

# FEATURES

## I Am Not My Hair

by Deirdre Freeman



Tia Evans

What was once good for the goose isn't good enough for the gander these days. Spirit isn't the only thing fellow broncos are showing; personalities are shining, seeping and even screaming through hair styles all around campus.

More and more young women are kissing relaxers, sometimes called perms, goodbye. The once popular fad, may be becoming a trend of the past. Many ladies these days are relying more on other things; their roots, braids, dreadlocks and even wigs. It used to be "the thing", relaxed hair that laid just right, blew in the wind, and made easier to manage. But some women have grown tired of spending 60 dollars every eight weeks, spending hours and hours in the salon so they've chosen to go natural.

A Permanent Wave, typically called a perm is defined as the chemical treat-

ment of hair to produce waves or straight hair. The word permanent is only justified, as when the wave is permed. However, new hair grows that has not been permed. Which means ultimately the permanent look gradually disappears.

As African slaves were brought to the "New World" in 1441, they were forced to lose a sense of their being; their beauty of dark skin, and natural hair. Coming into a world where the way of the world was to look as European as possible. Many blacks during these times would probably argue, the only way to fit in was to imitate the standards of Europeans. Some women during these times served as barbers and beauticians, where they learned the trend of braiding and weaving hair.

Senior, Tia Evans says the last thing she wants to do is fit in. She's been on what she calls her natural journey since 2008, and hasn't looked at a relaxer since. "I cut my hair September 2008 and once I saw my natural curls I fell in love and I knew that I would never touch a perm again for the rest of my life. I call it a journey because it is truly a journey; I have learned so much about myself, and my hair, in almost a year and a half. People sometimes say it is like I have become a completely different person. I know though I still have many things to learn about my hair and I am excited about learning new things," said Evans.

Evans, a Spanish Major said her journey to natural has helped her learn a lot about the hair she didn't know before. She said, "the most interesting thing I have learned is it is possible to have different

types of curls on one head. Also I have learned the importance of protective styles such as braids and sew-ins. I also try not to use heat in my hair, the less heat the better. If I must use heat I always use a heat protectant for my hair." Evans says, there is no such thing as good or bad hair, in the end it's about healthy hair.

When it comes to India Arie's song, I am not my hair, Evans says she's no fan of Arie but agrees with the message in the song. "My hair does not define who I am it merely enhances me and my natural beauty. I treat my hair like an accessory and not a necessity. If something goes wrong I am not afraid to cut my hair and start over. It is just hair."

Senior, Francine Dunbar, began her journey with the help of best friend, Brittany Jackson. Dunbar, admits she had to go natural after a few bad takes of chemicals and heat. She too agrees with Evans and says, "hair doesn't take away from you as a person nor does it add it you." Dunbar says she's "over it" in regards to the issue of hair, as it comes and goes. She says natural hair, as opposed to relaxed hair, is so much more versatile. "I can do a blowout, rock a fro, twists, straw sets, wear braids without worrying about my hair being totally damaged, and so much more. Best of all, if I decide that I want a straight look, I can flat iron my hair and it will have more bounce and body than relaxed hair. SHEESH! Who wouldn't want that."

Singer, Mario asked the world in 2002, if someone would "braid his hair." Seems like he's not the only one these days, young women and men around campus are asking the same question. It's not unusual

to hear, "what time can I come by, do you have grease, or should I bring mine." Of course this started long before 2002. African Americans have been rocking braids for plenty of centuries. The art of corn rowing became most popular not only in Africa but also in African sculptures. Cornrow hair styles in Africa are symbolized as a bond and can be an identifier based on the design of the braid. The designs ultimately represent cultural values between generations and express bonds between friends.

Dreadlocks, or locks as some people prefer to call them are also popular on campus. Freshman, Dominique Betts, has been growing his dreads for the past two years. He said plain and simple, "I really got tired of sitting down and getting my hair braided, so I decided to dread it up." Betts says they're easier to manage. "I don't have to do much to it, just get it twisted, and washed twice a month."

Junior, Sonya Worthington, says she knows she's unique but she doesn't necessarily need her hair to tell her so, however it does add a little flavor. Worthington has proudly rocked her wigs for a few years now and has no reason to stop. "It's so much easier, and gives me more time to sleep in the morning and adds to my look and personality, said Worthington." Worthington says, it's nice having the choice of wearing a wig or not wearing one. "Don't get me wrong, I love my hair underneath, and it's always nice to surprise people when they see just how long my hair is."

## Spring Break Is Coming...Party On!

by Monique Vaughn

Most college students see spring break as the highlight of spring semester. The week long break, alongside the vacations, parties, and fun that come are always something to look forward to. If you don't participate, or plan on participating in spring break, you may not be as excited as most students. "This year, spring break could not come fast enough. I need a break from school, and time to just relax, and party; maybe I will come back refocused on school," said FSU student Keirra Smith.

The majority of FSU students surveyed said they will be at the beach for spring break. The beach of choice is Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Students from other colleges say Miami, or another beach in Florida would be the best place to go for spring break. "Wassup Miami? I cannot wait to hit the warm streets of Miami, this is my first REAL spring break," stated Clark Atlanta student Danielle Johnson.

While the beach is one of the largest spring break destinations for college students, big cities are also a destination. "I will probably go to Atlanta, chill and party. That's the best place to be," said FSU student Roy Edouarzin

Besides sand, surf and cities, simply going home for spring break is still a good idea for many students since so many of them are from out of town and out of state. As students approach their upper classmen years, going home becomes rare. "Any chance I get, I go home, and getting this week long break to enjoy my family and friends back home is just what I need to keep my mind focused on school," stated FSU student Jacinda Peterson. People who live out of state who go home, surely appreciate the break. "I have a 12 hour trip to make...at least I get a couple days to enjoy my home," said college student Matthew Williams.

Here are some spring break Do's and Don'ts from FSU students:

### Don't:

- 1) come back to school TWO weeks after spring break, it's only a week
- 2) fall in love at the beach
- 3) make any babies
- 4) sit your drink down, and come back to it

5) don't spend all your money during spring break and come back broke," says FSU student Rob Harley

### Do:

- 1) have fun, but be safe
- 2) stay with your friends; a lot of crime is committed during spring break
- 3) take responsible photos. The memories will make you laugh when you're old
- 4) call your family to let them know you're safe

Whether you participate in spring break or not; whether you go on vacation or go home, spring break is a time for reflections. Take time out to relax your mind, have fun, and enjoy family and friends and focus on what's important. College students work hard and it has been said that these are our best years, so why not enjoy them. "I wish I still had a spring break. After college, you work, and work, and that's it, no summer break, or spring break, just a two week vacation, which I use very wisely," said FSU Alumnus Irene Willis.