

# Her given hair

Black women discuss their natural hair and all of the struggles that come with going against the grain

Photos and graphics by Andrew Williams

"I've always been natural," said Carr, who recently switched her major from Biology to Youth Development. "When I was younger, my mom always had me iron my hair out. She told me that was neat and that was how my hair should be."

"When I got older, I noticed that my hair was heat damaged so when I got to high school I decided to cut a lot of my hair off and now it's healthier and I've gotten my curls back," she said. "I love being natural."

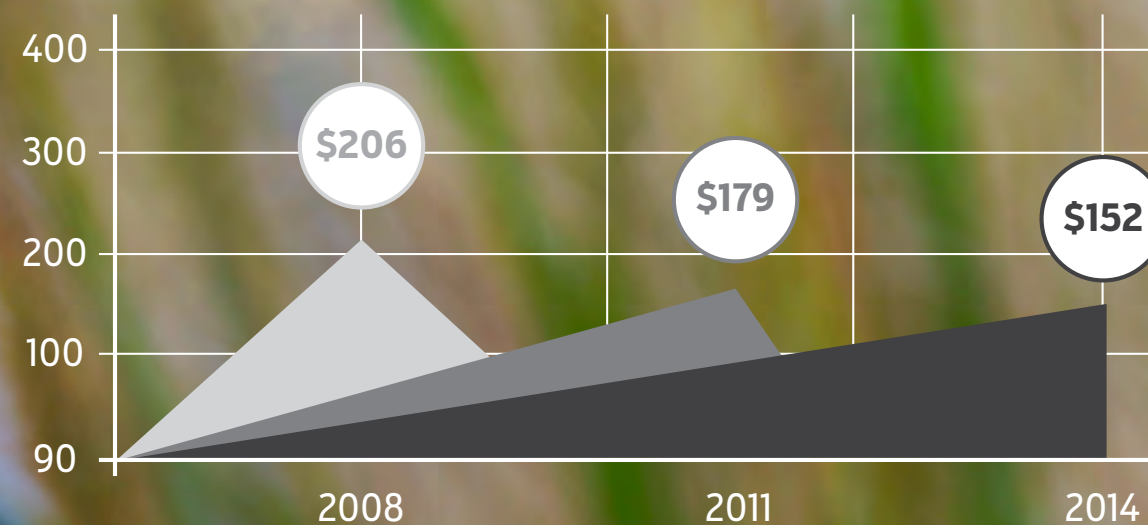
— JAYLA CARR, FRESHMAN

## Natural Hair on the Rise

As more black women embrace their Afro-textured hair, the beauty industry has to adapt to compete.

### Decline of relaxer sales due to natural hair trend

Sales volume in millions



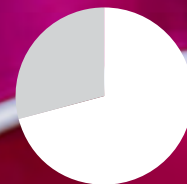
Spending on relaxers fell 30.8% between 2011 and 2016

\$2.56 billion was spent on natural hair care products in 2016

6 out of 10 black women wear a wig, weave, or extensions



71% of African Americans wore their hair naturally at least once in 2016



"Black women say their natural hair..."

**BOOSTS CONFIDENCE**  
48%



**IS VERY TRENDY**  
45%



**IS SUPER DARING**  
48%



By Andrew Williams | Source Mintel, Love Afro Cosmetics





**BRITTANY GASAMA**

Senior

"I've been natural for almost three years now for health reasons for my hair and just to empower my natural state and embrace my natural texture," said Gasama, who is studying law and public policy and international studies. "Being on a campus that is a predominately white institution and being a minority my natural hair lets me be unique in my own way."



**ELISE DASIOBA**

Sophomore

"I first decided to go natural senior year of high school," said Dasioba, a pre-med student studying psychology. "I saw somebody with 4C afro puffs and I was like, 'Oh man, I want that.'" Dasioba said that her mother had been relaxing her hair since she was young because she has three sisters and it made it easier. She said that she follows natural hair gurus like IAMTRAEH on YouTube to help manage her hair, but the lack of support for natural hair in Bloomington doesn't make it easy. "There's only one black hair shop where you can buy things," said Dasioba. "You have to go all the way down to Indy to get something done or do it yourself."





**FIYIN OLANIYI**

Freshman

"I went natural two years ago because I wanted my hair to be healthier and fuller," said Olaniyi, who is studying biology. "It's a lot easier and cheaper to take care of permed hair because it takes more time to style natural hair, but it's worth it."



**BRENAE ZIMMERMAN**

First-Year Graduate Student

"I went natural my sophomore year in high school," said Zimmerman, who is studying public health. "My hair was getting really short because of perms. It wasn't really popular when I was a sophomore in high school but I felt more comfortable." "I feel like a lot of black women here wear their hair natural especially when it gets cold," she said. "Usually I have my hair in protective braids and protective styles, but my friends are all natural now and we make each other feel comfortable."





# Aftermath

Students discuss accusations against Brett Kavanaugh after hearing

Growing up, Deborah Page learned that a third of the women in her life had been sexually assaulted. Now after watching the Kavanaugh-Ford hearing, she is convinced that society is still trying to tell them it's their fault.

"The fact that Republicans are still supporting him is super disturbing because it shows that they don't care about the authority and reputation of the Supreme Court of the United States," said Page, an IU senior from Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

On Sept. 27, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh testified against Christine Blasey Ford's accusations of sexual and physical assault in a televised hearing on Capitol Hill that lasted nearly nine hours.

Page said that she had been following the story consistently on the news and watched most of the hearing. She said that she believes Ford because she doesn't trust people with power and believes that Ford has nothing to gain.

"There is no winning for Ford in this," Page said. "She doesn't gain anything. She gets to be scrutinized and torn apart, and her voice gets to be made fun of by the masses and her hair gets to be critiqued."

Page said that she sees an increase of people talking about sexual assault and a trend of men not taking responsibility for their actions.

"It's a really gross, awful situation to be watching," she said.

Santiago Migliaro, a junior at Holy Cross College in South Bend, Indiana, agreed with Page. He said that while he hadn't been actively following the hearings, he was against Kavanaugh for his affiliation with President Trump.

"All of the people that Trump has worked with are suspect," Migliaro said. "The truth will eventually come out, so I don't see the point in lying."

Migliaro, who is originally from Argentina, said that he had a negative view of Republicans after the 2016 presidential election due to their stance on immigration.

However, IU senior Jae Hyeon Kim, an international student from South Korea, disagreed with Migliaro's view on the hearing.

"Right now, I'm raising my hand for Kavanaugh," Kim said.

He said that he doesn't completely trust either side and believes that it's a party issue rather than one based on justice but said that he supports Kavanaugh based on the current lack of evidence.

Kim also questioned why Ford waited so long to talk about the assault and said that it hurt her credibility.

"Think about it," Kim said. "Why all of a sudden after 36 years? That's really interesting and it makes me curious."

Kim said that he receives news about the story from the South Korean search engine Naver and said that the situation reflects the current issue of gender inequality in his home country.

Page said that men in power and sexual assault is so commonplace that she believes that people have become desensitized to it like other tragedies, and she finds it disturbing.

"I think what depresses me most about this story and other stories like it is that it feels like the school shooting thing," Page said. "It feels like every time you hear about a mass shooting and that it was seven or eight people you go, 'Oh, that's actually not too bad.' and then you feel guilty about not feeling worse about it."

*By Andrew Williams*

Senior Deborah Page said that Brett Kavanaugh's credibility was shot after watching the Kavanaugh-Ford hearings. "I think that regardless whether or not he has acted reprehensibly in the past doesn't matter at this point," Page said. "He has no credibility."

She said she tends to side with the underdog in situations that involve people in high places and ultimately believes Ford because she believes she has nothing to gain.

PHOTO BY ANDREW WILLIAMS





## Taking flight

IU students and faculty discuss Scooter-share company Bird and its official land in Bloomington

Pari Dandu woke up in a panic after hitting snooze one too many times. The dreaded feeling of being late to class started to creep in as she threw on her clothes and ran down the stairs of her apartment complex only to find a Bird scooter waiting for her right outside her door.

"It was kind of liberating," said Dandu, as she described her first time using a Bird scooter. "I felt like I was a kid again riding a Razor around the neighborhood."

Dandu, a senior studying informatics, said that she had been riding the scooters all summer during her internship with Ernst & Young in Los Angeles, California, and was considering buying a motorized scooter before they arrived in Bloomington.

"I was so excited because I knew what they were before everyone and not a lot of people knew so they kept asking me," Dandu said. "This was something I used all summer for transport and now I can finally use it on campus."

Bird and Lime scooters are dockless scooter-sharing services that allow people to rent motorized scooters for short rides. The first scooters arrived in Bloomington on Sept. 13 with no notification to the city.

Dandu works as a charger for Bird and takes the scooters home to charge them overnight. She is then required to return the scooters to their designated drop-off areas,

called "nests," by 7 a.m.

She said that she's heard of people getting hurt on the scooters but said that as long as the scooters are used correctly and aren't abused, they're safe.

However, IU Director of Media Relations Chuck Carney said that most students aren't taking the proper safety precautions while riding the scooters.

Carney said that the IU Health Center is seeing an increase in patients due to the scooters and advised students to treat the scooters like other motorized vehicles and to ride them with a helmet to prevent injuries.

"It is a vehicle that moves at a decent rate of speed and if you fall from one that is moving along then you are prone to injury," Carney said.

Since the scooters' arrival, IU has impounded over 220 scooters and warns that it's against university policy to ride, store or charge them in IU buildings. Despite this, students still report seeing them in on-campus apartments and residence halls.

Gregory Bond, a representative for Culture of Care, said that he knew of a student who attempted to collect the scooters in their on-campus apartment while applying to be a Bird charger.

"Someone had started stockpiling them on their balcony," said Bond, a sophomore studying cognitive science. "They ended up

getting charged with theft because they were keeping them for later, so they could make money for charging them."

Bond said that after he saw the scooters appear on campus, he knew that students would find ways to abuse them. He said that he doesn't plan to use the scooters because he prefers walking and thinks that many students find them bothersome.

In the winter, Bond said that the scooters would be useless, but students will still want to use them for entertainment despite the increased risk of injury due to ice and snow.

"In the north neighborhood over by Gresham, I saw two students who were jousting each other on them," Bond said. "The line of thinking that leads to that sort of behavior is definitely going to keep people entertained enough to keep using them in the winter independent of how safe they are."

*By Andrew Williams*

A Bird scooter rests behind the Sample Gates. The IU Office of Parking Operations said Oct. 3 that they had impounded about 150 electric scooters between their arrival to Bloomington and Sept. 19 for violating parking policies. Instead of being parked near bike racks, they were left on sidewalks and in the middle of streets on campus.

PHOTO BY ANDREW WILLIAMS



A challenger appears just weeks after Bird lands on campus. Who is this mysterious stranger? Lime scooters accounted for some of the electric scooters impounded by the IU Office of Parking Operations.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW WILLIAMS

## Up, Up and Away!

What you should know before catching your first Bird scooter

- 1 You'll need to download the app before you can ride.
- 2 Bird requires a driver's license and a credit card.
- 3 Riders pay \$1 to begin and are then charged 20 cents per minute.
- 4 Birds have a max speed of 15 mph and can be rode up to 15 miles.
- 5 Birds sleep after sunset and hide during the rain for rider safety.
- 6 Users can be paid to charge the scooters overnight.

SOURCE Bird  
GRAPHIC BY Andrew Williams