



## Proper hair care from 1A to 4C, confidence in the barber's chair

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Most days, when people leave their homes, fashion might be the last thing on their mind. They may be early or late, with mismatched socks or no deodorant — the one thing they won't leave with, however, is bad hair.

Men, as we know it, are not as fashion forward compared to their female counterparts. This doesn't mean they're completely off the style train, simply shifting their focus to the more nuanced attributes of an outfit. Most style their entire fit on a pair of pants, perhaps even an accessory and brandish off their jewelry, but the number one priority amongst men is the hair they crown their head with.

The following quotes are from barbers from Texas A&M's local barbershop 4.0 Cuts at the Memorial Student Center. Each gave their own advice on which hair textures fit best with certain styles, as well as an inside look on the proper way to ask your barber what you want. This is what they said:

### Cadet haircut

*Jacob Cervantes:* A good fade is always important for the blend to be as high as it is, but still be blended into the number two that's on top. Or even a lot of cadets are starting to grow out their hair more. [A] good fade's always important, and then the juniors and seniors are able to actually style the hair a little bit more.

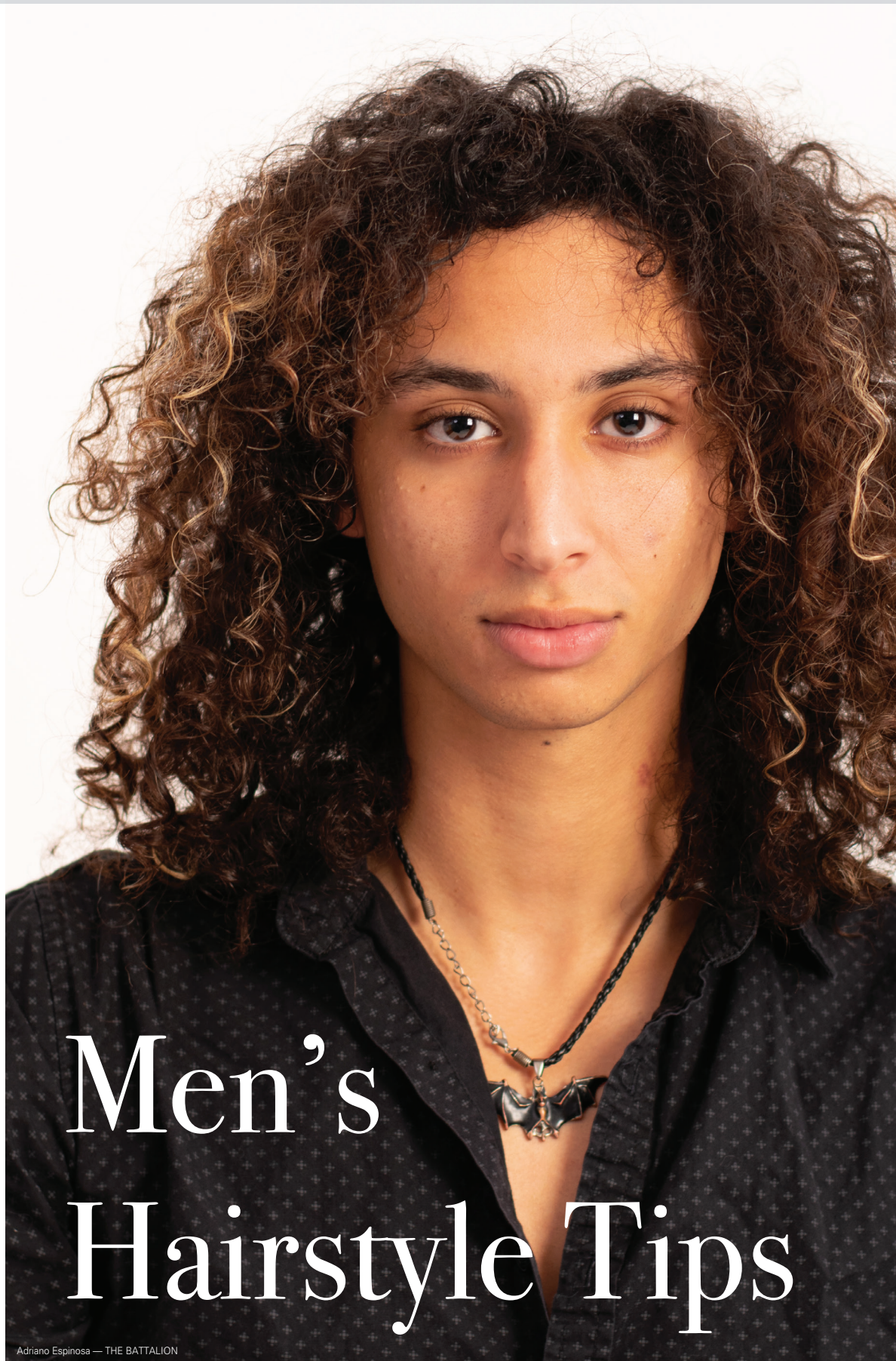
*Tavian Bonds:* Do a high fade. Just don't take it too high over the parietal ridge. You just keep it right below that, and they usually get away with it.

*EJ Hibbler:* By adding the lineup, that always helps. [It] adds confidence to the haircut because they just all look alike. But you can set them apart by doing that.

### Straight hair

*Cervantes:* With straight hair, you're going to need a lot of length to weigh down the hair because straight hair tends to stick out a lot. So having a lot of weight is important; messy looks are always cool.

*Bonds:* It all depends on the thickness of hair.



Adriano Espinosa — THE BATTALION

# Men's Hairstyle Tips

If you have really thick hair, you can [style it] backwards [or] you can do the side. If you have thin hair, you can do the same thing. It just takes a lot of texturing and not cutting down to the skin.

**Hibbler:** Head shape always matters. So when you're lining it up, you want to look for symmetry along the head, like if [it's] higher on the right in the left. You want to [be like], 'Hey, this would look better,' maybe getting a pompadour, maybe getting some kind of business cut. Maybe you have a rounder [head] shape, you want to lower or have a graduation cut, that's where it's lower on the sides, and then it gradually raises as you get to the crown and the top of the hair.

### Wavy hair

**Cervantes:** Wavy hair is tough. So myself, I have wavy hair, I throw everything back, but also keep it straight because the wave only tends to happen when it gets longer. I usually keep it under three inches.

**Bonds:** Get the flow, the flow hits with wavy hair. To achieve that you have to grow the sides out, match it to the top. Take about half an inch off each month, maybe even less, just to keep maintenance.

**Hibbler:** That's got to take a lot of consultation. We have to take our time with that one. I would say, for me, one of my specialties that I like to do with wavy hair is [not cutting] the total wavelength off, cut about half of it. That leaves the waves in there, especially if they just got a perm, that helps with preserving the length for as long as possible and preserving the wave.

### Curly hair

**Cervantes:** You can do a lot of things. If you'd like to wear your curls, you could keep a 'fro on top and have an undercut. That's what's in these days, or just having curly hair everywhere with the taper fade on the sides. Taper fades are good on everybody.

**Bonds:** [With] curly hair, you just put some Lotta Body [hair products]. You have to take shampoo, condition it, get a mid fade [and] have a curly top. You good. That's all I do.

**Hibbler:** Curly hair clients like myself, I typically offer a fade or just a temple fade so that you don't take off much of the hair. Because if you do, they'll end up looking like they're bald. You want to just tell them the one and a half guard usually is what helps for clients that look like me, and maybe just doing light scissor work for other clients.

### Common mistakes

**Cervantes:** Trying to go away from their natural lay. A lot of people like to go against what their natural hair is doing and then when a barber tries to attempt what they're asking for, it's going to cause a little mishaps, especially if people have cowlicks and want a different hair where it's going against a cowlick. You really just have to go with what your hair is offering.

**Bonds:** They don't know what they want. They come in there and they [accidentally] say what they [don't] want. Like they'll be like, 'Hey, I want a high fade,' but really they wanted a low fade.

**Hibbler:** They don't know what they want, and they leave it to the barber to have to interpolate what they want. If it doesn't match what they visualize, then it happens to frustrate the customer and then frustrate the barber. Then you don't end up getting great conversation, which is what barbers really long for because we do the same haircut every day. When you can converse very well, that helps.

### How to get what you want

**Cervantes:** Know what kind of hair texture and hair type you have. If you're looking for new hairstyles, definitely look [for references of] people [who] have similar hair to you. You know if you have dark straight hair, don't look at hairstyles that are super curly, or just like long and thin.

**Bonds:** Pictures [and] videos. Knowing the lingo, if you say, 'Hey, I want to zero,' but you don't want it down to skin, that's down the skin. So know your lingo and have a picture ready.

**Hibbler:** By showing us a picture, because we're pretty much visual learners, and even describing how you want to add your own little flair, and then giving us the creativity to add our own little flair to it as well.

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Adriano Espinosa — THE BATTALION



Laura McClintock — THE BATTALION



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Photos by Adriano Espinosa and Laura McClintock — Model 1: (First page top left, second page bottom right) Model sports a high fade with a close cut to maintain his natural hair. Model 2: (Centerpiece) Model shows off his naturally curly hair in a loose cut to his shoulders. Model 3: (Second page top right) Model highlights his curls by maintaining their length on the top and back, but keeping functionality with short cuts on the side. Model 4: (Second page middle right) Model keeps volume in his straight hair with a middle part and a slight undercut.