

unfiltered black beauty

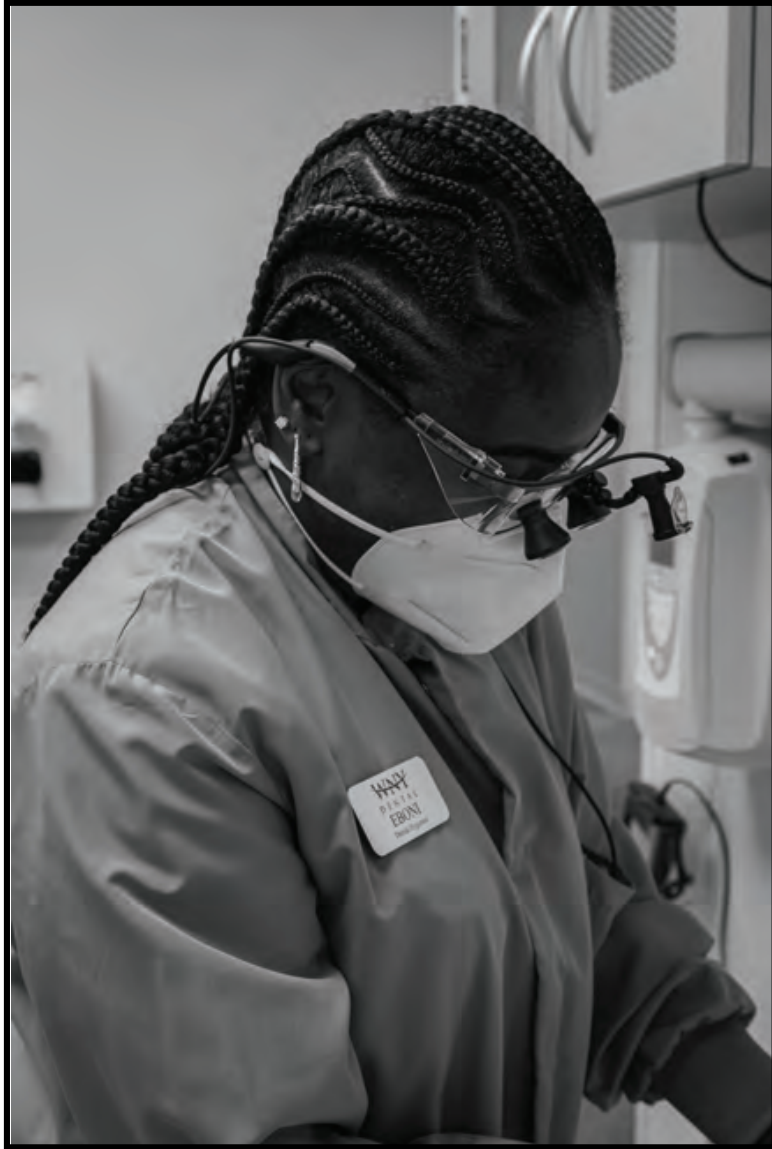
Leah Herndon

For centuries, unrealistic expectations have been placed on Black people in order to distinguish a hierarchical division amongst different races. Discrimination is determined on the basis of physical characteristics including skin tone, style, hair, and mannerisms, which has forced Black Americans to conform to social standards that were set only to impede their legitimacy in this world. The inherent one-dimensional perspective limits the freedom of expression of diverse peoples. Society censors accurate representation of people of color, creating false narratives of different races and ethnicities. Up until recently, there has been a specific standard of beauty derived from Eurocentric features that permits opportunities, exceptions, and safety to those that fit that criterion. Minorities adopted different ways of complying with Eurocentric standards to exist in a world where they aren't considered beautiful and are penalized because of it. Although systematic oppression compels Black people to adhere to the conventional laws, some disregard the principles in place and find freedom in being their most authentic self, including wearing their natural hair.



Artie McEachain, Spectrum Field Technician

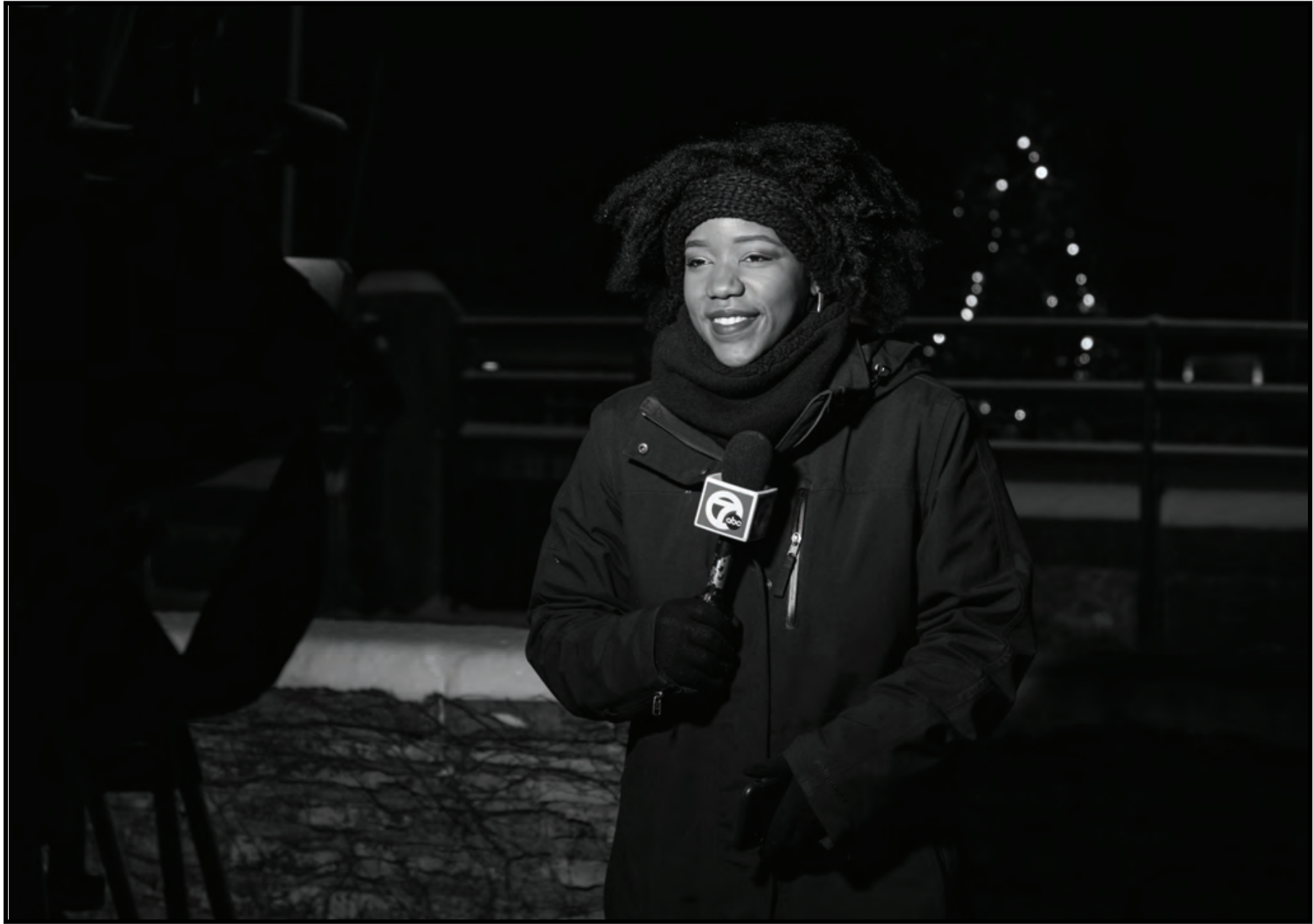




Eboni Biffle, RDH Dental Hygentist



Amir Hunter, Front Desk Manager

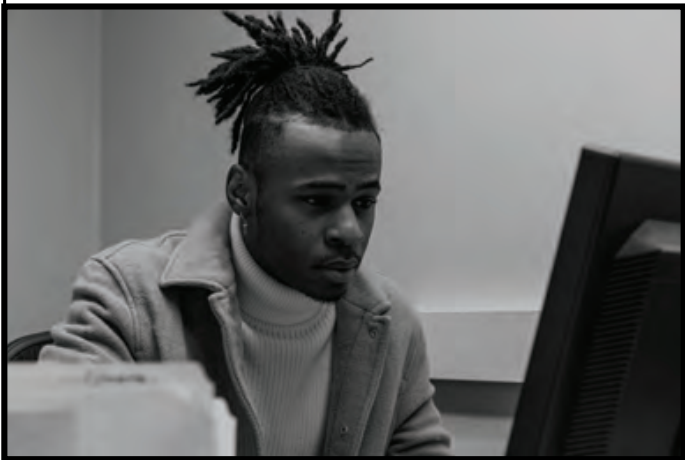


Taylor Epps, WKBW Correspondent

Many Black Americans have experienced discrimination against their natural hair in the workplace, considering it to be unkempt, nappy, and unprofessional. Black people often use heat and chemicals to manipulate their hair texture to resemble that of their counterparts. The reemergence of the natural hair movement inspires Black people to embrace all facets of their hair. Curly, kinky, braids, locs, twists, afros, and fades are just a few to name of the vast styles encompassing Black culture.



Leah Herndon (self portrait), UI Designer



Black hair has been marginalized in almost every setting imaginable. Corporations rejected Black applicants because of their hair, sports teams have prevented athletes from playing because of their hair, and schools have sent students home because of their hair as for not adhering to dress code. In every instance, injustice was instituted and obliged by the prominent force of white people. The concept of “good hair” instilled the idea that one’s hair either is or is not perfect in its unique state. This notion teaches children whose hair is different, to despise themselves and alter their appearance to match physical characteristics deemed “good”.



Gloria James, Cosmetologist & Career Advisor

In 2019, California was the first state to pass a legislation that prohibits the discrimination of hair. This bill is known as The Crown Act. The law has been passed in 10 other states, which is a big accomplishment however there is still a long way to go until there is complete justice for all types of hair. Confidence and courage are defined in moments of defiance. The leaders displayed in this piece display distinct merits of individualism that exemplifies their resilience and strength. They are the best at what they do despite the adversity they've faced.













The stigmatism of natural hair motivated Black people to change part of themselves to be considered equal in America, but despite the efforts there will always be some form of discrimination against Black people. Having the ability to unapologetically represent yourself in any area of life will bring about a boldness that will inspire others with similar hair to do the same.

