orleans.

Mark Romig is the President/CEO of New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation

**Edwin Buggage**  
Editor

**In the Spirit of the Season**

While in other parts of the country people are singing Christmas Carols in the traditional way; in New Orleans, the dissonant sounds and melodies of a Brass Band playing Silver Bells as revelers second line; dancing the night away is a common sight. Or the signature dish of Ham at dinner is replaced by Gumbo, with its many different ingredients creating a dish that is pleasing to the palate that's symbolic of rich cultural mosaic of the people of New Orleans. These are only a

few examples of the things that make America's most International City unique every day but are on full display during the holiday season; one that is filled with food, music and fun.

**New Orleans Joins the World Stage Bringing in the New Year**

This year is no exception, but what is different is that the Crescent City will be on full display for the world to see as New Orleans will be included in Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve. Mark Romig, is the CEO of the New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation (NOTMC) they also publish an Annual Holiday Guide

of many things that are happening during the six-week celebration of the holidays in New Orleans. It includes holiday traditions, hotel deals, Reveillon dinners at local restaurants, cocktail happenings, also free events and attractions.

This year there are many great holiday events going on around the Crescent City.

"New Year's Eve is consistently named as a top ten destination by a number of publications throughout the world. This year, both ABC's Dick Clark New Year's Rockin' Eve will broadcast live from New Orleans as well as on CNN. There is a giant party at Jackson Square with a Fleur di Lis Ball Drop at midnight

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Cover Photo by Harshlight, via Flickr.

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Cover Story, Continued from page 2.



New Orleans celebrates Christmas in its unique way, which has made it the center of attention during the Holiday Season.



Nathanael Scales, his wife, and Data News Weekly Publisher Terry Jones attend Scales' 6th Annual Christmas Celebration, which took place on top of the Ritz Carlton.



New Orleans has several Christmas events, charities and volunteer opportunities during the holiday season.

and fireworks. All over the City, people will enjoy our famous food at our beautiful restaurants and head for the French Quarter to ring in the New Year. It has the same excitement as Times Square," Romig told Data News Weekly.

While New Orleans have always been a World Class City drawing people from across the globe ev-

ery year to sample the "Je na sais quoi" that embodies the essence of the rich culture and heritage of this great City lying at the mouth of the Mississippi. Post-Katrina the profile of the City's been raised with new people coming to live in the City, in addition to many television shows and films being shot in New Orleans. Something that's helped

increased its exposure and marketing the City in new ways. It could be argued that these are contributing factors to why "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve" chose New Orleans as one of its cities to broadcast from.

"Coverage like this helps us to reinforce to America what a versatile City we are. It alerts people to

a place they can share the holidays in a temperate climate, with traditions they learn about, and with something for everyone in the family. This is the first year the Dick Clark New Year's Rockin' Eve has joined us but I predict ABC will be back when they see how much revelry and fun we offer. Also, CNN has joined us for at least five years," remarks Romig of the City's appeal.

#### Businesses and Individuals Celebrating and Giving Back

There are rich traditions among African-Americans, but all are invited to take part, "The holiday concert series at St. Augustine Church, which is one of the oldest African-American Catholic Churches in the country, has been a staple of the holiday season for years," says Cleveland Spears III, President of the Spears Group. Continuing he says, "This time of year brings visitors from across the country to enjoy the holidays in New Orleans, which is a huge boost to our local restaurants, shops, and attractions. New Orleans has warmer temperatures, fantastic food, and great family activities, which is what makes us a great destination for holiday travel."

The City is undoubtedly a great destination for tourists, but it is also an amazing place for locals to go out and enjoy what the City has to offer. Additionally, there are many locals who have held annual toy giveaways including the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club, State Senator Troy Carter and many others helping those in need.

Many companies and individuals in the City join in the holiday spirit. One of these benevolent individuals is business owner Nathanael Scales. "This year was my 6th year hosting the Nathanael K.

Scales Holiday Extravaganza and the party has definitely become a holiday must-see that I like so many others enjoy and cherish here in New Orleans," says Scales. "Christmas is a special time of year for me and what started as a celebration and appreciation to my staff at Garden Doctors, Louisiana Hospice, and NK Scales Enterprises, has evolved into the meeting place for networking, meeting and socializing with government officials, rubbing elbows with the City's most influential clergy men, and ultimately having a wonderful time with the City scape as your back drop."

#### Why New Orleans: A Unique Culture that Celebrates Life

The Crescent City is a place that is special year around; where celebrating life is part of everyday life. On the eve of 2017 this is no exception as the City has been thrust into the spotlight on the global stage once again as part of "Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve." New Orleans as it moves into the future continues to become a greater City as it rebuilds, building on rich traditions and a unique culture. These points are best summed up by Romig who says, "Everyone should visit New Orleans for a number or reasons. Our City offers a cultural experience not found anywhere else in the world. It includes sensory overload that involved Mardi Gras, architecturally significant buildings, churches, and homes. It offers food that again is culturally influenced bringing about a taste sensation found only here. Here you will find the roots of jazz, and many other forms of music. Our music culture bubbles up from the streets and continues to evolve."

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# City will Award \$13 Million to Families After Three Katrina-era Police Killings

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

On Monday, Dec. 19, 2016, Mayor Mitch Landrieu announced the City of New Orleans has settled three federal law suits against 17 plaintiffs, regarding the wrongful deaths and mistreatment of several individuals during Hurricane Katrina. The City is expected to pay out over \$13 million to the 17 claimants over a two-year period.

"12 years ago, on August 28th, all was good in many, many ways for some of us but not for all of us. And then a man-made disaster struck," Mayor Mitch Landrieu said at the press conference. "There were angels among us that we never knew, and evidently there were demons, too."

City officials, lawyers, friends, and family of the people who were murdered by NOPD officers, held a Private Service at the St. Katherine Drexel Chapel on Xavier University's Campus. Landrieu said the service was a solidification of apologies and forgiveness between the families and the City.

"Today, we acknowledge a dark moment in our history," Landrieu said.

"The brutal Henry Glover, Danziger Bridge and Raymond Robair incidents left us all disappointed and ashamed. On behalf of the City, we are so sorry these families have had to endure this hurt. After over 11 years, we have reached a settlement with these victims and fami-



Mayor Mitch Landrieu is accompanied by New Orleans City Officials, lawyers and members of the three plaintiff families during Monday's press conference.

lies to take responsibility and begin healing.

Raymond Robair, a Tremé local, was beaten to death by at least one NOPD officer in July of 2005.

James Brissette and Ronald Madison were killed on the Danziger Bridge on Sept 4, 2005. Four others were wounded in that same incident.

Henry Glover was shot and killed on Sept. 2, 2016, By NOPD officer David Warren, behind an Algiers Strip Mall. Warren moved the body near the levee, and it was found burned in a vehicle.

Landrieu assured the City that New Orleans is under new manage-

ment, and has a new, improved and moral police force. Supt. of Police Michael S. Harrison agreed. Harrison said that the City has created several new programs to train officers how to deal with escalation of confrontation. According to Harrison, officers have turned on their Body Camera's 100 percent of the time when being asked too.

Sherrell Johnson, the mother of James Brissette, said her son was only 17-year old when he was killed on the Danziger Bridge. She accepted the apology from the City on behalf of her family.

"It has been an awful long and rough road, but me and my family got through it, and today I'd like to say thank you, Mayor Landrieu and the City of New Orleans, for this open apology to me and my family, and we accept it wholeheartedly," Johnson said.

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# Nathanael Scales Annual Christmas Party

**Eric M Craig**  
Multimedia Editor

On Thursday, December 15, 2016, Nathanael Scales held his Sixth Annual Christmas Party. For the last six years, Scales has worked with ForeScene Events to celebrate the Christmas Holiday and the growth of Scales companies. Scales created Garden Doctors, a landscaping company, in 2005 and Louisiana Hospice of Greater New Orleans in 2009. Both of the companies are under Scales' parent company, NK Scales.



Visit [www.ladatanews.com](http://www.ladatanews.com) for more photos from these events



# Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club Annual Toys for Tots Drive



## Data News Staff

This past weekend, the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club operated its 9th annual Toys for Tots drive. During the drive, the Zulu club gave away over 1300 toys at City Hall, with all of its members in attendance. Earlier this year, the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure club held a press conference, searching for sponsors and donors that could supply toys for New Orleans youth in need. On the same day, the club gave over 200 food baskets at their Broad Street club house.



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# No, Americans Are Not Exceptional, We're Just Average



**Julianne Malveaux**  
NNPA Columnist

In the United States of America, we love to bask in the glory of our “exceptionalism.” We are great; we are wonderful; we dominate the world. Scholars who study “us” say that our exceptionalism is rooted in the fact that we have offered leadership in international affairs. We have committed more resources than other countries to the United Nations, to NATO, and to other organizations committed to international peace. But we do this with a sense of paternal largesse, as if we are the greatest, the most wonderful, the benefactor.

But we have allowed our electoral system to be thrown into chaos, because Vladimir Putin has a grudge against former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and

he used his minions to actualize his grudge. He’s had a bromance with Donald Trump, who asked that Russia hack Hillary’s emails, and obeying Trump’s bidding, the Russians did. This whole electoral drama is a nightmare. Hillary Clinton got nearly three million more votes than Trump, but he has an Electoral College victory. Maybe. Is this American exceptionalism? A hacked democracy vulnerable to the intrusion of foreign powers?

If the Russians are hacking now, imagine what they will do in the future. A recent study from the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) shows that 15 year olds in the United States lag behind others in an international context. We talk as if we are number one or number two in achievement, but the fact is that we are number 14 or 15 by many measures. We aren’t exceptional – we’re just average, ranking below a dozen countries, hitting the median mark.

When science literacy is measured, 24 countries rank higher than the United States. The OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average score on science literacy is

493, and the U.S. was close to the average at 496. Singapore, Japan, Finland, Canada, Vietnam, Australia, the United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Ireland and Portugal were among those with higher scores. Really? These folks will be among those hacking us in a decade if we don’t make better investments in education!

We’re kind of average with reading literacy, as well. The OECD average is 493, and the U.S. average is 497. Singapore, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands outscore us. We’re in the band with France, the United Kingdom, and Spain. What are Singapore, Canada and Ireland doing that we aren’t? In a global economy, how do we compete with them?

Our math comparisons with other countries are especially alarming. The OECD average for math literacy is 490, but the US score is 470. At least 30 countries, including Singapore, Japan, Switzerland, Estonia, Canada, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Iceland, Norway, Austria, Italy, Scotland, and the Russian Federation have higher scores than the U.S. Why?

The federal Department of Education should deal with the matter of standards. Common Core, while not popular among some educational leaders, is a way of ensuring that those who graduate from our nation’s high schools have a common foundation of knowledge. Implementing Common Core may be challenging, especially when some high schools, especially inner city high schools, lack the resources to offer the broadest curriculum. While many schools offer advanced courses, including advanced placement (AP) and international baccalaureate (IB), some do not. Every student needs to have an opportunity to access advanced learning.

More importantly, those who do educational policy must look at the ways our students are lagging in the international environment. Are we content to be 14th, 22nd, 34th in international measures, while, at the same time, preaching exceptionalism. We aren’t especially exceptional when it comes to learning, we are merely average, and often below average when we review international measures.

There are those who will quibble

with the ways that the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) measures learning outcomes. I think, though, that when students from 73 educational systems tackle the same tests, objections can be pushed aside. Even with a flawed measure, even with adjustments, we must conclude that the United States is not exceptional, just average.

If we want to be exceptional, we need to do more than sell wolf tickets and crow over our competitors. Here’s the bottom line – the Russians were smart enough to hack us and mess with our elections. Are we as smart as they are, or are we average? Mr. Trump says he will create jobs. He needs to make resources available to the Department of Education. If he wants to “Make America Great Again,” he needs to make America smart again by investing in education.

Julianne Malveaux is an author, economist and Founder of Economic Education. Her latest book “Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy” is available to order at [www.juliannemalveaux.com](http://www.juliannemalveaux.com). Follow her on Twitter @drjlastword.

# Black People Are Still In The Dark When It Comes To HIV



**Angelo C. Louw**  
NNPA Newswire Guest Columnist

With new infection rates and AIDS-related deaths on a decline globally, it seems we are finally gaining ground in the fight to end the epidemic. However, an alarming world trend in new HIV infections suggests that Black people have been left by the wayside.

In an open letter to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the L.A.-based AIDS Healthcare

Foundation noted that while African-Americans made up a mere 12 percent of the total U.S. population, they accounted for close to half of new infections in the country. Yet, only one in every ten people on Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a drug which has been proven to be effective in preventing the spread of HIV, were Black.

“We call on you to re-balance your prevention efforts to align with what patients want and need so that we can achieve better success in preventing new infections,” the letter said.

As an HIV-prevention campaigner, I know very well the struggle of addressing the “wants and needs” of people who are most likely to get HIV. Sometimes healthcare workers are guilty of making broad assumptions about their daily lives

— I suppose, a consequence of the shoestring budgets at our disposal.

“Black African men and women are advised to have an HIV test and a regular HIV and STI screen if having unprotected sex with new or casual partners,” suggests HIV in UK – Situation Report 2015 for targeted HIV-prevention messaging.

This report found that even in the U.K., where White people make up the larger population of people living with HIV, Black people were more likely to contract HIV, because it was much more prevalent in that minority population.

However, making sweeping assumptions about Black sexuality is counterproductive and it also feeds into the social stigma that is attached to the virus, a major driver of HIV, deterring people from seeking healthcare and family planning,

because of what others might say.

Growing up in what has been dubbed the world’s HIV capital, South Africa, I am all too familiar with false, racist rhetoric blaming high HIV prevalence in Black people on wayward sexual behaviors.

The fact of the matter is, as Brazilian researcher Kia Caldwell points out, HIV is spread due to socio-economic circumstance and not bad sex habits.

In a 2016 report on how HIV affects Afro-Brazilian females, Caldwell stressed the need for an intersectional approach to HIV research and health policy in her home country, which saw a decline in new HIV infections in all population groups, but Black females.

She blames the Afro-Brazilian experience of HIV on widespread poverty and violence, and a lack of

access to healthcare and employment, perpetuated by structural bias based on skin color.

The South African Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute noted this exact experience in its 2013 study of access to healthcare in South Africa. It found while healthcare services are available, poor Black people were less likely to visit local clinics as it often meant a day of unpaid leave, a precarious proposition for a casual employee.

A researcher friend working in rural South Africa once told me that for a lot of men-who-sleep-with-men in these more remote communities, access to a safe setting for sex was hard to come by, let alone condoms or the time to find them. They struggle to have sex safely, even if they wanted to.



# New Orleans Staple, The Ya-Ka-Mein Lady, Prepares for Her Next Move.

**Nigel Palmer**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

There is a sense of anxiety in the air that hangs around in the kitchen of Chef Linda Green.

You may not feel it instantly, but as the flavors begin to complement one another in her silver cooking pot, the aroma rushes the anxiety in, and before you know it you are overcome with the eagerness to taste what she has cooked. And you can't help but understand why Chef Green is a New Orleans legend.

Green, widely known as "The Ya-Ka-Mein Lady" is the winner of the Food Network's Television Series Competition "Chopped: Pride of New Orleans" in 2012. Her winning dish was a twist of a New Orleans favorite: her creation of a Blueberry Beignet Biscuit. Green competed against three other local chefs to see who would be crowned the top chef of New Orleans. And while households across the City



Chef Linda Green, photo via New Orleans Soul Food

are cooking up holiday favorites, Green has kept her kitchen warm and her pots bubbling all year long, and since her ion four years ago, "Participating in 'Chopped' displayed my talents on a national scale, which increased the recognition of my brand," said Green, who started her career in Orleans Parish School Cafeterias, then moved from serving her well-known Ya-Ka-Mein Noodle Soup at second-line parades to major festivals and food events.

Dozens of cups line the wide, wooden table, which were strategically filled with noodles, chopped green onions, beef, shrimp, and a sliced boiled egg, while Green shouted directions to her grandchildren as she stood at the stove preparing a special broth.

The Chef has become a regular at local festivals, including Jazz Fest, featuring anything from sea-

food, po-boys and beignets. Her fans turn out to continue to support her at every tent.

Green, who employs her grandchildren as her staff, said the family environment of her kitchen allows her to teach her family a sense of responsibility and pride in their family's tradition.

For the New Year, Chef Green hopes 2017 will bring a first for her brand. She is in the process of opening her own restaurant. She's delayed the inevitable because she loves to watch people from all over come taste her Ya-Ka-Mein for the first time, as well as seeing the familiar faces of her loyal customers.

"We help her from sun-up-to-sun-down, and it's definitely worth seeing her face light up," said Shadon Green, Chef Linda Green's grandson. "We grow closer each festival."

## Black Santa is Tradition in the Seventh Ward

**Jasmyne Bracy**  
Data News Weekly  
Contributor

For many families in New Orleans, the Christmas season only means one thing: taking photos with the famous 'Seventh Ward Santa Claus.' And while in some cities across the country there has been some social media uproar over the notion of a Black Santa, residents for the past 46 years have loved Fred Porter, the Seventh Ward's Black Santa. He has been portraying Santa Claus for so many years, Porter has seen generations of families grow up.

"There have been a number of children to sit on my lap, I stopped counting years ago," Porter said with a giggle.

When the holiday season is over, this Black Santa goes back to being just Fred Porter, he said. He resides in the New Orleans' Bywater neighborhood when not at the North Pole. He was a bus driver for the Orleans Parish School District and started his Christmas traditions



Dennis Porter, Black Santa, meets with several kids during the holiday season. Photo by Jasmyne Bracy

then. Every time around Christmas, as a bus driver, he would treat the kids he transported to McDonald's, as a gift for the holidays, he said. His first big Santa appearance was at a Church Sunday School Christmas Party and kids loved it so much he decided to continue doing it. Then he developed the character full on.

"I made the decision to grow my own beard and tell the kids if they

don't believe, pull it, because it's real," Porter said.

Knowing that there are families that need a little Christmas cheer, a kind hand, or just a jolly good time is what keeps Porter returning to his role as Santa each year. Families can take photos with the Seventh Ward Santa at Dennis Photo Finish Ltd. at 1753 N. Tonti St. or can call 504-944-5449.

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# Despite the haters, Black Santa Thrives at Mall of America

Stacy M. Brown  
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Many White Americans cling to the notion that major religious and cultural figures are and have been represented as Caucasian, according to one professor when asked about the controversy surrounding the Black Santa Claus at the Mall of America in Minneapolis.

"When this reality is disrupted, as in the case of Black Santa, it makes many White people uncomfortable, because it challenges a taken-for-granted religious cultural landscape whose substance is White privilege," said Adam Szetela, an assistant professor in the liberal arts department at Boston's Berklee College of Music who has penned op-eds, peer-reviewed articles and book chapters that deal with issues of race in America.



Former NBA superstar Baron Davis wears a sweater bearing his company's Black Santa logo. (The Black Santa Company/YouTube)

aims to create diverse heroes and role models through the art of storytelling.

Over a four-day period, a reported 550 families including 1,200 children, came to see Larry Jefferson, the premiere attraction for the Santa Experience at the 25-year-old Mall of America.

Jefferson, the first Black Santa in the Mall's history, is a retired U.S. military veteran from Texas and he was chosen over 1,000 other candidates – all of whom were White.

"It's no big deal, I'm still Santa, I just happen to be a Santa of Color," Jefferson told reporters gathered at the mall. "Santa is still just Santa."

Jefferson greeted passersby, passed out candy canes and encouraged young ones to, "Clean your rooms, eat your vegetables and do what your mommy and daddy say all year."

While those who spewed hate hid in the dark shadows of the Internet and behind made-up or assumed names, others were openly thrilled with Black Santa.

"I think I just started believing in Santa again," Carlos Rosales-Silva tweeted.

"Santa Larry is a good Santa. He's an awesome Santa and I love [that] he and his beard. He is a blessing for us all in this awful time," wrote another poster who goes by the screen name of "Hugo the Buck."

Mark Buchanan noted that, "The Mall of America has a Black Santa and racists done lost their minds. Santa Larry is awesome. He's also a vet and deserves respect."

Landon Luther, the co-owner of the Santa Experience – a storefront enterprise that has booked semi-private meetings with Santa and families at the Mall of America for a decade – called Jefferson's appearance as Santa "incredible."

Luther said the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

"Santa Larry was fully booked. People flew from Washington, New York, Oklahoma," Luther said.

In the end, Jefferson himself noted that his race should not matter. Most importantly, he said, children could care less what color he is.

"What they see most of the time is this red suit and candy. A good spirit," Jefferson said. "I'm just a messenger to bring hope, love and peace to girls and boys."

Still, the headlines have become as comical as the controversy over the Mall of America employing an African-American to portray Santa Claus.

"Racists Freak Out Over Black Santa At Mall of America," The Huffington Post screamed in its December 5 headline.

Even "The Washington Post" ran the curious headline, "The Mall of America's first Black Santa: Santa Comes in Many Different Colors."

And, not to be outdone, apparently concerned — or curious — headline writers trotted out this eye-catching banner for the "Minneapolis Star Tribune" on Dec. 13; "Is Mall of America's Black Santa Now all of America's Santa?"

To critics — particularly those hiding behind screen names on social media — the answer is a resounding "No." The race rhetoric and much of the hate that permeated the recently completed presidential election campaign, has spilled over to the holly, jolly Christmas season.

"I don't understand why Santa would be Black. He is a White character," social media commentator Chris Guy wrote. "Just seems kind of racist to make him Black for the sake of having a Black Santa. I don't really care, but in our racially sensitive society, I don't see how this is considered okay," said Guy, who concluded with this gem: "O, the hypocrisy."

Another social media darling who called herself Laquisha Reynolds pointedly responded with, "I hope every self-respecting White parent does not take their children to this atrocity...this imitation of traditional White characters from television and movies to historical figures such as 'Hamilton' is a cancer that must be stopped," said Reynolds. "If [Martin Luther King] were played by a White person, Blacks would try to kill him."

If that bit of commentary weren't bad enough, many decided to remind Mall of America officials and others of Minneapolis' large Somali population and a September incident where a Somali immigrant stabbed shoppers at another mall in Minneapolis.

"I...fully expected that they would pick a Somali to play Santa," Victor Edwards wrote on social media. "Have a radical Muslim who hates America and the western world play Santa. Give him a gun and some knives under his red suit."

Others, however, were thrilled about the Black Santa Claus.

"I thought it was good what the Mall of America did and I support that," former pro basketball star Baron Davis said in a statement.

"I support all Santas, of all colors. There are a lot of people in this world that enjoy conflict," said Davis, who in November founded "The Black Santa Company," which



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## Delaney's Armoire Terris Zakar

*Open to Interpretation*



Local New Orleans model channels her inner animal while posing in a original A'lora Zakar design. Photo by PMartin Photography



Model rips the runway at Terris Zakar's most recent show.



22-year-old Fashion Designer, Terris Zakar closes his show with a bang wearing his metallic space suit with his closing model behind him. Courtesy of Terris Zakar



**Delaney George**  
Columnist

In today's world of fashion, it is the norm to dress how we feel and to communicate that mood through

clothing. For example, if one felt lazy they would wear sweats and slippers, or if one felt like a caged animal they would put on their best leopard print ensemble. Designer Terris Zakar, Creator of Brand A'lora Zakar, embodies feelings and communication through designing in the most creative way.

"I design what I feel, I have no one favorite fabric" says the 22-year-old local designer. Zakar has been designing since his first fashion show in 2015. Zakar uses a wide variety of fabrics and themes to

communicate a mood for fashion. Zakar's design inspirations include animal life, African decent accents, futuristic aesthetics and even all plastic vinyl fabrics.

Zakar's designs communicates many things, but Zakar has always hoped people would portray the meanings behind the designs on their own. "I am an artist and everyone will understand where I'm coming from when I design" Zakar said. Zakar's brand, A'lora Zakar, can be labeled almost anything but normal, due to the use of

his crazy, fun, and unusual ideas. Zakar can turn any design that a client imagines into a mythical reality.

Zakar and his many designs have been in over 25 shows including ones in the Big Apple. The local designer has created over 6 collections in one-year alone and intends on releasing his new collection or "best kept secret" in February. For more information on Terris Zakar and his upcoming collection visit TerrisSiah on Instagram or email Alorazakar@gmail.com

### The Curly Corner

## 4 Reasons Why Cutting Your Ends Is Important to Natural Hair Health



**Destiny Johnson**  
Natural Hair Columnist

No natural wants to see her beautiful springs and coils fall to the floor after a hair-cut but sometimes it is necessary. Getting your hair cut by a professional stylist can be

a little nerve wracking especially since we spend so much time trying to get our hair to grow longer. However, here are 4 reasons why getting a few snips may be fundamental to achieving ultimate hair health.

1. Getting an occasional trim will keep split ends from traveling up the hair shaft. This will cause unnecessary damage to your hair and may force you to have to cut more inches than you anticipated.
2. A nice trim will encourage



Cutting hair can lead to healthier, faster hair growth. Photo by Peter Klashorst

the natural springiness of your curls without the extra weight of frayed ends.

3. A trim allows you to focus on the healthiest parts of your hair so you can continue to target growth and retention.
4. A professional cut can also give the illusion of volume such as a Deva Cut. A Deva Cut is the name of a curly hair cut given by professional stylists to shape the hair so that the curls frame your face.

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