

C O N T E N T S

WHAT'S UP?

STAR TRANSFORMATIONS

MC Lyte.....	8
Ice Cube.....	9
Salt 'N Pepa.....	10
Bell Biv Devoe.....	11
Queen Latifah.....	12



Don't Be Caught Off Guard. Let Yo-Yo Guide You Through Our Hair Agenda

HAIR STUFF

The Problem Couple.....	6
Salon Adventures.....	20
Funky Fresh Stylists.....	22
Blow Drying Tips.....	27
Hair Agenda.....	28
Hair Stuff.....	44
Do-It-Yourself.....	60
Hairbits.....	66



So, Belinda Really Wants To Know What Goes On At The Barber Shop



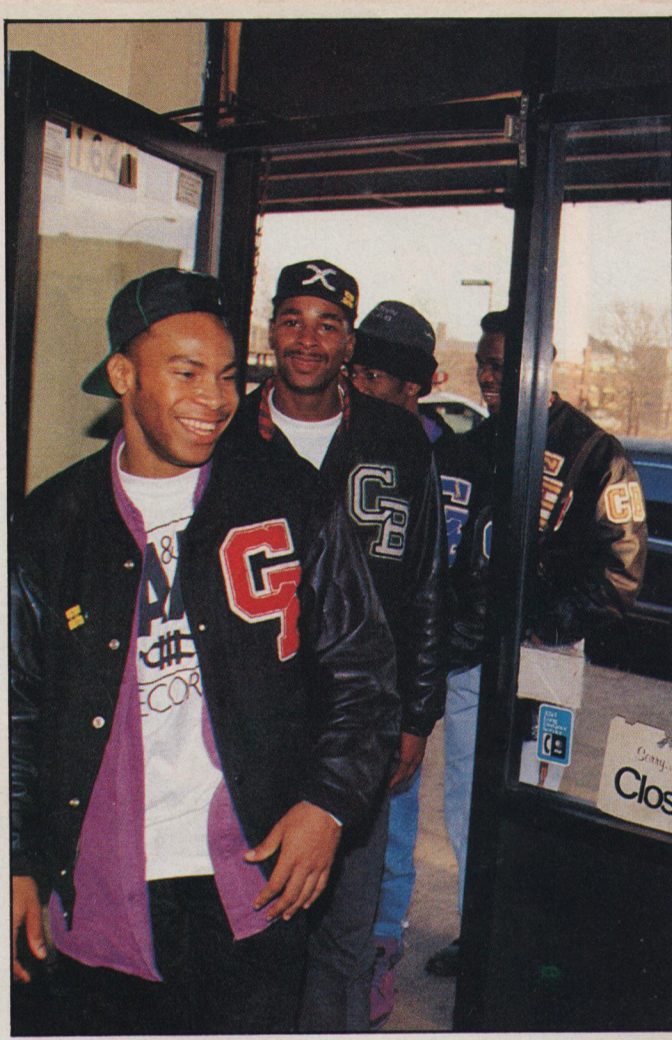
Find Out Who Got A Ticket This Month

FASHION STUFF

The Prom.....	26
Let's Go Shopping.....	46
Accessories 'N Things.....	63
Fashion Police.....	65

WHAT REALLY GOES ON AT THE BARBER SHOP!

NATHASHA BROOKS



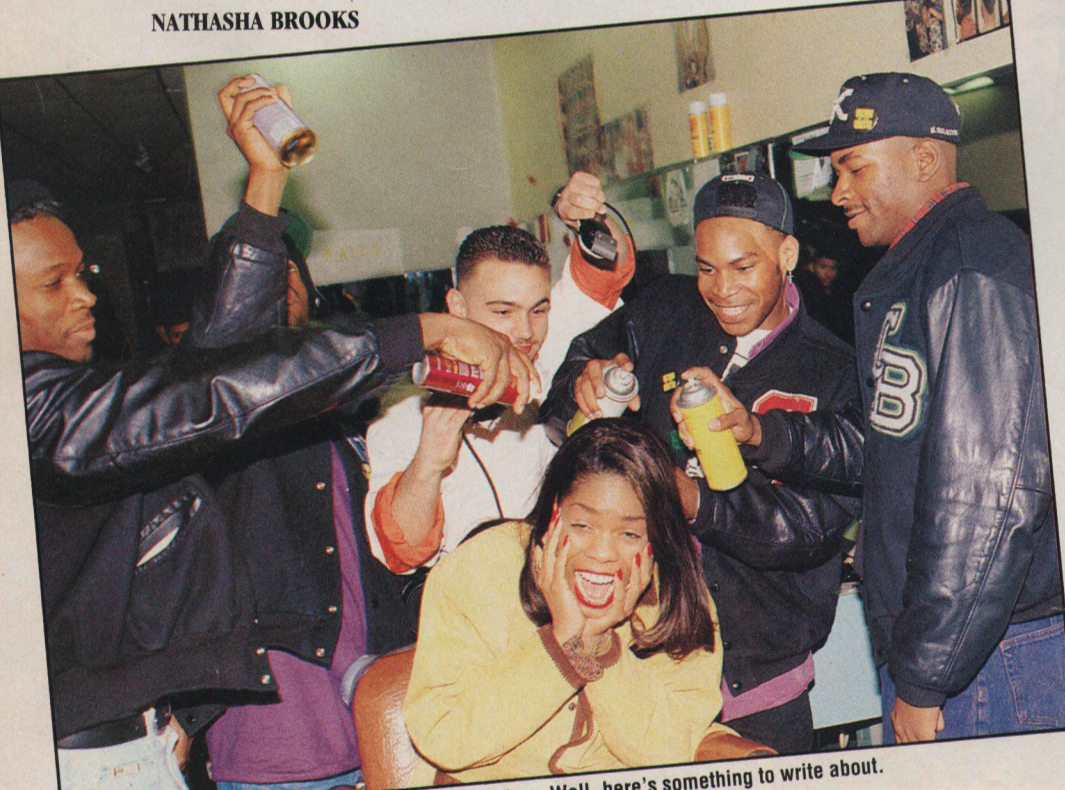
The College Boys on arrival at the Barber Shop.

One of the black community's best-kept secrets is the local barber shop. The barber shop has been and continues to be a sanctuary for the friendly, the downtrodden, the lonely and the friendless. The barber shop in the 'hood has a culture all its own and serves to strengthen the bond between black males of all ages.

Beyond the importance of the barber shop can be clearly understood, we must explore the barber's role within the context of his community. Blacks of previous generations generally didn't believe in going to therapists to discuss their deepest secrets or most intimate personal problems. The barber was their confidante—the person to whom they told those things. Barbers were usually dressed in the garb of the profession—a white barber's suit or casual pants with a barber's jacket. He always had freshly cut hair, a clean shave, a neatly trimmed beard if he wore one and he smelled like fragrant talcum powder. Thus, the barber was seen as a professional who abided by a certain code of ethics which practically ensured his secrecy with his personal business. In fact, the barber was held in as high esteem as the local preacher. The barber was literally the best friend a man could have because his secret was generally safe with him—the one who was deemed one of the pillars of the black community. In addition to being a confidante, the barber also played other roles. He was the person to whom children were told to run for help if they were ever in trouble. He babysat children for neighborhood mothers during emergencies. He was the biggest benefactor to charitable organizations and good causes because he always brought more than his share of chicken and rib dinners from churches near his shop or candy from overzealous children. The unmarried could come to him to arrange getting fixed up with a nice young lady for a date.

To this day, the barber shop continues to be a place where one's spirits are lifted. It's a place where there's lots of laughter and some of the best jokes and stories are heard. However, the types of stories heard depend on the age of the customers who patronize the shop. If the barbershop is owned and frequented by Southerners, older customers usually tell "lies—" Southern stories told in dialect similar to those read in author Zora Neale Hurston's novels. Those stories are usually creative and extremely animated versions of commonplace occurrences in black life. Men "playing the dozens—" an act now known as "dissing one

ALL PHOTOS BY ERNIE PANICCIOLI



Belinda wants to know what goes on at the barber shop. Well, here's something to write about.

Hype Hair 56

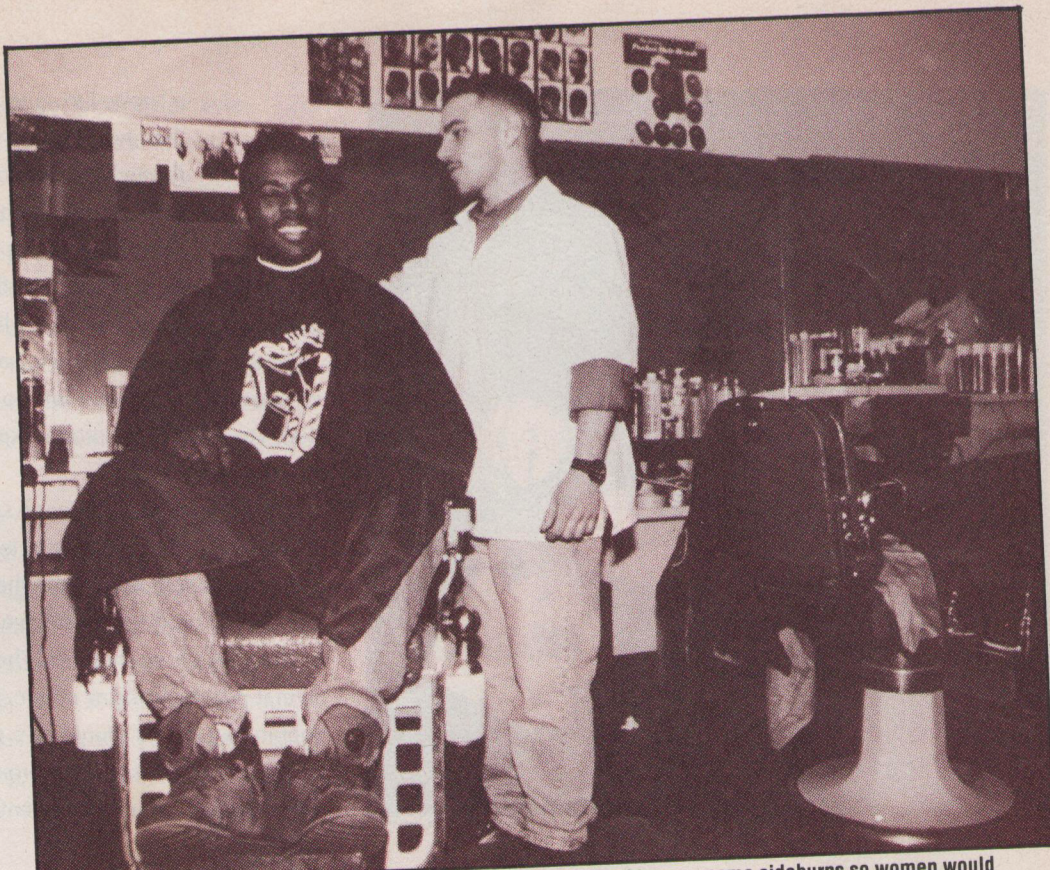
another or raggin' one another" can also be heard in shops where the customers are older. But they are not as verbally viscous or abrasive as their younger counterparts. They do it all in the name of fun. Young and old men gossip about the typical topics: females, marriage, dating, fooling around, school, favorite TV programs and their favorite hangout spots.

No matter if there are older or younger customers, every barber shop has its comedian who keeps the patrons laughing. When the conversation gets dry, he'll pepper it again. Very succinctly, the barber shop was and remains a place to hang out, to hear gossip, look at sports programs and keep up with the scenes. Besides the customers, there were also the regulars who'd stop by and hangout for hours. The barber generally didn't mind because there was an unwritten behavior code that made those men look out for the barber shop in times of trouble. Even the local wino stopped in for a few pennies to get his wine and because he was given basic human respect, he too, "had the barber's back."

However, the ever soaring crime rate and the advent of the burgeoning drug trade has made barbers more wary of letting customers hang out there as they once had. Today's barber shops are unisex and the language heard in them is more risqué than ever before. Gone are the days where men excused themselves when they cussed in a female's presence.

The contemporary barber shop has gotten away from being a place of social significance in the 'hood. The emphasis is on cutting a male's hair or shaving him and getting paid. The barber has become somewhat of an artist because he or she is now asked to cut his intricate designs and parts into people's hair. Some of these designs include names, the shape of Africa, people, keys, the shape of the USA and a crown. Much of that personal touch has been lost as barbers regard customers in a business manner—nothing more, nothing less. The days of barbers being more than just a barber are just about gone—except in shops owned by older Southern barbers with an established clientele.

Haircuts are more expensive now than ever and range in price from \$11 to \$15 or more. The \$3 and \$5 haircut have gone the way of the dinosaurs. The most popular haircuts nowadays are Caesar fades, high-top fades, regular fades (for older gents) and the Gumby, a fade cut on an angle named after the rubber character of the same name. The back of a customer's hair can be shaped into a V back, round back, W back or square back. (continued on page 64)



Timothy has been perfecting his craft for 3 years. Rom said he wanted to grow some sideburns so women would be older.



Rom, Squeak, Cue and B-Selector will be looking good when these barbers get through.

Hype Hair 57