

Naturalista Magazine

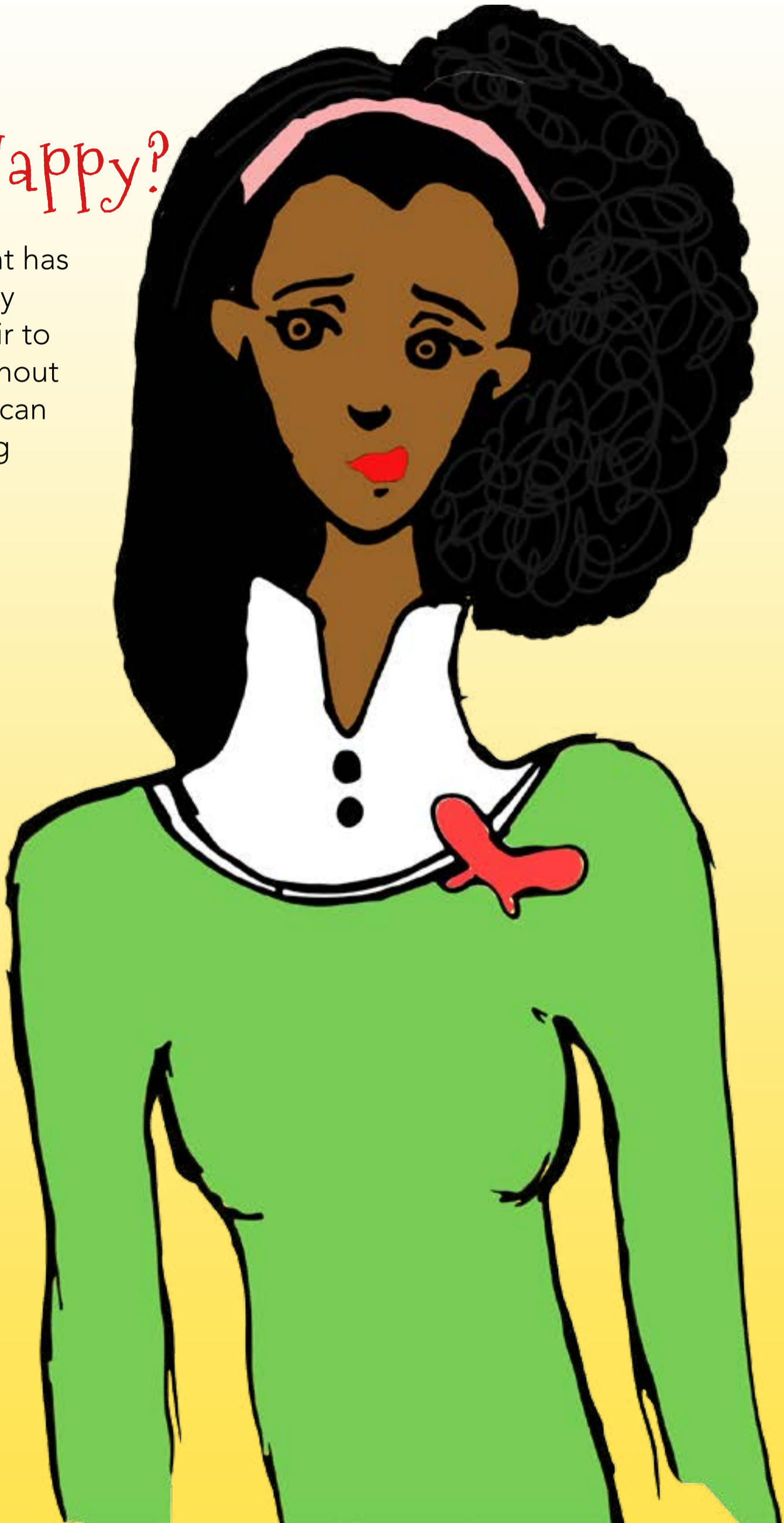
Kinky. Curly. Coily. Beautiful. **You.**



Nappy Ain't Happy?

The natural hair movement has taken the Black community by storm. Allowing our hair to grow out of our heads without harsh chemicals and heat can be empowering, liberating and... unprofessional?

Story By:
India Hill



The natural hair movement is becoming widely popular, especially with African-American females. The idea is to stray away from the process of chemically straightening one's hair and to embrace the natural texture instead. It can range anywhere from straight, wavy and curly to "kinky curly" or "coily" (afro-like texture or very tight curls).

While this movement is all about achieving healthier hair and self-acceptance, employers don't always feel the same way. Some employers and schools have banned the act of wearing hair in its natural texture, saying that it looks unkempt and unprofessional.

Dana Harrell, an education and sociology major at Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C., was told during an internship interview that if she

wanted to move forward, she would have to straighten her hair.

"The lady told me that (if) I wanted to work for her company, I couldn't wear my hair in its natural state," Harrell said. "Not even braids. She said 'nappy isn't happy here.'"

But what is so unnatural, unclean, unprofessional, dreadful and inappropriate about wearing hair in the texture in which it grows out of your scalp?

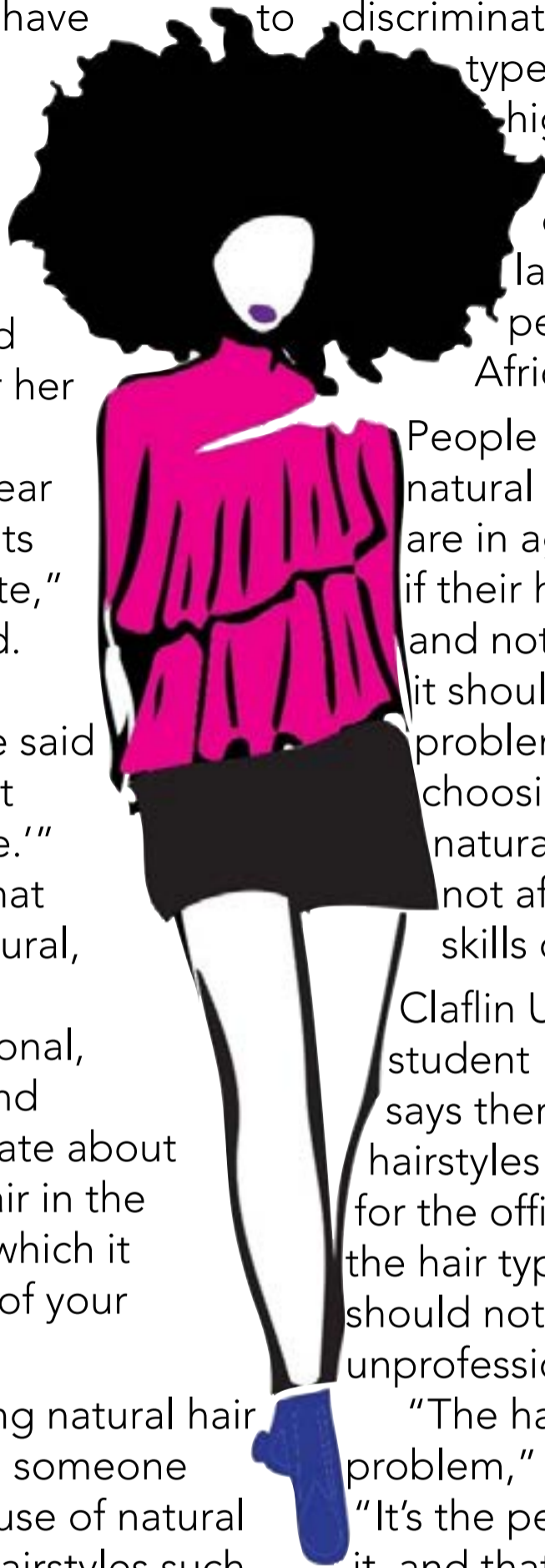
Banning natural hair or denying someone work because of natural or ethnic hairstyles such as afros or dreadlocks

could be considered discrimination. These types of hairstyles highlight the natural texture of hair in a large group of people, namely African Americans.

People who wear their natural hair texture are in agreement that if their hair is neat and not distracting, it should not be a problem, and that choosing to wear natural hair does not affect their work skills or ethic.

Claflin University student Bria Howard says there are natural hairstyles appropriate for the office, and that the hair type as a whole should not be seen as unprofessional.

"The hair isn't the problem," Howard says. "It's the perception of it, and that's what has to change."



Beat the Clock!

Here are some great styling ideas for those mornings you want to impress but time is just too scarce. Try them out and wow 'em at the office!



Dreadlocked Naturalistas can always pin their locs back and leave the ends loose in the back. A cute accessory such as a flower or headband makes your style professional enough for the workplace and casual enough for a girl's night out.



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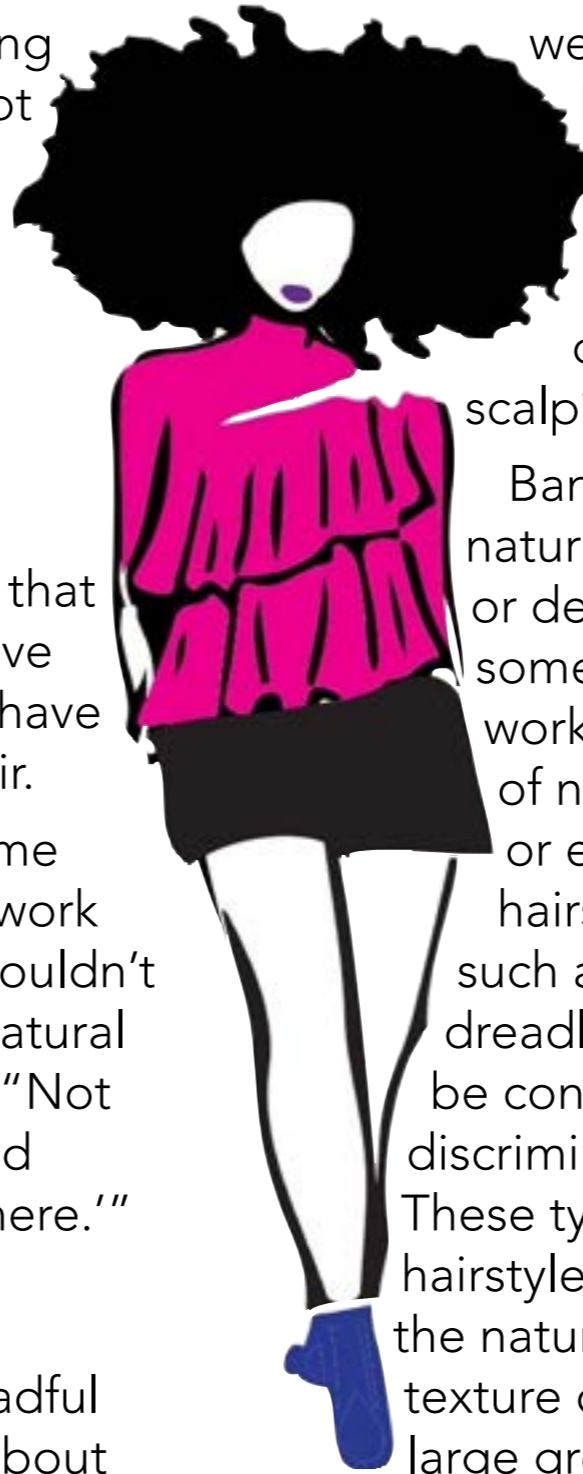
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