## Are Today's Hair Styles Really New?

Take a good look at the gentlemen in the pictures above. The haircuts are remarkably similar. Yet the young Gerson Stroud's haircut was trimmed in 1948 while 28-year-old John Carothers' hair was cut in 1985.

This 'new' style is the way recent

This 'new' style is the way many black young men have chosen to wear their hair. But the question is "Is this hair style really 'new'?"

Men like Nathaniel Edward (who

has been professionally barbering since 1958 but who has been cutting hair since he was nine years old)
know better. This new hair style
called the "Fade" was also popularly known as the "High English or
Low English" haircut back in the

'40's.
"The High English" was cut closer to the higher crown of the closer to the higher crown of the head," Edward explained, "while the "Low English" was cut low near the ears. Today we have more of the "High English style."

I first noticed the resemblance between the 'new' "Fade" of 1984 and the 1948 "High English" style while looking at an oldie but goodie

while looking at an oldie but goodie movie. And I'm talking old.

I noticed the blacks in the movie had the same haircuts that I had seen my teenage neighbors sporting.
"Well," I thought, "this new haircut isn't 'new' after all." When I
discussed this with Edward, owner of Edward's Barber Shop on Beat-ties Ford Rd. and Gerson Stroud, a retired Charlotte Mecklenburg

educator my assumptions were con-

firmed. Stroud was principal of West Cabarrus Senior High School from 1969 until 1974. If you remember this was the era of the large afros or bushes. Before the bush the Yul Brenner (bald heads) and the Julius Caesar (haircut close and shaped around the head front and back) were the two dominate hair styles for black men.

"But around 1967 the bush became prominent and in 1970 it was in full

swing," Stroud remembers.

Unlike many authority figures who scarfed at the long length (remember the hippies and yippies)

Stroud sported the Afro. "I liked the husbas and I had to be in liked the bushes and I had to be in line with

Another style that has come back from the grave is the old process, Edwards commented. Today its called the curl. There is even one artist in Charlotte who specializes in finger waving men's hair. "Styles for black men's hair usual-

"Styles for black men's hair usually come and go, and then come in again," Edward noted. "The trend of hair is just like clothing. Those double breasted suits were worn when I was in junior high school. Those small bottomed pants were being worn when I was 13 years old. The trends are just repeating themselves."

When the styles grew longer it was time for some barber shops' eulogy. According to "The Long and Short of It: Five Thousand Years of Fun and Fury over Hair," "Barbers gloomily predicted long hair would doom the barber shop . . . By one estimate, shops across America were being forced to close at the rate of 100 a month." month."

## Food Lion, Inc. **Announces Signing** Of New Leases

Food Lion, Inc. today announced the signing of leases for several new Food Lion stores to be located in the following locations:

\*A new 21,000 square foot store to be built on N.C. Highway 24-27, to be located in a shopping center to be known as Stanly Plaza, in Locust, North Carolina.

known as Stanly Plaza, in Locust, North Carolina.

A new 25,000 square foot store to be built on Peach Orchard Road, to be located in a shopping center known as Orchard Square, in Augusta, Georgia.

A new 25,000 square foot store to be located on Victory Drive and Skidaway Road, to be located in a shopping center known as Victory Square, in Savannah, Georgia.

Food Lion presently operates 280 stores in North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee, and Maryland with new stores under construction in Dunn, Charlotte, Havelock, Hendersonville, Elkin, Brevard, Burlington, and Lumberton, North Carolina; Aiken, Charleston, Little River, Socastee, and Barnwell, South Carolina; Harrisonburg, Richmond, Roanoke, and Farmville, Virginia; Rogersville, Bristol, and Kingsport, Tennessee.





Gerson Stroud
...'48 "High English"

But others who modernized their methods and surroundings found business and income booming," the book continues. "Instead of the traditional quick trim, they offered consultation in the styling and care of the new long confirms and turned of the new long coiffure and turned their establishments into masculine beauty shops."

"Barber shops do have to change with the times," Edward continued. In the 1960's and '70's long hair

was given much attention. Beatlemania, the broadway smash "Hair" and even television commercials were presenting a hairier USA. The fury over hair reached such boiling proportions that police would sometimes arrest and shave long haired men; billboards such as this one: "Students of Norwalk Beautify America . . . Get a haircut" were erected because of controversy, ac-



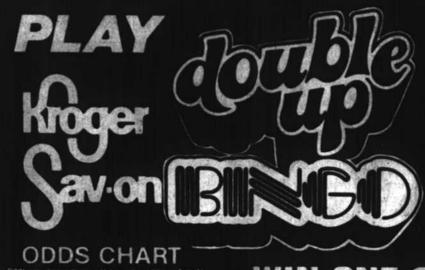
John Carothers ... '85 "Fade"

cording to Bill Severn author of 'The Long and Short of It . . .'

In contrast Ancient Greek men wore their hair so long they had to braid it into knots on the crowns of their heads and hold it in place with hairpins. "With that tradition. it seemed nothing less than a denial of the hairy virility of the heroic past when young men began to shave their beards and cut their hair short," wrote Severn.

At the start of the 19th century the 'young Americans with short "frightened owl" haircuts enraged the long hairs of the older genera-

When the men who had started the 19th century by cutting their hair short became the older generation, younger men began to let their hair grow long," Severn continued. Sounds familiar doesn't it?



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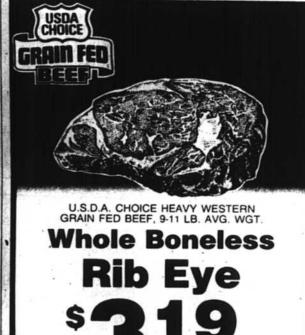
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