

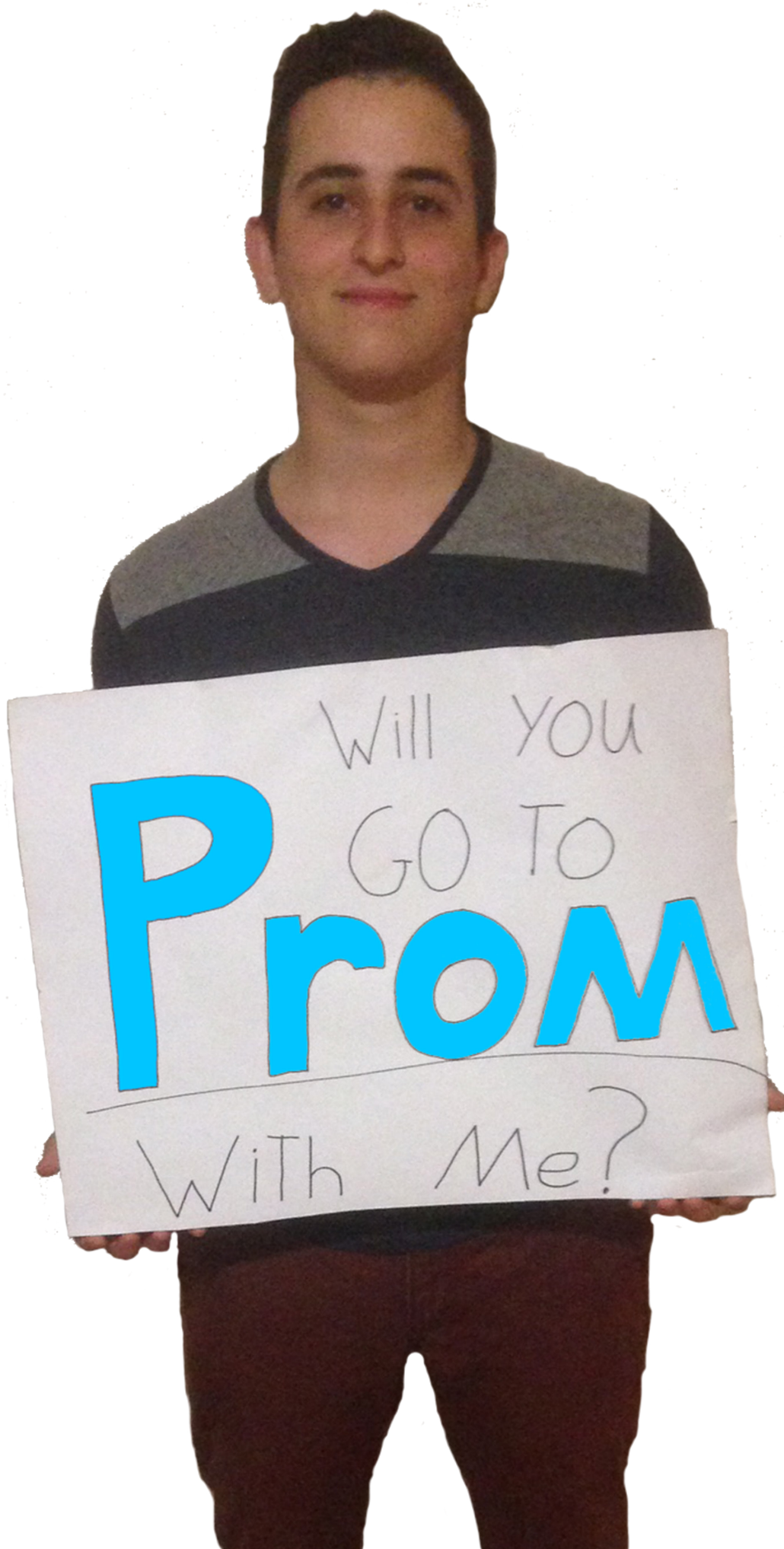
HB

The Hoofbeat

J.W. Mitchell High School's Student Newspaper
2323 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34655
Volume No. 13 | Issue 6 | April 2015

#WhosHB

Hey, Stephanie Emmino...



Lexi Michuad
Staff Reporter

Steaming hot pizza filled the air at Mitchell Park where Ryan Murphy ('16) asked his girlfriend Kayla Guzman ('16) of eleven months to prom. Rather than simply asking her to the dance, Murphy decided to plan a special night for Guzman.

"What I did was surprise her and took her on a picnic at the park where candles were set, leading to a table where I had spelled out 'Prom' with pizza," Murphy said.

Promposals evolved from the simple "Hey, you wouldn't mind to go to prom with me, would

you?" to more elaborate productions that become personal, public and humorous.

After she accepted his request, an excited and relieved feeling came from both Guzman and Murphy.

"I was really astonished at the idea and how he had set everything up. I felt super lucky that I had someone that would go out of their way to do that," Guzman said.

As if getting a prom date isn't enough, girls expect a grand gesture. These promposals become public, taking place in hallways, fields, and homes

all over the country. The exact date of the first promposal remains a mystery, according to the Washington Post. However, in 2001, the Dallas Morning News first used the word in an article about Texas high school students using the loudspeaker to ask out their dates.

In the Red Commons on March 30th surrounded by groups of people, Tony Napoli ('15) asked his girlfriend Kamrin Schuett ('17) to prom.

"It was her birthday and I got big posters saying 'Happy Birthday Kam, will you give me the gift of going

to prom with me?'" Napoli said.

Napoli felt overwhelmed, but once the promposal happened, and she said yes, he felt relieved.

"I was very nervous. I normally don't like doing like doing things that would cause a lot of attention," Napoli said.

Some promposals take a more humorous approach, even involving live animals such as chickens or goats. Ducks became the animal of choice for the one executed by Josh Bisbe ('16) when asking Casey Hesselbirg ('16) to be his date.

"When I came home from

school I walked into my kitchen and there was a poster hanging off of the counter saying, 'I would be one lucky duck if i could take you to prom' with a box sitting in front with three little ducks. I knew he was going to ask me at some point, but I had no clue when, and would have never guessed the propmposal," Hesselbirg said.

No matter how large or small the gesture, how public or intimate, how humorous or personal, the promposal remains a part of today's culture.

Prevention through education

Bailey Sassatelli
Staff Reporter

All eleventh grade students who take a history class experienced the acquaintance rape presentation by school nurse Mary Davis. Davis spoke about facts and statistics on this timely topic. A boss, a counselor, a family member, a teacher, or any adult in authority holds the possibility of committing rape through coercion. “In my eyes, anyone can be raped and anyone can do the raping. Even those who look incapable are still able to be involved in a rape,” Brady Friedman (‘16) said. Legally, acquaintance

rape charges do not differ from those when raped by a stranger. Rape can occur between two people in a dating relationship, too. However, most relationships remain healthy in spite of the statistics. “I felt like the presentation was targeting guys and making us out to be bad people, but not every guy is going to try to rape a girl after prom. A lot of guys are good and just want to take a girl to prom because they like her and they want to have a good time, but that doesn’t involve sex,” Ross Cooper (‘16) said.

On prom night, students going to prom stay safe and prepared by knowing themselves and their dates well and avoiding dangerous decisions. “My tip for anyone going to prom is that you need to be careful if you are consuming any detrimental substances. Under the influence rape is more inevitable than when not,” Friedman said. While under the influence of anything, people cannot consciously agree to sexual acts, and authorities can legally convict the other person of sexual assault. Even

if both people become drunk, being under the influence cannot be a defense against rape. “I was unaware that less than three percent of rapes are reported and that most people who commit rape are unaware that what they are doing qualifies as rape,” Mackenzie Clarke (‘16) said. Society often blames rape victims and leads them to feel guilty or embarrassed, which causes them to fail to report the crime. Students often fail to understand that rape does not always involve a stranger.

“I think the presentation was important in instilling that rape can be by someone you know or are dating, because most people don’t think of it that way,” Clarke said. The presentation concluded with the fact that rape can be committed by not just a stranger and that anyone can be victimized, no matter the gender or sexual orientation. Precautions discussed in the presentation included advice to anyone going to prom. Take enough money as well as a fully charged phone and remember that it is okay to say no.

Using their heads

Kelsey Williams
Lifestyles Layout Designer

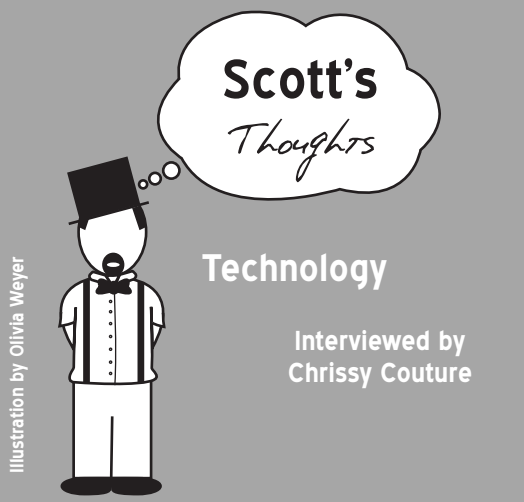
Moving on to the State Odyssey of the Mind competition, two teams represent their school after beating several teams at the Regional finals on February 20th. OotM, one of the world’s largest creative problem-solving competitions, allows students to put their creative skills to the test. Each team chooses a problem that they will work to solve within certain parameters. “Our problem is to make vehicles that go through obstacles that have certain propulsion systems that they have to meet the requirements of. The problem is Runaway Train and the vehicle has

to travel on tracks,” Caitlyn Freitas (‘18) said. The requirements of the problems vary, allowing students to choose a problem that they find elicits deeper thinking, like Silent Movie. “We had to have a portion of our skit be silent and tell a story without sound, as well as having ‘director scenes’ that included sound and the director had to explain why her movie was silent while dealing with a critic. It also had to include a trailer for a coming attraction and a musical instrument. We decided to do an updated version of Romeo and Juliet for our story, and

the explanation of why it was silent was that modern relationships are often entirely electronic (through texting/social media) and usually end due to this. Their phone batteries dying were symbolic of the character’s deaths in the classic,” Evan Murdoch (‘16) said. Choosing similar problems year after year allow teams to perfect execution and develop efficient ways to solve tasks. “We’ve actually done the same problem for a few years. We’ve chosen the same problem where we had to build vehicles. We’ve gained more experience in the fact that now we know what type

of propulsion systems work and what doesn’t,” Jackie Freitas (‘16) said. Becoming apart of an Odyssey of the Mind team gives back and allows students to develop positive character traits, especially for those students here from other countries. “For me actually it’s such a good experience because not every exchange student has the opportunity to do this. In life it can be really useful to help someone in a bad situation or something. I practice being loud and it improves my English because you have to talk in public. It has brought a lot of

confidence in me. I will always keep it in memory,” Aurélie Drignon (‘16) said. Both the Silent Movie team and the Runaway Train team competed in the State Finals on April 11th. One of various extracurricular activities offered on campus, Odyssey of the Mind provides students with beneficial life experiences. For more information about forming a team, visit the Gulf Coast Odyssey of the Mind website.



Q: How is technology affecting us?
A: It's interesting how somebody would define what's a cyborg. Depending on how you define cyborg, some of us already have become one. There are people, that for medical reasons have heart monitors that connect to the Internet that tell when things are going up and down. I have a lot of students that can't fall asleep if their cell phone is not next to their head. We have a phenomenon called sleep texting where if you ask a class of 25 kids, three or four of them will admit that they have sleep texted. Now the smart watches are something that will be an interesting challenge for teachers. The ones that are out can already send and receive simple texts, but the [Apple] Watch can send pictures and simply turn their wrist over and change the background of their screen to hide it.

Q: Do you think it will actually help people be healthier or be just a fad?
A: It will definitely have a huge impact on health. They're tracking more and more stuff from heart rate to blood pressure levels. The Apple Watch can track for tremors 24 hours a day on someone's hand for Parkinson's disease. We'll see how people sleep with illnesses and as age becomes a factor, there will be so many things to link it to.

Q: What are the ethics behind drones?
A: Well if there's an American over seas in another country that is suspected of terrorist activity, can the president send a drone over to kill him? Obama has said he does have that power; a few people have said that he shouldn't, but a large portion of Congress has not made a big deal about it. The question is, what if there is a known terrorist in the US? Do you have to arrest him or can you send a drone in to blow him up? I don't know the answer.

Q: Where is the future of drones headed?
A: The most interesting thing to me right now is the cheapness of the camera and the amount of police officers that are going to wear them on their uniforms. The big question for that is, who gets to watch the video? Is this going to be a new reality TV show that streams live when cops break into buildings with a warrant, or are you going to have to put in a FOIA request? Does the media get access? Do the police get to review it before it is released? Does the victim or their family get to say please don't play it?

Fewer end of course exams?

Alex Moreno
Staff Reporter

In recent years, the number of required tests increased in public schools. The changing requirements bring about controversy and confusion for both students and teachers, resulting in action from the state legislators. The House Education Committee approved a bill on March 9th that would ban schools from giving finals if they also require end-of-course exams. Recently, the state made a new test called the Florida State Assessment (FSA) a requirement to graduate high school for 9th, 10th, and at one point 11th graders. However, Gov. Rick Scott suspended the 11th grade FSA in anticipation of the Florida Legislature permanently eliminating the test, which made it no longer a mandatory requirement for the 2016 class. Yet the decision

to make testing mandatory directly impacted students in the lower grades. “In my English class we have taken practice FSAs and reviewed them, and also done online activities to prepare for them. I still feel physically and mentally unprepared to sit in the same seat for 90 minutes, because I’m very antsy,” Tabbbi Gutowski (‘18) said. Students expressed anxiety regarding new tests becoming requirements to earn a diploma. “I feel that this test being mandatory for graduation is stupid. We haven’t even had a test run, and this tells whether we graduate or not,” Julia Jerard (‘17) said. This leads to another issue lawmakers debate about: whether Florida’s base for statewide testing suffices. “EOCs show data about whether

learning took place or not, which is a good thing. I think we have a way to go to work out the reality and fairness of EOC testing across the board,” Mr. Edwin Braddy (FAC) said. The Florida House passed the bill (HB 7069) in a 105-6 vote on Thursday, April 9th. The final version of the bill permanently eliminates the 11th-grade English test, makes the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test optional, and prohibits students from spending more than 5 percent of their total classroom hours on state-mandated exams. Through the next couple of years, the number of tests students take throughout their high school career may decrease because of the bill reform and schooling changes from test based to more educationally based.

Editorial Policy

Published seven times a school year, the student newspaper of J.W. Mitchell High School is a public forum with its student editorial board making all the decisions concerning its contents. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name upon request. The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Opinions of letters are not necessarily those of the staff nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be constructed as the opinion or policy of the school administration, unless attributed.

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The big 5

The goal setting ideas in this segment originated from the book *5: Where will you be 5 years from today?* by Dan Zadra. Students shared their goals for the next five days, five months, and five years.

Mario Bennetti (‘17)

“Five days from now I want to get an A on the AP World History chapter 28 exam. What motivates me is the feeling of success and accomplishment because I like to get things done as soon as possible, and when I do get them done, I know I worked really hard and I have a feeling of satisfaction.”

5 DAYS

Demetrios Nanos (‘15)

“Five months from now I hope to be starting college, and be a member of the USF cheer team and pass calc. I wake up everyday with a goal and say to myself this is how I’m going to achieve it. Having goals set helps me to really push myself to achieving them.”

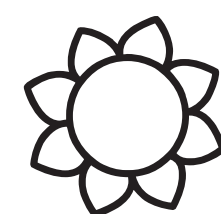
5 MONTHS

Michelle Ordax (‘15)

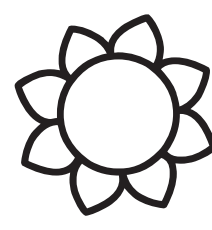
“In five years from now, hopefully I will be doing my masters in biomedical engineering and eventually getting a job. What motivates me to set goals is thinking about where I want to be and what I want to do with the rest of my life, so I base my goals around that. My two older sisters inspire me because they excelled a lot in academia.”

5 YEARS

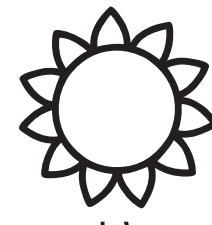
MOTHER’S DAY GIFT IDEAS



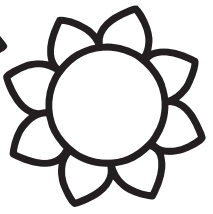
Portable
Charger



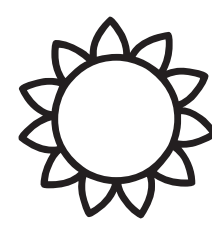
Yoga Mat



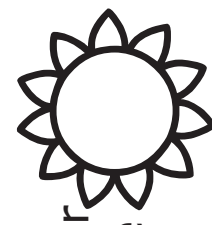
Edible
arrangement



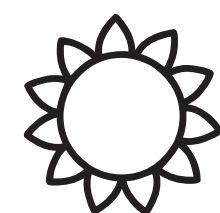
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PRESENTS

Prom 2015

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Lifestyles

Seniors look back

Austin Lappart

“I’m going to miss all the friends I’ve made throughout high school because I know that we are all probably going to be going our separate ways.”

Madison Staniloiu

“My favorite memory of senior year was night spiker; it was really fun.”

Elliot Evangelista

“Junior year I started having a lot of school spirit and it grew this year when I helped run the Stang Gang.”

Brooke Kalo

“My favorite event was probably homecoming and prom just because I got to go with all my friends and it was just a lot of fun.”

Kiera Delegro

“My favorite thing was softball season because I’m passionate about the game. I’m just going to miss my softball girls and softball.”

Sandra Scott

“I’m going to miss a few teachers that were really important in my development as a person.”

Tyler Blackburn

“My favorite part was spirit week for homecoming. I don’t think out of all four year I’ve gone here its ever been that crazy.”

Daria Frey

“I’ll miss coaching the powderpuff boys because I’ve been doing it since freshman year; this was the year we finally won.”

A.J. Mooney

“My favorite memory from senior year was going to the playoffs for football this year because we haven’t done it in a while and it was something I always wanted to do.”

5

Prom Hair Styles



Illustrations By Caroline Weyer




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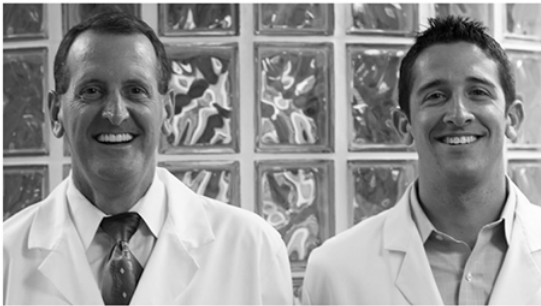
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Internet fun turns into mistakes

Emily Fowler
Staff Reporter

Teenagers forget the significance of behaving responsibly on social media. Making mistakes online leads to disappointment in students' futures and even current jobs.

According to the New York Times, one such incident involved a high school senior who attended an informational meeting at Bowdoin College and posted inappropriate tweets about her fellow attendees. As a result, she did not get into the college as a future student.

When going on social media, communicating with the wrong people leads towards regret.

"It is important to be careful on social media because there are crazy people out there, many who can easily lie about who they are on the Internet because they are hiding behind a screen. If you begin to contact someone who you only know through the Internet, they can take advantage of you," Jamie Thornal ('17) said.

Students rarely think twice about what they post and how it holds a large effect on their futures.

"A popular thing people do on the Internet that is not a good choice is post inappropriate pictures that could their ruin current life situations. Such as, positions on a sports team or job, and even their future college applications and careers. More and more colleges and company owners are checking the social media sites belonging to their future employees and what inappropriate things they find on there can greatly alter their decision to hire people," Taylor Hughes ('17) said.

Teenagers carry the choice of being extra careful and intelligent on social media apps.

"A way I stay careful on the Internet is before I post something I send it to someone first and see if they think it is a good idea," Hunter Hill ('16) said.

Social media apps like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram all get viewed by colleges and employers. Avoiding trouble online results in better futures, and younger students may not want to start with the habit of making foolish mistakes online.

"I advise freshman not to use social media in the wrong way because it can be really fun, but it can also cause a lot of trouble," Hill said.

Students' awareness of the pictures and statuses they post may increase their chance of receiving a brighter future. Students making the decision to upload appropriately and not post the 'fun' they experienced the night before may find themselves in a better place, with college acceptance letters and job offers coming their way.

BECOMING ROYAL

Our school celebrates the transformation of the juniors who become seniors by holding a Junior to Senior Picnic where everyone makes crowns for their reign into power. Juniors use burger king crowns to do so. The Junior to Senior Picnic will be held on Friday, May 22nd towards the end of the day.



Cut out old comics or newspapers to give your crown originality.



Sparkle letters and a gradient backgrounds make a crown stand out.



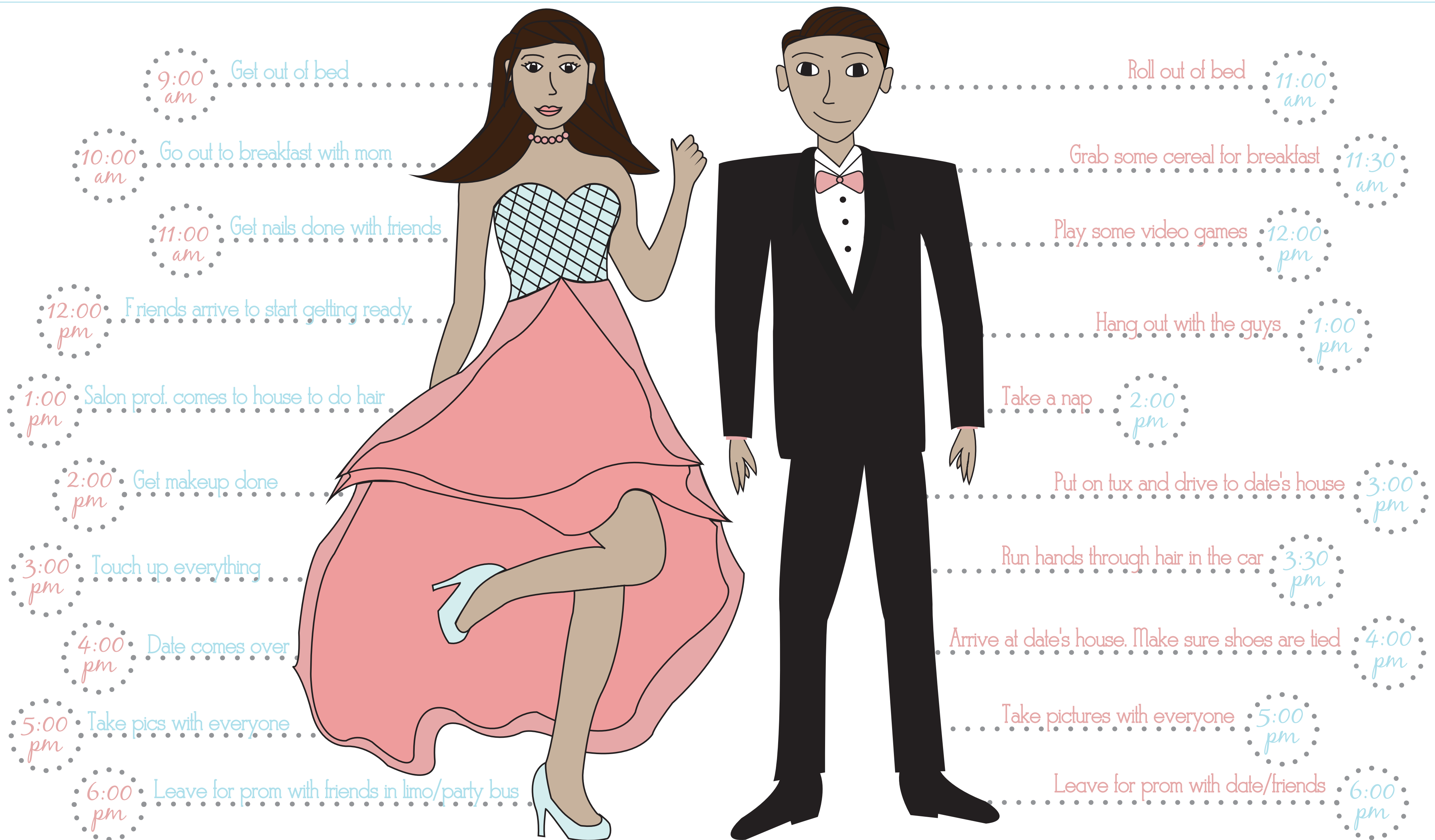
Pearls and jewels give a crown a classic look.



Lace is a popular choice when accenting the crown.



Put the letters of your name or senior on each of the spikes.



Get ready with me:

PROM EDITION

Illustrations by Caroline Weyer

1.



Jameis Winston FSU QB

2.



Leonard Williams USC DE

3.



Dante Fowler UF OLB

4.



Kevin White WVU WR

5.



Vic Beasley CLEM OLB

6.



Marcus Mariota ORE QB

7.



Danny Shelton WASH NT

8.



Shane Ray MIZZ OLB

9.



Alvin Dupree UK OLB

10.



Amari Cooper ALA WR

11.



DeVante Parker LOU WR

12.



Brandon Scherff IOW OG

13.



Randy Gregory NEB OLB

14.



Trae Waynes MSU CB

15.



Marcus Peters WASH CB

16.



Landon Collins ALA SS

17.



DJ Humphries UF OT

18.



Andrus Peat STAN OT

19.



Breshad Perriman UCF WR

20.



Kevin Johnson WF CB

21.



Dorial Green-Beckham OKL WR

22.



Jalen Collins LSU CB

23.



Todd Gurley UGA RB

24.



Eli Harold UVA OLB

25.



La'el Collins LSU OT

26.



Melvin Gordon WISC RB

27.



Malcom Brown TEX DT

Game, set, match

Sophie Sajecki
Staff Reporter

Tennis players give their all at matches, practices and everything in between. Players stay determined and focused, and credit different motivations for their success. While some believe that tennis requires years of experience, players on the tennis team this year take their first try at the sport. “I have done cheerleading, gymnastics and soccer before but I started playing tennis

over the summer and wanted to start something different. It’s a great way to be on a team and get involved,” Mallori Page (‘18) said. Even the best players on the tennis team started somewhere, whether they first started in kindergarten or when they started in high school. “I started to play tennis my freshman year for high school. I decided to join because it

always looked fun and Coach Lynn was my soccer coach. She told me I should give it a shot, and it ended up being my new favorite sport,” Olivia Batshon (‘15) said. Some players have alternative motives for joining the team. Not everyone started just because they wanted to participate on a team. “This year I had to sign up for a PE class, so I started to do tennis to exercise and get

into shape before that class started,” Mia Seibert (‘18) said. The friends made while joining a team sometimes give many advantages to playing the game. For Batshon, getting to know all team mates benefited her in several ways. “Being a part of a team has helped me improve my game by learning from my teammates. I’ve made lots of

friends through tennis, and that’s the best part of playing a sport,” Batshon said. As the tennis team approaches their final matches, the players remember all of the work put into building a strong team this year. For those interested in tennis, tryouts begin around the beginning of second semester each year.

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Flags of steel at FFCC state finals

Katy White
Staff Reporter

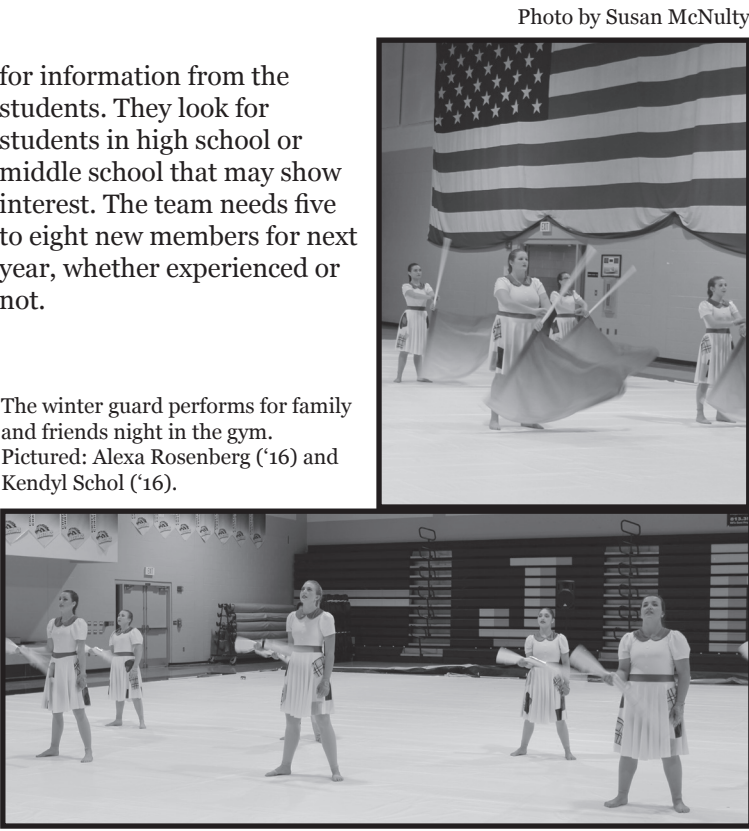
Students glance nervously at the crowd after finishing their routine, waiting for people to react. Beads of sweat drip down their faces as they patiently wait to hear the results. Winter guard season begins as soon as color guard and marching band season ends, and involves indoor routines with flags, swords and rifles. Before winter guard performs they always come together and say some encouraging words. Kendyl Schol (‘16) mentally prepares herself and the team in her own way to help her stay focused. “We are very superstitious and we always have a pep talk, say a little team chant, and eat a Starburst right before

we walk out to perform. I do a lot of deep breathing and hum the chorus of our song in my head beforehand as well, and it calms me down,” Schol said. After Alexa Rosenberg (‘16) heard that they won the gold medal at the FFCC State Finals she felt pure joy and celebrated for the rest of the night. “I was so nervous right before they announced that we had won the gold medal. All of us, the captains from the three teams were standing there holding hands, looking up at the loud speakers waiting for our names to be called. After they announced second place my heart just filled with pride and happiness over the fact all our hard work, sweat, tears, and

setbacks paid off to get a gold medal,” Rosenberg said. Preparing for this event took lots of practice and teamwork. Schol puts in the effort and hours at school and on her own time, to make sure she remembers the whole routine. In addition, a performance held just a week before confirmed the team’s confidence. “On varsity we had 6 hours of practice a week, with required home practicing as well. A few days before, we had a Friends and Family show in our gym as our last performance before the jump to Daytona,” Schol said. Every year the color guard and winter guard recruit new people, and Mr. Quina (FAC) posts flyers and asks

for information from the students. They look for students in high school or middle school that may show interest. The team needs five to eight new members for next year, whether experienced or not.

The winter guard performs for family and friends night in the gym. Pictured: Alexa Rosenberg (‘16) and Kendyl Schol (‘16).



Sprinting towards success

Lexi Clark
Staff Reporter

Speed, strength, and endurance: all represent key components of a successful track runner. To participate in track, runners push themselves to the absolute limit to prepare and win. Senior runner Emily Kerns (‘15) leads by example in her weekly training schedule, running six days out of seven. “During the season, I do 2-3 speed workouts a week, a few easy runs that are usually 4-6 miles long, and I take one day as a rest day. If I am able, I do a long run that is usually at least 8 miles long. During the off season, I focus more on building up miles and less on speed. I also incorporate core and weights and I often run twice a day,” Emily Kerns said. For Hannah Farrell (‘18),

track requires not only physical preparedness, but mental strength as well. “I listen to my pre-meet playlist to get me pumped and mentally go over what I need to do in order to do my best,” Farrell said. Along with mental readiness and physical ability, support from a loved one also pushes runners to perform at their full capability. “My pre-meet ritual is to hug my dad right before I run, knowing I have his support in what I have chosen to do and knowing he’s there to watch me helps me do that much better,” Erin Kerns (‘17) said. Support remains a big part of any sport, and track teammates help each other out. “[Track has] boosted my self

confidence and surrounded me with good people who all have the same goal and mindset as me. My teammates are the most amazing people,” Erin Kerns said. Track remains as a big part of people’s lives and includes more than just running. “It’s not as much about winning the race, it’s about pushing yourself to the best of your ability and learning how strong you really are and

growing as a person,” Erin Kerns said. Anyone may run track, as long as they put in the work, effort, and dedication towards the sport. “There is an event for everyone. It’s one of the hardest things I’ve ever done, but it’s fun and definitely worth it. Running and the people I have met through the sport have changed my life,” Emily Kerns

“It’s one of the hardest things I’ve ever done, but it’s fun and DEFINITELY worth it, ”
- Emily Kerns (‘15)

said. Track tryouts normally occur in January after winter break. Anyone that wants to may try out for track next year with no prior experience under their belt.



Victoria Arvanitis (‘18) and the rest of the girl’s track team runs in a home meet on February 27th.

Just part of the team

Alyssa Magilligan
Staff Reporter

A dancer concentrates as hard as possible to learn a new routine, and the dance team members live for what they love. Members of the team like Kerstin Hamels (‘18) danced for many years, which led to the reasoning behind trying out for the team. “I have been dancing for most of my life and I was on the competition team for my middle school which was fun, so I decided to join this team,” Hamels said. Because of dancing for a majority of their lives,

minoring and majoring in dance call for future career options, but not all of the time. “I can see myself being involved in dancing after high school, but not as a full time career. If my college has a dance team, I will love to be a part of it,” Jessica Colegrove (‘17) said. Competitions the team takes part in require even more practice time. Their practices depend on how well their routine comes along. “When we have a big

performance coming up, and we’re not picking up choreography as well as we want and need more practice or if we’re in a time crunch, we’ll practice every day until five,” Hamels said. Trying out for the team helps to make new friends and new memories with everyone else as well. “For those who wanted to try out for the team but didn’t, I think it was a mistake. It has been a very fun and involved experience for me. I have made many friends and

memories with the team,” Hamels said. Competitions sometimes take over the dance team’s already busy schedule. The team’s recent competition took place on the 11th and 12th of April in Wesley Chapel. Nerves rarely kick in despite the upcoming competitions. “I was very nervous and also excited, during the competition I had a great adrenaline rush and performed to the best of my ability,” Hannah Bruegger

(‘18) said. The dance team won first place in their style, second place overall out of all the large groups that performed, and won the Showmanship Award. Next year, the team expects even more girls at tryouts. For tryout information, watch for flyers around the school or see Coach Bakomihalis (FAC) in room 328.

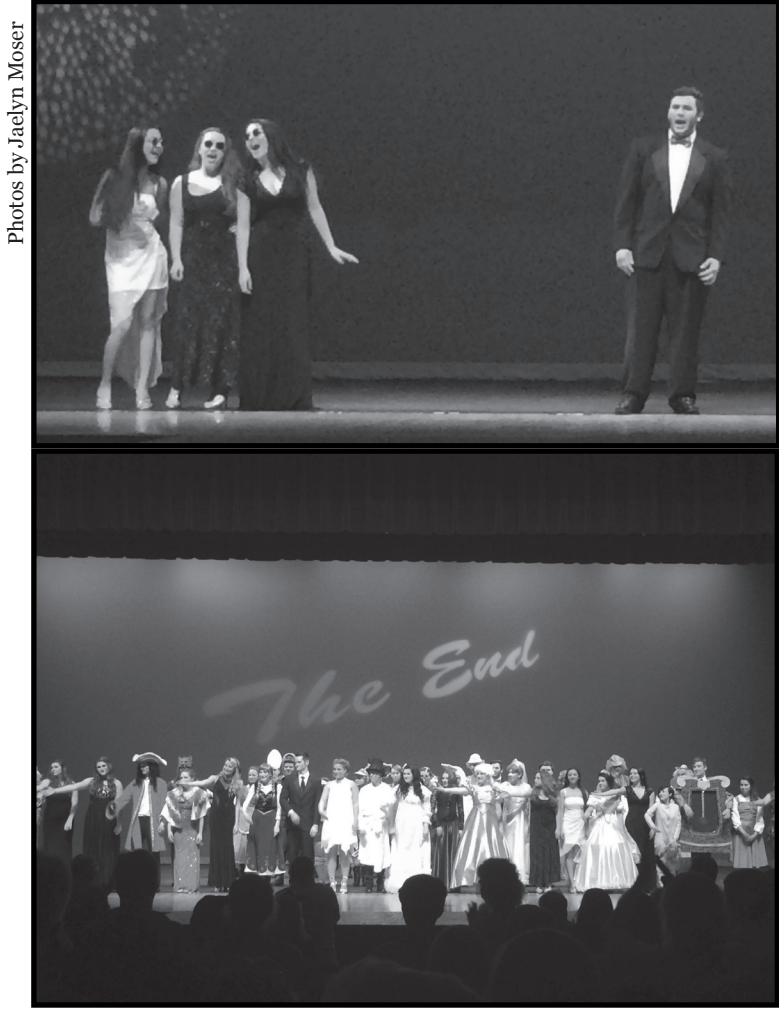
It's what he did

Jaelyn Moser
Opinions Layout Designer

A tragedy occurred on July 18th, 2014, when a beloved member of the drama department passed away. William Garon, age 54, struggled with cancer for years before he passed. A valued asset to the community, Garon dedicated the past six years of his life to working with David O'Hara and the students of the drama program on the school musicals. With all of the experience he possessed, Garon worked diligently with the students to help bring to life six musicals which include *Peter Pan* (2009), *Annie Get Your Gun* (2010), *Fiddler on the Roof* (2011), *Beauty and the Beast* (2012), *Into the Woods* (2013) and *Shrek: The Musical* (2014). In honor of Mr. Garon, this year's musical doubles as a

tribute. The best numbers from each of the pieces Garon helped with will be showcased in the mash-up production. Even alumni returned to reprise their old roles. The musicals, which acquired high praises alone, captivated the crowd and showed just how much Mr. Garon impacted the community around him during his life. He inspired the theatre kids to pursue their dreams, and quite a few graduates moved on to major in the arts in college. The montage of performances entitled "Bill Matters: A Broadway Musical Revue" made its debut on April 2nd and ran through the 4th at the River Ridge Center for Performing Arts. The show flowed beautifully and past students shared their favorite memories of working

with Garon and their times at Mitchell. The cast looked stunning in their tuxedos and dresses and sounded beautiful as they revisited their old roles one last time. The cost of the play tickets contributed to the William Garon Memorial Scholarship. The fund will help graduating theatre students pursue and further their careers. Garon and O'Hara always prepared the spring shows years in advance, so despite his absence, the musicals they planned together will go on. Rest assured that in years following, the high-quality productions that have become the trademark of this theatre department will return.



Top: Tyler Curry ('15), Tessa Kehl ('16), Kiana Kehl ('17), and Kasey McNaughton ('17), sing "Make a Move" from *Shrek: The Musical*. Bottom: The cast comes out for the curtain call at the end of the night.

Spring into spring concerts

Alyssa Magilligan
Staff Reporter

For months on end, fans of musical artists wait to see their favorites in real life. Plenty of artists plan on coming to the Tampa Bay area this spring, and fans prepare to go to the shows by securing their tickets early. Bands continue to become more popular over time, and as a result they need to tour more places so more fans get the opportunity to see them in real life. "This spring I am going to see Of Mice and Men, Crown the Empire, All Time Low, and Volumes. I am so excited to see all of these bands," Jordan Jonas ('18) said. Besides All Time Low and other artists, the band known as Paramore plans on coming to Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater on April 28th for their current tour. "I have been waiting for a while for my shows, about five months," Jonas said. After her older brother won tickets to two concerts, Rachel Biesiedzinski

('18) benefited because he plans to take her. She anticipates seeing her musical favorites. "I am so excited to go to the shows. I am going to a few country concerts," Biesiedzinski said. Long waits get the adrenaline pumping and boost excitement for the concerts attended. Plenty of concerts took place at the Amalie Arena this spring. The popular band The Who, one of the many classic artists, performed on April 15th for a 50th special. The Plain White T's, best known for their hit single "Hey There Delilah", performed at the State Theater on April 10th. Music fans await the Big Guava Music Festival on May 8-9th at the Florida State Fairgrounds and MidFlorida Credit Union Amphitheater. Bands scheduled to perform include Big Data, AWOLNation, Passion Pit, Hozier, Pixies and The Strokes. Tickets start at \$55 on TicketMaster.

“ This *spring* I am going to see Of Mice and Men, Crown the Empire, All Time Low, and Volumes. I am so EXCITED to see all of these bands, ,,
- Jordan Jonas ('18)



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- 11:15am THOR: THE DARK WORLD
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- 4:20pm GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
- 7:00pm AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON (RealD® 3D)

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* Don't forget to stay for the mid-credits and after credits scenes!



Illustrations by Olivia Weyer

No need for name brands

Sam Burchick
Staff Reporter

When someone sees what others wear, they notice the name brand. Teenagers care what others think, so they go for expensive brands in an attempt to impress others. Many people buy name brands to show wealth or to make people jealous. People also believe that their status comes from what they wear, but in reality, name brands cost too much, and they fail to show that one person seems better than someone else. People who wear name brands believe that what they

wear makes them better than others because of the price and the brand. Stores such as Hollister or Nordstrom price their clothing high, expecting everyone to pay high prices for necessities. People all want the top name brand, but when the price gets too high, smart shoppers go to the smaller name brands that come at good quality but a cheaper price. Shoes allow people to express themselves and show their style, but the brand on the bottom of the shoe never

proves important. Guys go for sneakers such as Nike or Air Jordan's, but those knock off brands look and feel just as good. In contrast, girls go for heels or sandals normally not caring about the brand, but caring more about what they look like. Name brands, for some people, show off their style or express themselves. However, teens should not think about brands when they shop; if they want something in particular, they should get it, not caring about the brand.

Michael Kors or Coach Bags go for about two hundred dollars and up. Name brand prices rise to outrageous heights, but cheaper bags serves the same purpose, often looking as stylish as their more expensive brand name look-alikes. When buying clothing, shoes and accessories, people need to go for what they want, no matter the brand. Most people share a weakness in shopping, whether they love name brand sunglasses, jewelry, or clothing. The nonsense

of name brands happens everywhere but name brands in no way matter. People need clothing and shoes, name brand or not. But smart shoppers should look for less expensive products that serve the same purpose.

Don't underestimate friends' feelings

Kaitlyn Klein
Staff Reporter

Controversy arose after the release of a new comedy *The Duff*. The movie received high praise for its humor and wit, however, *The Duff* also received criticism for creating a new antagonizing and unnecessary term to label girls. For those who find the acronym confusing, it stands for "designated ugly fat friend," created for use in the social media world. The movie takes place in a present day high school. Bianca, the main character,

finds out that she became labeled as the Duff of her group of friends. When she discovers this, she goes on a mission to reinvent herself and save her senior year from turning into a complete disaster. As the "generation of the Internet," viewers take such topics delicately. The film places its protagonist in a difficult situation and everyone in the audience looks toward her for image-maintaining guidance. The

audience experiences feelings of discomfort as topics of self-esteem come to light. Therefore those who look down upon the movie find a valid reason to. The hilarious and creative comedic movie caused a ruckus among social media users. The movie popularized a term for people to use harmfully against each other. Though the movie held no intention to offend anyone, the title itself started to displease those who decided

to watch it and others who refused to see it because of what they heard about it. Even though the term may seem offensive, by the end of the movie, Bianca, the main character, learns to accept and love her new title. She even gives a motivational and empowering speech to one of the girls who once made fun of her. The movie takes a turn for the better, leaving the audience feeling empowered even if they think they find themselves the Duff of their

friends. Mae Whitman, who plays Bianca; Robbie Amell, who plays Wesley; and Bella Thorne, who plays Madison; make the movie come alive with their on screen chemistry, farce, and amusement. The movie contains all of the standards for a comedy: humor, wit, and charm. Released with good intentions, *The Duff* achieved its original objective: a teen comedy that people should watch.

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	Make sure to get a good night's sleep and eat a sufficient breakfast before the test.	
○	Princeton Review, Crash Course, and 5 Steps to a Five are all great resources for studying.	
	Take a practice exam first to get a feel for the formatting and scoring of the test.	
○	Study topics that are unfamiliar and know the formatting for the essays.	

"For AP Lang, I plan to read prompts and essays from previous Lang exams and practice multiple choice questions,"
- Nick Neubner ('16)

"I bought the Crash Course AP study book for AP World History, and it has come in handy in so many cases. It is definitely worth the investment,"
- Jillian Kirkpatrick ('17)

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Another school year comes to a close, which means the time draws near for the biggest event for students. Prom inspires students with ideas of dresses, tuxes and promposals. The anticipation for prom includes elaborate promposals more now than ever before. Open up Twitter or Instagram and the promposals flood the newsfeed. Guys ask their girlfriends to prom with punny jokes, adorable gifts and even flash mobs. Some believe that modern times require that girls begin to ask

guys to prom, and describe guys asking girls as too old fashioned. However, only guys should ask girls to prom, because traditions matter. With all the transformations occurring in a modern society, important traditions slowly begin to fade out. Yet the tradition that guys ask girls to prom must remain. This ongoing tradition includes guys asking girls out, communicating desire, and taking responsibility for the promposal. If a guy feels comfortable and confident about asking a girl out that

he holds an interest in, then he needs to go for it. Girls feel very strongly about the old-fashioned way of boys stepping up to the plate, so more than likely, the girl refrains from asking. The guy must show interest and confidence and ask her. It touches a girl’s heart when a boy decides to take initiative and ask her out, and shows courage by putting himself out there. This helps the outcome of her answer. The difference between a Sadie Hawkins dance and prom consists of who’s asking.

Prom continues to stand with the traditional role of guys asking girls. Girls mentally hold less courage to ask guys out on dates. A proven fact, according to a study by the Child Mind Institute, says that girls suffer from more anxiety than boys. Girls get embarrassed much easier than guys. Guys can laugh it off, yet girls get really torn up about rejection. A girl’s fear of rejection and her increased anxiety levels prevent her from feeling comfortable without it destroying her self-esteem.

The different ways to ask a girl to prom with a cute promposal remain endless. Some clever ways to ask her include tying the promposal back to her interests or a clever joke. This idea needs support from the general public in order to keep girls from trying to make the first move. Traditions continue to hold importance no matter what. The times change but the traditions never leave from society, therefore, only guys should ask girls to prom.

Shyanne Dove
Staff Reporter



With the Diamonds at Dusk prom night coming up, juniors and seniors rush to find dates. While most promposals come from the boys, some think that girls should take initiative when asking the big question.

Bailey Sassatelli
Staff Reporter

The prom tradition of the guys asking the girls to the dance existed long before Sadie Hawkins dances first made their appearance. Originating from Lil’ Abner, a comic strip in the 1930s, the Sadie Hawkins character took matters into her own hands and asked her date to a dance. This action sparked Sadie Hawkins themed dances across the country, with many schools and organizations still hosting them today. But must we still rely on a Sadie Hawkins dance to encourage women to ask their male counterparts out? Society currently resides in the 21st, and women need to feel comfortable making

the first move. Considered a “right of passage” for young women, promposals cannot lose or gain meaning based on who they come from. For anyone to ask anyone takes guts, so justifying that guys need to ask girls fails to hold relevance. No matter who asks whom, the importance lies behind the fact that someone took a chance and showed feelings. Social media sites hold multiple ways for girls to show off their confidence around prom season. Pinterest features multiple boards that contain a large number of ideas for girls to ask guys. The ideas even became their own

category, rather than just a board. Hashtags specifically created for the purpose of motivating girls to ask guys include #HeSaidYes, which Instagram features, among others. Social media holds an infinite number of ideas for promposals. The themes include food, sports, television shows or movies, and basic romance. Ideas include jokes like “I might strike out asking, but will you go to prom with me?” on a baseball or softball, “Don’t let me go solo. Prom?” with a bunch of red solo cups, and the classic wrapped box with the card reading “I’d ask you to prom when pigs fly...” and upon opening it,

pink balloons with drawn on pig faces pop out of the box. These ideas spew romance, lightheartedness, and just fun in general. Waiting around for a guy to ask must become a thing of the past. In society nowadays, women take on much more in life and feminism exists. The fact that someone disagrees fails to exclude them from the title feminist. However, encouraging women to take a stand against social norms constitutes the entire meaning of feminism in general. The idea of feminism fails to scare away people from promoting the idea of women acting as they please because the idea remains eternal.

All in all, the whole promposal fad easily gets turned around and into an even more exciting event for the potential couple when social roles get reversed. If people come to terms with the idea that they must cross social boundaries without fear, the world becomes a better place, not only for women, but for the population in general. The big picture starts with the small things, like a girl asking a guy to prom and not suffering from social ridicule or judgment at all.