

Being a hat guy means everyone listens to you when you speak. But it might just be because they all think I'm sick. That's what my roommate said about me with my new do. Or more like do's.

My hair had grown wild, and so it needed taming.

The cheapest electric razor at target came home with me that day.

I chopped it up, I wanted to give myself a very very light buzz, like a 2-inch guard and then fade the sides. My hair grows in thick though, and many professional barbers before me told me it was challenging to cut.

Honestly, at times its challenging to live with. Like me, my hair is averse to consistency. There is no unified direction, length, growth rate, color, or hairline.

And while all those problems sound fixable, they're not. Countless have tried, and yet, hats continue to be a staple in my wardrobe.

Anyway, I chopped it up. Aside from the physical endurance required to hack away at my hair, I was also performing this on myself. Also—with no mirror, I was going by feel.

Bad idea.

You can't blame me though, when my hair gets long it gets oppressive, and we're snowed in, and I had important places to go. Class with the Senator.

The razor died, I had to switch guards, the razor stopped cutting, I had to oil it, the razor was up and running and I still didn't know how to cut hair.

The haircut turned out poorly.

So I wear the hat.

To be entirely honest, I've never had self-esteem issues.

That said, the haircut makes me look like Greta, The University of Vermont's botched taxidermy catamount. Like I'm looking at you no matter the angle.

I am not a easily dissected person, and the haircut seems to exponentiate this problem. With my longer hair, I was described as "baby-blue", "young", and "safe".

The few who have seen my current hair have described me as a "victim of something", "sick", and "old".

Since donning the hat, people have treated me differently than before.

I am a hat guy, I am "quiet", an "old-soul", and a little bit performative. I'd argue for the time being, that's about as good as it gets.