

Au Naturel

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Contents

Salon Greetings & Happenings	1
Why I Love Don Imus	1
Short Takes by Keely	2
Why I Love My Gray Hair...	3
Short Takes by Vanessa	3
Short Takes by Shaundrelle	3
Local Business Review	4
About Our Organization	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Our poetry sharing series, will take place in the 2nd floor Sharing Room on Friday, June 15, 2007 @ 7pm. All are invited.
- ◆ "Fauxtography" Art Show will take place here at Schatzi's on Friday, Aug. 10, 2007 @ 7pm. Wine, cheese and wonderful music will accompany this display of original artwork by Jasmine Hawthorne. Never before seen pieces will be debuted. Bring your checkbook. She's actually going to sell them!

Salon Greetings and Happenings

In August, we will celebrate one full year of operation--our first major milestone! I wish to thank the staff of *Schatzi's* for making the ride a smooth one. You are phenomenal! We also express deep appreciation to our valued clients. And special thanks to my family for the unseen sacrifices made for a greater social good. Your support is a precious gift to me. i thank you.

In celebration of our one year milestone, we will host an art show, replete with beautiful works of art, wine, cheese, hors d'oeuvres and wonderful music. All clients of *Schatzi's* and readers of *Au Naturel* are invited to attend. The evening promises to please. The attire is evening casual.

This event will be a debut art showing for Jasmine Hawthorne, who has adorned the walls of *Schatzi's* exquisitely. Many have asked about buying her pieces. Until now, she has

been very protective of her work. She has since decided to release her hold on these beautiful pieces to make way for her *new phase*. Sounds mysterious! ☺ For a preview of her pieces, stop by the salon and look around. If you don't have any thoughts of buying, please come anyway to commune and celebrate. There will be lots of food and fun!

Remember that June boasts the celebration of Father's Day. So Ladies, if you want to give your significant other a treat, give him a deep tissue/sport massage. Just phone Latisha to schedule an appointment. He'll love it!!

This month's issue of *Au Naturel* is all about love. So, read and enjoy. We are also featuring short takes--brief highlights of styles suitable for short hair, courtesy of our talented staff.

Embrace the Beauty of You.

Why I Love Don Imus

Note to Reader: For the sake of this discussion, nappy hair is synonymous with kinky hair.

Okay! I know what you're thinking. THAT SISTA'S GOT TO BE CRAZY!! She must be joking!! Well, I'm not. Read on.... You may actually agree with me. Okay, maybe you won't love Imus but hopefully you'll come to understand my perspective. It's likely different from the others you've heard.

Well, I wrote this article last month but refrained from including it in May's issue because of a surprise contribution from a reader. I couldn't resist using it this month because the hair debate is surely not over--just dormant. It's healthy debate for the AA community however. Here's why.

First, with all the debate and anger and name calling and apologies that took place, I can safely say that it's been a very long time since I have heard Black men stand up and defend Black women

as a group in such a long time. There is rarely need to do so but it was refreshing all the same. Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson, Tom Joyner, Michael Baisden, Russ Parr, Eli Carter (Yes, Eli. I took note and was touched. ☺) and the beat goes on. These brothers had team defense *on lock FOR REAL!!* Respect!

But, the deepest issue and reason why I love Don Imus and his faux-pas was probably the most controversial one. Don Imus reminds me that I'm living 40 years post-apartheid USA. If you're wondering what post-apartheid South Africa will look like 30 years in the future, you can probably make a pretty close guess by looking around right here at home. I personally appreciate the reminder.

(Continued on Page 2)

Why I Love Don Imus Continued...



Nubian Knots
Style by Keely



Variation on a Theme
Knots loosened & pulled into a bun

"As long as your hair is neat and clean and reasonably conservative, mainstream society doesn't care WHAT you do with your hair."

Short Takes Styles by Keely



The Helix w/Flat Twists



Magnificence w/the Duet Roller Set

All the same here at Schatzi's, there were some interesting discussions and debates about the Imus issue. Some were purely comical, others heated but mostly sisters were disturbed by the comments. I'm disturbed not because the statements were made but because we were SO upset about them! From my non-scientific poll of women across the spectrum, they expressed more concern that Imus called our Rutgers sistren "nappy-headed" than that he called them "Hos!!" Should I repeat that!! I will say again that **SISTERS SEEM MUCH MORE CONCERNED THAT IMUS CALLED US NAPPY-HEADED THAN THAT HE CALLED US "HOS!!"** Yes, I said "Us" because the struggle of one is the struggle of us all. So, I embrace the struggle.

I found this passion around nappy hair very disturbing because that was the statement that I found almost irrelevant. I mean, if someone turned to the UVA female lacrosse team and called them a bunch of straight-haired b----s, everyone would be up in arms that anyone would dare call these talented athletes b----s. The hair texture would be a moot point, whether or not all of the team members had straight hair. You know it's true!!! So.....why are we so obsessed with nappy-ness, or should I say the lack thereof. Why is nappy tantamount to being called a bad word!! Right here in our salon, I have counseled mothers who want their daughters to be natural but "just don't want their hair to be nappy!!"

What is the nappy-less obsession about? Why do sisters feel the need to wear locks and twists but "texturize" (e.g. civilize) their edges and their "kitchen?" Why do women need a support group in order to transition to natural hair because of the public and private discontent that they anticipate will be meted out to them?! Why do sisters express that they must have shiny hair because mainstream society associates shiny with healthy hair? I am absolutely livid about such a conception. Why do clients express that when they wear their teeny-weeny afro, it is their "straight-haired" African American sisters who are **MOST CRITICAL** of their transformation? I mean, we have enough hang-ups and issues without needing to feel alienated by our own! What the heck is THAT about?! You know what?! I have been working in

mainstream society all of my professional life and I've been natural the whole time. Do you know what I've concluded? Ladies, as long as your hair is neat and clean and reasonably conservative, mainstream society doesn't care **WHAT** you do with your hair. For that reason, I wear my two-strand twist in a lot of buns, ponytails and up-dos. I've worn Nubian knots, cornrows, braids, you name it. But, I've never worn a full Mohawk, pink hair or elaborate shiny hair adornments synonymous with belly-dancing. That's what I mean by conservative. My definition is very liberal. My hair is often commented on but mostly complimented by the wider society.

Do you know what I believe is the main reason that we abhor Don Imus' comments about our hair so much? I believe it's because he revealed a truth that we as a people refuse to face: *My sisters, relax, straighten, tighten and bind your hair all you want, curl it, twist it, wax it... heck, cut it all off if you want, it don't matter one iota.* Some **STILL** see you as the nappy-headed Black woman that you are genetically coded to be, whether or not your genetic code is wavy, curly or kinky. You are coded Black and that don't change. The truth hurts sometimes. As for me, I embrace this truth today and everyday! I encourage you to embrace it too. Call me nappy and I say "Thank you." I wouldn't have it any other way because it is here that diversity abounds. And as I sport my *mane of many coifs*, don't be jealous now. I mean with even *anti-gravity* styles in my arsenal, I **MUST** be richly blessed!

Yes, I for one ain't mad at Don. Sometimes, it's nice to know what people really think of you. It gives you an advantage. The beauty however is that when you don't care what they think, you are the absolute victor. Hands down! At that time, silence is pure **GOLD**.

Embrace the Beauty of You.
Schatzi

Why I Love My Gray Hair...But You Surely Don't Have to Love Yours

By: Schatzi H. McCarthy

Several weeks ago, I traveled to Virginia to stand at my father's bedside during his first major surgery procedure ever – knee replacement surgery. As I walked into the house wearing my oh-so-chic Nubian knots (as styled by Ms. Keely), my father pointed to the front of my hair and said "What is that?!" He was referring to a small patch of gray hair at the left front of my hair. I smiled. "That's my gray hair?! I'm no spring chicken ya' know," I retorted while giving him a great big ole' hug.

Now, I must keep this article away from my sons because to this day, they have absolutely no definitive information about Mom's age. In my house, there are several things about language that you must know:

- *Don't say "Ugly." It's a four letter word, not to be used, EVER;*
- *Don't say "Shut up." It's too rude a phrase to be used among family or anyone else; and*
- *Don't tell lies, ever...unless of course the lie is about Mommy's age!*

..... I'm not kidding.

My sons have seen the number 30 on my birthday cake so many times that they are now thoroughly confused. In guessing my age, they've come pretty close but they've NEVER heard any definitive anything from me. I just laugh when they ask. "Why do you need to know my age? Are you tired of people calling me your sister? Ha!! Ha!! When you reach 35, I'll be your younger sister!! Ha!! Ha!!" Needless to say with the endless cajoling, they've stopped asking. But, I must admit that I was in a quandary last year when my grandmother found an old family picture in some forgotten boxes. She proudly held up the picture and announced that it was 32 years old. Her memory is like a trap! She had the timing of that photo down to a T!! My kids then slyly smiled amongst themselves and said "Grandma, how old is Mommy in this picture?" She looked at the photo and proudly said, "She's about 6." Right again. They then laughed and said "Ha!! We know your age! We know your age!" I was trapped, but only for a moment. I then very quietly responded, "Are you sure? Is it really 32 years? You know, Grandma's memory is not as sharp as it used to be. It's not acceptable to correct old people. Shhhh!!" Then the confused look returned to their faces. Ha!! I had won!! Yes!! Think you can school me son!! Don't you know my name is Momma!! Shoot! Then I thought, "Did I really just say such a thing?! About my GRANDMOTHER!!!!!!!!!" Vanity of vanities, what a tangled web we weave.... You may ask, did I correct my error?Of course,

NOT!!

Besides, I didn't really lie. [That's my guilt trip talking.] And too, they know better than to ask me about my age. With that question, there are "no holds barred!!" It's on!! They know this!! My sons need only know my age when it's time to place my birth date on my epitaph. Really, they don't even need to know then because I don't want an epitaph. There was no monument to me before I came to this Earth and I don't need any after I'm gone. Dust!! That's all. Dust in the wind....

Well, back to the original score. Basically, despite my effort to hide my age, I am very happy with my gray hair. Seems kind of contradictory hunh? Well, if the truth be told, gray hair represents my battle scars. The battle of life is waged primarily within the confines of one's own skin. The battle is constant. Yet, surely you have seen people who look completely unaffected by the trials and struggles of life. They are ageless. I certainly don't fall in that category. But, when I look in the mirror and see my gray, I smile because it reminds me that I have lived some life. I'm no spring chicken! I earned every gray hair on my head and they were hard come by. I once thought I would dye my hair at this age but now, I wouldn't dare. Of course, I may change my mind about that in another 10 years, so don't hold me to it. But for now, I'm lovin' it!

Another reality strikes me as relevant, as well. I work in an office environment of highly trained people. I've learned that when you look too young, people think you don't know what you're talking about. It doesn't matter how sound your reasoning is, they need to see tangible evidence of wisdom. *Alas, would it were that wisdom be synonymous with aging..... (Sigh).*

Well, my views about my gray hair are surely not to be imposed on others. As such, we have a wonderful colorist in the salon of late. Yeeeaayyy! Isha Gallegos is a licensed cosmetologist trained at Mitchell's Styling Academy who has a passion for natural hair. Born of West African and Arabic parentage, she has a beautiful Gambian accent and is a talented colorist, cutter and braider. She is also a poet and a make-up artist. If you're interested in some fab color for your tresses, stop by and ask for Isha. She works by appointment only on Tuesdays and Fridays. Check her out!! She's hot!!!

Embrace the Beauty of You.

Short Takes Styles by Vanessa



The Kinky Twist



The Helix



Isha Gallegos is a licensed cosmetologist trained at Mitchell's Styling Academy who has a passion for natural hair. She specializes in color, cuts and braiding techniques.

Short Takes Style by Shaundrelle



Mohawk Variation





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We're on the Web!
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Local Business Review

● If you haven't been on Fayetteville Street, Downtown Raleigh, since it's reopening as a two-way street, you're missing out on the happenings.' Some of you will recall a wonderful little restaurant called *Yancy's Jazz & Blues Café* that was located downtown. Well, *Yancy's* has grown and expanded! It is now an up-scale Cajun Restaurant and Jazz Club! Check out www.yancysjazz.com. It's what's up! No doubt. Word to the wise: Mind your Ps and Qs, meaning, don't wear sneakers or hats that could be labeled as a cap. And make sure your shirt is tucked in. Seems a bit prescriptive and parochial-minded in my view but if you manage to get past the pomp and circumstance, the food is pretty good and the live jazz is even

About Our Organization

Schatzi's is a natural hair and personal care salon with a warm and nurturing ambiance for clients to "Embrace the Beauty of You." *Schatzi's* is located in the Park on Millbrook Condominium complex, near the intersection of Six Forks and Millbrook Rds. *Schatzi's* design gallery provides services that

better. My recommendation: Go at 8:30pm. After dinner, you can stay for the 10:00pm jazz show without paying a cover charge. Shhh. Don't tell too many people. ☺ It's also a nice couples retreat. I must admit that I've been enticed to give up my *designated driver* privileges on more than one occasion by the sheer ambiance of the place. See for yourself. You WILL go back!

● Jackson's Black Belt Academy has now moved to a bigger location: 110 Bratton Dr. Suite 101, Garner, NC 27529. To learn more, visit www.jaxblackbelt.com. The workout is well worth the drive. Check it out!! You won't find a whole lot of 6th degree black belt Taekwon-do masters of African American descent in the area, so REPRESENT!!

nurture natural hair, with a two-floor art gallery provided courtesy of local artist Jasmine Hawthorne. Our day spa encourages mental, spiritual and physical well-being through a range of relaxation services. Come in and....

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