

# How I wear my crown

by Jalynn Jones  
Voice Staff writer

Being vintage, chicé, and everything in between seems to be the most popular style these days. If you take a look around campus, fashion from attire to hairstyles stretches from retro to plain Jane. While hair extensions and weaves have become popular among women of all ethnicities, more Black women are letting the extensions, weaves and straight hair styles go.

In the early 1900's, a lot of African-Americans felt the need to conform to society by

changing their hair and their attire to be better accepted in society. Black women wore their kinky hair pressed straight, and men got chemical relaxers to change the texture of their hair. As time and fashion evolved, many people rebelled from what was accepted and went back to wearing their hair in its natural state. As many know, the art of fashion is like a cycle. Either trends reach amazing heights and gradually fade out, or they come back. Natural hair can be referred to as a trend, but for many it is becoming a lifelong commitment.

Many women feel pressured to wear

their hair long, straight and light. However, natural hair is receiving international attention and is reaching unbelievable heights by crossing race lines and trends from culture to culture.

More people are cutting their hair in short edgy looks or wearing it curly. More young black women are stripping their hair from perms and others are chopping all their hair off. It is said that a women's hair is the crown of to her beauty but our generation is redefining the meaning to natural beauty.

Danielle Dow, a freshman, who has been natural for three years, has a very positive

perspective about the state of natural hair today.

"It ties me into [my] African American culture," said Ms. Dow.

"I think it's gorgeous," said Mariah Black, a freshman.

She also commented on how she thought some men view natural hair. After asking a few young men about women and natural beauty, many thought it was sexy. They agreed that women can wear their hair natural, relaxed or weaved as long as it's styled.

by Shirley Townsend  
Voice Staff writer

Being natural is a great option for your hair, however it is not the only option.

Many females do not want to go natural because they do not have the time or simply because they have been getting relaxers for so long, they do not want to start growing their hair all over again.

If you wish to keep relaxing your hair that is fine, but you should make sure that you educate yourself about the correct way to do so and also the best products on the market for relaxed hair.

Choosing to grow your hair natural is a personal decision. Many females stated that they love their relaxers because it is efficient for their lifestyle, and they felt more comfortable wearing hairstyles they are already accustomed to.

All of the ladies agreed that growing fully natural hair is a process and that it requires a lot of attention. All of the ladies also agreed that they wore hair weaves, braids and wigs as protective styles on their relaxed and natural hair.

"I have done so much damage to my hair in the past so I decided to go natural and just wear my hair weaves, which look great on me. Everyone has a different style and you never know what you look [like] until you try it," said sophomore, Stormie Monk.

Not only do the females have strong opinions about natural and relaxed hair, but so do the men.

"I personally don't think that it is for every woman, but I like women with the natural hair. Because I think it is sexy for a woman who takes pride in what she has and goes against the norm of society views on hair in

America," said sophomore, Tristin Rainey.

The new drastic hairstyle changes have caught many of the men by surprise. Even though many do not like the new "natural wave" that some of the ladies been sporting, there are also a good amount of men who think the new style is sexy. Then there are the few do not think it is a big enough deal to care.

Even though many females have chosen to transition to natural hair, it does not mean that relaxers and other hair styles and techniques should be ignored or downplayed. Of course healthy hair is beautiful and the best way to maintain healthy hair is to make sure they educate themselves about the products they use, and also to try different things so they know what works for them.

