



Happy New Year from Schatzi's!

It is a joy and a privilege to see the dawning of a new year, full of hope and possibility. The blessings of rain have also been a warm and welcome reminder of the simplicity of life. Talk about "keepin' it real." How much more basic can you get? Water is life. We give thanks.

Within the salon, Ms. Shaundrelle is now functioning as a trainer/manager, working with other stylists to standardize the quality of the service that is provided. So far, things are working great! The overall impact on

Shaundrelle's existing clients however is minimal. Our overall objective is to ensure consistency in our product while also granting Shaundrelle the freedom to create and grow in new and inspiring ways. Thanks for your support of these exciting new directions.

This month's edition of Au Naturel is dedicated to strength, courage and wisdom in the face of adversity. Sometimes when life seems so frustrating and complicated, we should remember to love and appreciate the simple things that we often take for granted. Read and enjoy...

Hot Looks: Accentuating Natural Curls with the Wet Look

I've met quite a few clients recently who love their naturally curly hair but would love to minimize the frizz factor as much as possible. They typically report that they love how their hair looks when it's wet. Once it's dry however, the look 'is less than optimal.'

One client recently visited us very frustrated with her hairstyling options. She said she wanted a nice, sexy style befitting a mature woman. She confessed that she was on the brink of radical action, ie, chemical treatments. ☹ I felt her pain. I shampooed her hair and noticed that her locks had a beautiful, natural wave pattern that many buy in a bottle. It's a wonder that she ever felt the need to relax her hair at all. I asked her if she ever wore the "wet look." She confessed that she had not. I asked her if she would mind if we experimented with her hair. She didn't. So, we tried the wet look and she liked it! It's so simple, that you really don't need to visit a salon for this

look. Try it and let me know how it works. It works best with short hairstyles.

Step 1: Shampoo and condition the hair, detangling the hair while the conditioner is on it. Rinse the hair. Do not towel dry. (This look is nice when styled backwards, away from the face, following the flow of water.)

Step 2: While the hair is very wet, take a dollop of hair gel (I used Organic Root Stimulator Lock and Twist Gel) and coat the hair strands, trying not to separate the water-bonded curls that have formed.

Step 3: Sit under the dryer until the hair is dry. Do not comb the hair.

That's it! Your hair may be a bit stiff to the touch (kind of like hair spray), but that's because the gel has temporarily "frozen" the wet curl pattern. This style is not for your man to run his fingers through though. Sorry guys. But it's a very sexy look, so he'll love it anyway. ☺ The next day, repeat the conditioning and gel application process.

Embrace the Beauty of You.

Special events

- *Poetically Correct*, our monthly poetry reading session, will be held in the 2nd Floor Sharing Room of Schatzi's on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008.
- Schatzi's stylists will be holding a *Natural Hair Care Forum* at Gethsemane SDA Church located at 2525 Sanderford Rd., Raleigh, NC on Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008 at 5:30pm. Please contact Tajuana Crosby at 333-0964 for questions.

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Thoughts on Vanity

Love is that enviable state that knows no envy or vanity, only empathy and a longing to be greater than oneself.

Unknown

Possibly, more people kill themselves and others out of hurt vanity than out of envy, jealousy, malice or desire for revenge.

Iris Murdoch

Throughout the centuries, man has considered himself beautiful. I rather suppose that man only believes in his own beauty out of pride; that he is not really beautiful and he suspects this himself; for why does he look on the face of his fellow-man with such scorn?

Isidore Ducasse Lautreamont

Cure yourself of the affliction of caring how you appear to others. Concern yourself only with how you appear before God, concern yourself only with the idea that God may have of you.

Miguel De Unamuno

What is Vanity?: Who Decides? By Schatzi H. McCarthy

(Commentary on an article titled "In Iraq, stylists go underground" published in the Dec. 27, 2007 issue of *The News and Observer* by Dina Hadid of the Associated Press)

A regular client of ours brought an N&O article titled "In Iraq, stylists go underground" into the salon the day after it was printed, for our review. After reading it, I felt compelled to include it in *Au Naturel*. After phoning the N&O to get permission to reprint the article, I was advised that I could not do so, as it is an Associated Press article. The attendant suggested that I paraphrase the article as a "book report." So, here's my version of the piece. If you want to reference the original article, you'll find it on the Net.

In a nutshell, the article described how several beauty salons in Iraq (near Baghdad) have been bombed. Two primary reasons for the bombings were cited: 1) the bombers didn't want a salon in the location where it was previously housed; and 2) the bombers didn't like to see women engaged in such vain behavior, despite the fact that they are conservatively covered while on the street (as consistent with their religious practices). Because the demand for beauty care services remains in Iraq despite the obvious adversity to engaging in such practices, stylists in Iraq open a segment of their home

to accommodate the needs of women seeking the services. One stylist explained that she only works with people that she knows, for obvious safety reasons. She also focuses only on brides who she perceives to have the highest need. Because she provides a complete package of services for brides, she maximizes earnings while minimizing the number of visits to her home. Another stylist explained that despite the negative perception that some have towards salon services, her home has never been short of clients to serve, throughout the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf war and the current conflict. The article further explains that women are aware of the inherent risk in frequenting these salons for services yet, the demand remains and stylists meet it to supplement income. On that note, I will conclude my summation of the article because for me, the fact that there is consistent demand is truly noteworthy. Let me explain why.

First in reasoning with my mind and heart, it seems obvious that these extreme views of "vanity" are not unanimously held by the wider society. If so, wouldn't the men be upset to see their women return home with chic haircuts and styles? These are not looks that you can hide from male family members. If these *anti-vanity* views were widely held, the "buck" would stop right at the threshold of the home, because the men undeniably would arrest the practices on sight. Because the men obviously appreciate and condone the practices, the demand for services continues. So, the true perspective of the majority of Iraqi people remains...debatable. As such, do Iraqi people *en masse* define these practices as vain at all?

Second as a salon owner, I do not know if I could muster the courage to defy such rigid, war-time social mores which have such final consequences. Yet as a woman and a mother, I know within my soul that I would move earth and mountain to ensure that my children are fed...unapologetically so. The women in the article engage in these practices for survival primarily. They are simply employing the use of their God-given talents. Ultimately, the maternal instinct is great. It has maintained life on earth for many millennia. It will not end. So, I say to my fellow sisters "alutta continua."

In concluding, I must say that I have endeavored to remain neutral in my analysis to the extent possible, despite the obvious political undertones in this article. But I believe that while the message of this article rises far above politics, it cannot be wrested from the realm of religion. Why? Because when I read this article, I ask myself "What is vanity?" Who defines what vanity is or should be? Is it vanity to wear deodorant or bathe? Is it vanity to comb your hair and wash your face? Is it vanity to love your husband and want to be beautiful for him? Who defines vanity and where is the line drawn? I don't know and won't venture to answer. I can only say that when I see articles like this, I think that we as human beings have a lot to learn about compassion and humanity. In fact, I think we could learn a fair amount from animals that inherently understand the need to protect the weaker among them. (Check out the Youtube video "The Battle at Kruger" for testimony to the passion and power of the innate animal instinct for self-preservation. My kids turned me onto this one. Don't close the link before it finishes though. There's a surprise ending to this 8:23 minute clip that will have you cheering! I did! But I digress...or do I? [See Eccles. 3:18-20] *Even as a child, I knew that all things are connected in some form or fashion. All things! Our challenge is only to find the common thread which weaves the fabric of the universe.* ☺)

Anyway, I am a person who hates war. I see no reason for it, though I know there is a time and a season for all things. I've seen and lived the after effects of war and believe that an enlightened race of people can find a better way to resolve conflict. War is vanity. Yet within the realm of my own existence, I am powerless to change it. My only solace is prayer and faith (Romans 8:28) and diligence in the continuous quest to find the highest meaning in my own life—which also ultimately is vanity....

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Embrace the Beauty of You.

The Beat Is

**The beat is...
stimulating my mind.**

**The beat is...
warming my heart.**

**The beat is...
flowing through my body.**

**The beat is...
caressing my soul.**

Poetically Speaking...

This month, I write with much thanks in my heart. I've recently spoken with several clients who have indicated that they've been reading my newsletter for a while but only just decided to come into the salon. It is a wonderful feeling to know that my words do not fall on deaf ears (or should I say blind eyes)! Thank you, our reader, for understanding and embracing the messages delivered within these brief missives. Even if you decide never to come into our salon, we welcome the spiritual communion and give thanks to you for your appreciation of this labor of the heart. ☺

Well, 2007 was a year of literary excellence within my own family! First, my husband wrote a book In-dependence from Bondage highlighting the works of Claude McKay, poet extraordinaire and Michael Manley, politician. Within my extended family, a welcome contribution is from my uncle, Rev. Ernice Randolph Hawthorne of Durham, NC. His small book of poetry titled When the Morning Dove Sings arrived at my home on Christmas Eve. I devoured it immediately. I would like to use this month's poetry section to highlight one of his poems. (Guess I get my love of poetry honestly. Even my maternal grandfather loved poetry.) Uncle Ernice granted me permission to include a piece in this newsletter and has graciously agreed to include one of my pieces in his next collection, soon to be published! Which to choose? I'll have to decide. But in the interim, I hope you enjoy his piece titled "Just a Thought" which is attached.

As for my own original piece, I am sharing a short poem that I wrote in October to salute the communicative power of music and prose (*to the left, to the left*). I've been vibin' with

Just a Thought

By. E. Randolph Hawthorne

**Life is for the living
love is for the giving
to truly live
one must love
to truly love
one must live.**

**Giving is living.
Living is giving.
The two are intertwined.
If we make this our reality,
we will truly see life age
as a precious old wine.**

**Tastefully, gracefully, full of joy
full of beauty
full of understanding
full of duty.**

**Full of contentment
full of love
as it's truly meant to be
from the heavens above.**

**This is the love of God.
Father..., teach us!**

Ms. Chrisette Michele since her new CD arrived at my home. Her Ella-esque sound is truly inspiring. I love the CD so much, I recently dreamt I met with her to tell her "Thank You." Is that crazy or what?! Anyway, every single song on the CD is smoking! The attached poem in some ways expresses how I feel listening to it. ☺

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