

AU NATUREL

PERSONAL AND SALON UPDATES Spiritual Evolution or Devolution

I pray that the spring season has not scorched you too much with all of the extremely warm temps. Whoever says "global warming is not real" must be living permanently in air conditioning. It's hard to believe that it's only May! For the past couple of weeks, temps in Raleigh have been in high 90s so I can't imagine what things will feel like when July rolls around!

Life has been flowing merrily along. I give thanks. I was engaged in work related travel in March and April but presently have a brief hiatus. Within the salon, life is equally good. Natural hair is becoming so mainstream that it's practically a non-issue. I know that day has not

yet come; but, it's fast approaching! Very excited about that. The other day, a client was absolutely shocked to learn that I was regularly cursed out in high school for wearing two-strand twists. But, it's true. It was the 80s though. I remember one girl spending so much time cursing in my ear (she was walking right behind me) that she tripped on the stairs that we were walking up, dropping all of her books. I quickly

bent down, picked up her books and said, "Here you go." She looked at me like she was looking at a maze because she knew I heard her cursing in my ear. But at a very tender age, I learned that ignorance must be excused, and because she knew absolutely NOTHING about me, she couldn't POSSIBLY be cursing at me. Yes, I knew

PHILANTHROPY QUOTES

"The age looks steadily to the redressing of wrong, to the righting of every form of error and injustice; and a tireless and prying philanthropy, which is almost omniscient, is one of the most hopeful characteristics of the time." Mary Baker Eddy

"We often excuse our own want of philanthropy by giving the name of fanaticism to the more ardent zeal of others." Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"Never respect men merely for their riches, but rather for their philanthropy; we do not value the sun for its height, but for its use." Gamaliel Baily

"Philanthropy is commendable, but it must cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary." Martin Luther King Jr.

"The results of philanthropy are always beyond calculation." Miriam Beard

she was not cursing at ME. (I'm not sure how I was self-aware enough in my teenage years to separate the external Schatzi from my internal, higher Self. In some respects, I think I'm devolving. I don't think those curse out sessions would go unchecked by me today...AT ALL! I would absolutely respond rather than to ignore. But, my response would be a lesson on ignorance. I still don't think I'd be angry; but, my words would be a series of questions bringing the listener to a logical conclusion that would cut like a knife. I'm not sure that's evolution. It feels like "two steps" backwards. It's silence that is golden, and I rarely stay

quiet on this issue. And so as always, I wonder about this thing called life. I guess both soldiers and martyrs make up the tapestry of history. So, I imagine in God's eyes, they both have their place. I won't try to figure it out. But, I can't help but feel that my younger self was more evolved than I am presently. Things that make you go hmm.

This month's issue of Au Naturel is a quick read. I've been enjoying leisure time A LOT, so I've been tardy with this missive. But, hopefully you'll find some interesting points herein. Embrace the beauty of you.

COLORING LOCKS Is there ever a right way?

My eldest son recently announced that he wanted his lock tips colored red. It reminded me of when I started his locks about 10 years ago. After graduating from high school, he announced: That's my last haircut. *Who knew the child was hatin' on a fade?* He never said a mumbling word. He only took a decision and make it very clear that he wanted no opposition. So, being a natural salon owner, I trusted no one else to the task. Well, fast forward 10 years and this is what they look like. One woman in West Africa saw his hair and was shocked! My response was: He works at an architecture firm and is artistic in nature. In others, not my business. He's grown. He even decided to break away from me as his stylist a couple of years back. But after the stylist had his edges breaking



off and tons of build-up in his locks after one service, he returned to *Schatzi's*. It takes me almost an hour to shampoo his locks. I do it because it's necessary. But many stylists don't want to take that much time. Such is life.

So, when he announced that he wanted me to color them, I woke up in the middle of the night to research. I didn't want the ends of his hair looking like, as he rightly deduced, "a paintbrush." Also, because his hair seems to grow in a natural V-shape, I wanted to match his natural style. His intention is to cut the tips off when he gets tired of the color, so this is his way of having a bit of fun before trimming his locks (for the first time).

I found tons of online resources with tips on



coloring locks, but I was most interested in photos of style patterns. They were few and far between. So, I basically had to wing it. The biggest challenge came from the fact that I had to work so low to the bottom of my chair to apply the color to the tips WHILE MAKING CERTAIN NOT TO GET IT ON THE REMAINDER OF THE LOCKS OR THE SALON! The bowl would simply not work at all for this type of look. Overall, he was pleased, but I wasn't. I did achieve my goal of not creating the look of a paint brush, with a vertical color line across all locks. But, I wanted a more consistent V-shape. I think I missed the mark at the lowest point of the V. I needed to be a bit more generous covering the tips in this section. Honestly, I started in this section and didn't want to run short of color, so I know that why it's like that. I've considered a touch-up to finish the look; but, I think he frankly could

care less. He has some pizazz; so, these types of details go unnoticed by him. But that's why we're stylists. The flavor is in the details every time.

If I can provide tips for coloring locks, my biggest suggestions are: map out the entire process ahead of time; consider the client's hair and desired look carefully to ensure that you devise an application method that achieves the outcome desired and is done in a way that doesn't make a mess (you don't want to be looking at some funky color on your countertops for months to come); ensure that you have all of the resources on hand that you need (foil sheets were a must for this style!); and take your time. He was in my chair for 5 hours, including color, shampoo, re-twist and style. But, I was compensated well, so it's all in a day's work. Happy Styling!

A WORD ON ROBERT SMITH, THE PHILANTHROPIST

It only takes a precedent to open the floodgates

I think you'd have to live under a rock to not know about the recent extremely generous donation made by billionaire Robert Smith to the 2019 graduating class of Morehouse College. [Here's an article which provides deeper context to his speech which is a very interesting read.](#) Well, Father Smith hasn't stopped there. [He's continuing to make valuable contributions to the community.](#) Yet, [some people would dare to question the fairness of his actions.](#) I wasn't at all surprised to see this Washington Post article. In fact, when I heard about his generous gift, I had the same thought come to mind as did after watching "Us" by Jordan Peele: "Somebody is about to get audited!" Anything that takes the noose from around a Black man's neck or the shackles off his brain is going to face resistance. While, the mainstream has been getting a leg up for centuries. This resistance doesn't surprise me, it only reminds me.

The question of fairness to parents who saved is not lost on parents who saved and yet had to dip into the 527 Plan because of the recession, unemployment and losses of wealth. That story is as mainstream as those who successfully saved enough money to send their kids

wherever they wanted to go. [In fact, the question of fairness could be addressed to Denzel Washington whose eldest son attended Morehouse, and likely had an athletic scholarship.](#) (*Note: John David Washington didn't pay for his scholarship y'all. He earned it. I'm just saying.*) Would Washington's son want or need help? I would argue that if parents can pay the \$50k annual tuition at Morehouse, they aren't hurting. But, the real question of "fairness" is grounded in identity politics and precedent. You see, the core issue at hand is that if Smith sets a precedent which demonstrates how the economic elite can easily write off the burden of hundreds, and further elevate thousands, then people like Bernie Sanders are not so illogical when they advocate for free college tuition. Smith was able to make this generous donation without being remotely concerned about its impact on his wealth! What?! This is not a precedent that bank-owned and bank-driven society wants to set. Because such a precedent means that the \$1.4 trillion student loan debt money machine would be halted. It means that we would be one step closer to truly eradicating the [peonage system](#) that has been the hallmark of American life since the nation's

inception. Such liberation means that citizens would truly be free, not just the markets. So a part of me cringes that this brother has taken such a bold and courageous that is being viewed by some as a challenge to our economic system. In reality, he made his billions in this economic system. So, I don't guess that he

would vote to change it. But, I DO think he acknowledges that millions start life with lead on their back, while others are as light as a feather. And so, he aims to go down in history as an equalizer. I say: May his tribe increase. Brother took his hand out of the dyke. Let's pray for inundation!

EMBRACE THE BEAUTY OF YOU.

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