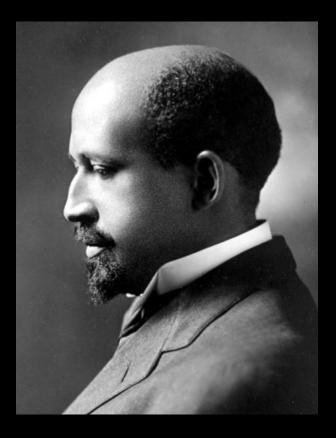
Identity Continued



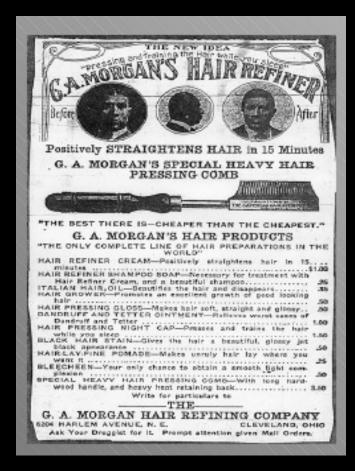
W.E. Dubois

- In 1900, W.E.B Du Bois gave a speech entitled *To The Nations of Our World.* In it, he remarked, "The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line...which show themselves chiefly in the color of the skin and the texture of the hair - will hereafter be made the basis of denying to over half the world the right of sharing to utmost ability the opportunities and privileges of modern civilization."
- Du Bois predicted that the shade of someone's skin and the texture of their hair would continue to create or deny opportunities for jobs, housing, and safety. Over 200 years later, people with afro-textured hair still face appearance-based discrimination.



Straight Hair

- After the Emancipation Proclamation was declared, slaves were free as of Jan. 1, 1863.
 Still, Sherrow's Encyclopedia of Hair notes that, post-slavery, blacks used a mixture of lye, potato, and egg to straighten hair. This often lead to severe burning
- The G.A. Morgan Hair Refining Company debuts a hair relaxing product called G.A Morgan's Hair Refiner which was comprised of alkaline chemicals that straightened hair.
- In the 1960's straight hair becomes overwhelmingly popular in movies and popular culture. Black Americans manipulated their hair at great lengths to keep up with pressure and trends.



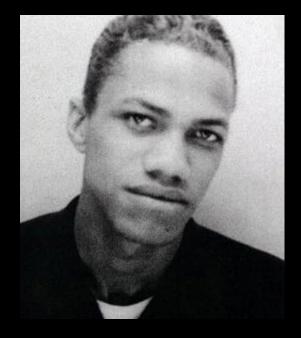
Removing the Kink

- Johnson Products Company invents Ultrawave For Men, a hair straightening treatment for men. The straightening treatment allowed men to achieve the conk, a popular hairstyle in the '50s that Malcolm X wore.
- The conk was a hairstyle popular among African-American men from the 1920s to the 1960s. This hairstyle called for a man with naturally "kinky" hair to have it chemically straightened using a relaxer called congolene, a homemade hair straightener gel made from the extremely corrosive chemical lye which was often mixed with eggs and potatoes.



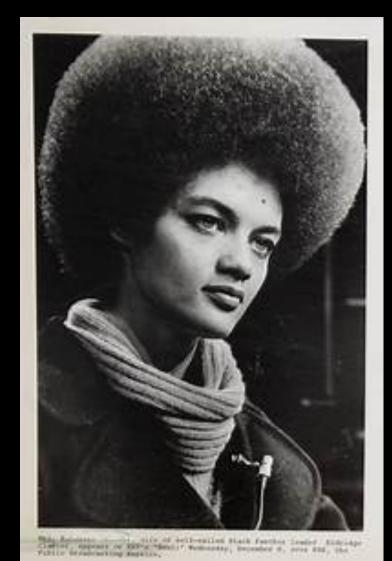
Malcom X

- In the Autobiography of Malcolm X, Malcolm X said about his conk hairstyle:
- "This was my first really big step toward self-degradation: when I endured all of that pain, literally burning my flesh to have it look like a white man's hair. I had joined that multitude of Negro men and women in America who are brainwashed into believing that the black people are "inferior"—and white people "superior" that they will even violate and mutilate their God-created bodies to try to look "pretty" by white standards."



Kathleen Cleaver

- In 1968 activist Kathleen Cleaver speaks out about Black American hair and the flawed concept of beauty in America.
 She would become a champion for anyone who wants to wear their hair natural.
- She, had been exposed to many international experiences during her involvement with the Black Panthers.
- She became the Black Panther's National Communications Secretary and helping to organize the campaign to get party leader Huey P. Newton released from prison. She was also the first woman to be appointed to the Black Panther's Central Committee.
- She became an instructor at Yale University



Skin Bleaching

- Skin bleaching has occurred since ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome.
- During the late-19th century and ulletearly-20th century, skin lightening became popular with black women. Skin bleaching was seen as more than a beauty ritual — it was a symbolic way to progress in a prejudiced society, where lighter-skinned black people encountered comparatively better treatment.



Skin Bleaching

Advertisers exploited those prejudices in the beauty industry, promising women that they could "occupy more positions socially and commercially" marry better, "get along better" and be more beautiful with lighter skin. In this 1944 ad, lighter skin is equated with "lovelier" skin:

The actual products were seriously dangerous: Most contained the chemical hydroquinone which is also used to develop photographs. (The chemical has been banned in Australia, the EU, and Japan, but remains legal in the United States)

Doctors have reased warnings to inform the public that skin bleaching creams cause blood and skin cancer. They also lead to skin burns, other various forms of skin damage, and ochronosis.





For ser sea