

Students prepare for Prom stresses and dresses

by Danielle Divis

It's prom season again and with that comes expense and worries. Everyone wants to look good on this special day, but unfortunately that means those big price tags come along too.

Usual worries are finding a date, renting a tux for the men and finding the perfect dress for the ladies. But what other concerns do students have before prom? "Setting up a hair appointment is my biggest worry! Since it's prom, I'm having my hair done by a professional but setting up an appointment is insanity," junior Alissa Trainer said.

Affording appointments and proper prom apparel can also cause stress. Typically, one can expect to spend around \$400 for prom, including a dress, hair, nails, tanning, jewelry, and shoes. "Finding a dress and trying to afford everything adds to the pressure of prom," senior Justine Riha said. Junior Samantha Phillips agreed. "Prom dresses are expensive, if you want a good one," she said.

While many girls are worrying, the majority of guys are pretty free from prom pressures. "Prom is supposed to be care free and fun with no pressures. I haven't even thought about a tux yet. Maybe I'll show up in my pajamas," junior Sean Kibodeaux said. Senior Michael Trainer's only worry is the dance. "I

really don't have any worries except for dancing," he said.

Another discussion that prom seems to bring up is the absence of the traditional prom king and queen. Since DCHS hasn't crowned prom

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king and queen for almost a decade now, many students are becoming accustomed to it. "I don't really care that we don't have king and queen because it just starts drama," senior Elizabeth Eberle said.

Others disagree. "It makes prom less exciting and fun. Every other school has a prom king and queen besides us," junior Lacey Strenger said. Senior Melanie Hecker agreed. "I think not having prom king and queen is lame; it's a prom tradition," she said.

Whether students are stressing about the expenses or don't feel pressured yet, one thing is for certain, the time spent preparing for the evening is worth it. "All the preparations and cost is worth it and makes the evening more enjoyable," Hecker said.

Prom will be held on April 24.

Class rings: symbols of pride

by Elizabeth Hruska

Rings have always been symbolic: in ancient Egypt, pharaohs were buried with rings of power. Due to the knights in medieval times, gold rings were seen as symbols of wealth, success, and belonging to a special group.

As class rings, however, the tradition didn't come into fashion until the early 1900's. Back then though, it was common for a school to choose one design to be shared by one, or multiple classes. In the 50's and 60's a guy would give his class ring to a girl, who would wear it on a chain or wrap it with yarn to fit on her finger—signifying that they were a couple. Back then class rings held a much greater significance, and the lyrics to songs like "Teen Angel" by Mark Dinning showed how important they were to guy/girl relationships.

Now, students are given options for styles, which vary greatly from girl to boy rings; metals like gold and silver; stones that come in a plethora of colors and cuts, and an assortment of emblems or insignias allow each student to really personalize their ring. "I got one because it's a good way to remember high school," junior Clint Brandenburgh said. Sophomore Brad Meusch chose to buy one to keep up a family tradition. "My parents and grandparents all have one,



so I wanted one too," he said.

But are the rings worth the money? According to senior Brianne Hicks, they are not. "It's not like someone's going to wear them for the rest of their lives," she said. But of the

students surveyed, most of them at least hoped to continue wearing them after graduation. "I'll probably wear mine after I graduate, it proves that I went to high school," sophomore Ayla Martin said. Others agreed that for the most part they would still try to wear theirs, although taking an opposite view of this was sophomore Dillon Hicks. "I probably won't wear mine later...I'd lose it."

Sophomore Neil Samek felt that there were certain factors that affected just how meaningful a purchase class rings are. "They're much more worth it if you get one with real gold and diamonds because then you can sell it later and get your money back."

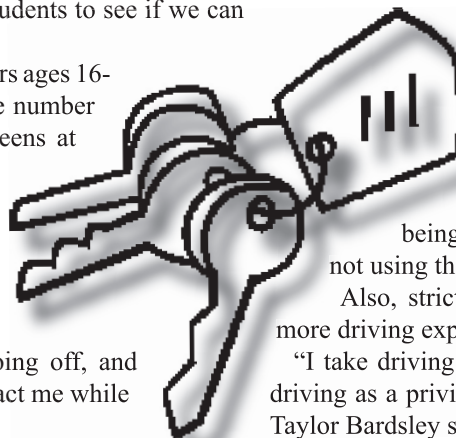
Are teen drivers really as bad as the stereotype says?

by Carly Buskirk

When it comes to teen drivers there's usually only one thing that comes to people's minds: Dangerous. But, let's take a look at recent statistics and surveys from students to see if we can disprove the typical stereotype.

According to the Center for Disease Control, drivers ages 16-19 are the most at risk. Vehicular accidents are the number one cause for death in teens. Many factors put teens at risk for such bad driving behaviors such as, poor recognition of hazardous conditions (mainly due to the lack of experience), speeding, and distractions from cell phones, the radio, or passengers.

Students surveyed said passengers and their phones are the main distraction they face while driving. "My brothers yelling, my cell phone going off, and random things on the side of the road are what distract me while driving," junior Courtney Betzen said.



According to the surveys, student drivers almost always feel that they drive better than other teen drivers. "I have never come close to being in an accident," senior Bryan Apodac said.

But, when asked to comment about other teen drivers, generally they thought the opposite. "Sometimes they think they are invincible and nothing can happen to them," senior Shelby McGill said.

Fortunately, poor teen driving habits can be preventable. New laws banning cell phone usage while driving are being passed nationwide and police are cracking down on drivers not using their seat belts.

Also, stricter drivers' classes are being added around the U.S. with more driving experience required.

"I take driving as a privilege and others can be good drivers if they take driving as a privilege, but if they abuse it then they probably aren't," junior Taylor Bardsley said.