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TOP 10 Cutest Ways Girls Were Asked to *Prom*

by Morgan McPartland
News writer

Prom: A four letter word that means so much to most girls and so little to most guys. Between finding the perfect dress, the prettiest hair-do and choosing the right table, planning for prom is way more stressful than it should be.

Although girls have plenty to do before and on the day of prom, there is one major thing we managed to escape: the pressure of asking someone to prom. Now of course it's completely acceptable for a girl to ask a guy, but for the most part, guys have some pretty high expectations to live up to.

While there were many cute, creative and elaborate ways LHS boys asked girls to prom this year, I somehow managed to narrow it down to the 10 cutest ideas.

10. Mikey Walus & Veronica Szaflarski → One morning during first period, Veronica received a pass to go to her counselor's office. When she arrived at Mrs. Sheesley's office, it was full of rose petals. There was a laptop on Mrs. Sheesley's desk with a sign on it that read "Play me." Once she opened the laptop, there was a video of her boyfriend Mikey asking her to prom and he walked in the room with roses once the video was over.

9. Rob Smierciak & Jessica Wienand → Rob and Jessica are in Group Interpretation together and their G.I. performed a cutting of the movie *Bullets over Broadway*. Rob had the lead role and Jessica played his girlfriend. While at Sectionals/State qualifiers, Rob and Jessica were doing their final run-through before performing. In the final scene, Rob said his normal line, "Ellen, I have a question." Jessica recited her line, "What?", then Rob turned around and asked her to prom.

8. Jeff Gurrister & Alena Pranckevicius → Jeff blindfolded Alena and took her on a drive around Lemont, which ended at his house. He brought her to his

photos courtesy of Google

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PROMS

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backyard, took off her blindfold and there on the ground was “Prom?” spelled out in stones and he had a rose for her.

7. Matt Lipowski & Caroline Jachec → Matt took Caroline out on a Friday night while her 3 close friends Jill, Dianne and Rachel blew up 90 balloons in Caroline’s room. Beforehand, Matt wrote a note that said “Prom? Look Outside” and put it in one of the balloons. When Caroline returned home that night, she went up to her room to find a sign on her door that read “Start popping.” She opened her door to find balloons everywhere, and she eventually popped the one that contained the tiny note. Caroline followed the instructions and looked outside to find Matt standing there with flowers.

6. Dean Kulis & Kelly Trojak → One day after school, Kelly went outside to find a bag of baking flour on her car with a note that said “Look for the surprise inside!” However, after finding nothing in the bag she gave up and drove to soccer practice. After her practice, there was a bouquet of flowers on her car that said “Sorry, wrong FLOWER. Look inside these!” and inside she found a note that said “Prom?” from her boyfriend Dean.

5. Jeff Peters & Kaley Sullivan → Since Kaley’s boyfriend Jeff attends the University of Iowa, *she* asked *him* to prom when he came home for spring break. Kaley works at the Core Daycare and called Jeff one day saying there was an emergency and she needed him there right away. When he arrived, Kaley had toddlers hold up decorated posters that spelled out “Prom?” “The kids were confused and yelled ‘surprise’ and ‘happy birthday’ when he got in so it was pretty funny!” she said.

4. Dylan Matthews & Rebeca Bagdocimo → LHS hosted a Mr. LHS beauty pageant in mid-March and Dylan was one of 25 participants. During the pageant, there was a portion where the host revealed one thing the audience didn’t know about each contestant. When it was Dylan’s turn, the host read that one thing you wouldn’t know about Dylan was that he was wondering if Rebeca would go to prom with him. She was in the audience and, of course, said yes.

3. Eric Kirkman & Julia Kuda → Before taking Julia out to a nice dinner at Longhorn Steakhouse, Eric made a laminated card that said “Special: Tonight's special...is for somebody special! Julia, PROM 2011? –Eric” and brought it to the restaurant. A waitress put the card aside in a menu for Julia, and when Julia opened her menu a few hours later at dinner, she was pleasantly surprised.

2. Kevin Fritz & Aileen McGraw → In the movie *Big Fish*, there’s a scene in which the main character sees a girl at the circus, time stops and popcorn floats in the air. So, Aileen’s always joked around saying that would happen with a perfect guy. One day, Aileen went to Kevin’s house to find that he had recreated the movie scene and popcorn was hanging from his basement ceiling. The lights were off and white lights spelled out “Prom?” next to a heart made from candles.

1. Luke Nyenhuis & Lexi Mikrut → One day, while driving to the mall, an unmarked squad car pulled Lexi and her boyfriend Luke over and four cops surrounded her car. “It was scary!” she revealed. “I’m terrified of cops.” The cops brought her a warning that said she was going two miles over and at the bottom it said “Will you go to prom with me?” Luke was able to pull this creative idea off because his uncle is a cop and he asked his uncle’s friends to pull Lexi over.

Although Lexi was mad at Luke at the time, this idea definitely wins the most creative way to ask a girl to prom for 2011!

photos courtesy of Google

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BON APPÉTIT!

Promblems

by Brittany Baldwin
News writer

On April 14-16, LHS seniors Al Lynn and Shawn Nienhouse will put their culinary skills to the test as they participate in the Skills USA competition in Springfield, Illinois. This competition brings together some of the most talented vocational education students in the state.

To qualify for this competition, Lynn and Nienhouse completed an exam testing their Skills USA knowledge as well as their knowledge of their respective categories. Students who received the top ten scores in each category advanced to the Skills USA competition.

Senior Al Lynn will be competing in the Food and Beverage Service category. To prepare for this important competition Lynn, “looked over Food and Beverage Service books, paid close attention to service when eating at restaurants and practiced his skills at home as well as at work.”

As the competition approaches, Lynn looks forward to “being able to compete.” Lynn stated, “It’s been a while since my last competition and it’ll be fun to put my skills to use.”

Although Lynn has held an affinity for the culinary arts “for most of his life,” he made sure to inform those interested in studying the culinary arts to “be ready to deal with the long hours and harsh criticism.”

Lynn added, “[The culinary arts] is not all about eating. There’s a lot of math involved as well so make sure you’re up to speed with your math skills.”

This year’s competition will not be senior Shawn Nienhouse’s first time competing in this Skills USA event. Nienhouse took second in Food and Beverage Service at last year’s competition and he anticipates doing well in this category as well as the Culinary Arts category at this year’s competition.

Nienhouse stated, “[Skills USA] doesn’t usually let people compete in more than one event, so I’m looking forward to being one of the first people to compete in two events.”

In preparation for this competition, Nienhouse began “practicing and memorizing” the recipes he will prepare at the competition.

Although Nienhouse has been studying the culinary arts since “September 2009,” he found it difficult to specify what sparked his interest in the culinary arts.

Nienhouse stated, “I don’t really know what got me interested in [the culinary arts]. It’s just something I’ve always liked.”

Nienhouse advises students interested in studying the culinary arts to, “Take a foods class at your home school to see if you like it. If you do [like the culinary arts], go to WILCO. It’s one of the best programs there is.”

Under the guidance of WILCO Chef, Tracie Tobin, Nienhouse and Lynn hope for success in their individual categories.

For more information on the Skills USA competition, please log onto <http://www.illinoisskillsusa.org/index.html>.



Senior Shawn Nienhouse



Senior Al Lynn

photos by Tony Hamilton and courtesy of Google

Prom is supposed to be the most magical night of the year, for those who choose to go. So why does it already feel like a magical mess?

Prom, possibly the most stressful event of a high school girl’s year, is right around the corner. Whether you’re still looking for the dress, figuring out who you’ll be sitting with for dinner, or trying to make plans for after, it’s not going to be easy.

Any way you go about it, the journey to Prom will be full of *promblems*. From big to small, these *promblems* seem to wreak havoc among many prom-goers’ plans from about February, when people start Prom planning, to April 11, when it’s finally over.

Let’s enter the halls of LHS, where you’re likely to meet your first *promblem*; your date.

As if dress shopping, shoe shopping, make-up, nail and hair appointments aren’t enough, add the pressure of finding a date and then basically doing everything for him.

He’ll need the right color vest to match your dress, a boutonniere to match your bouquet and you’ll probably have to make all the plans for the both of you. Luckily, he may be able to provide moral support, as well as the \$100 for your tickets.

Don’t get me wrong- not all dates are alike. LHS has some high-maintenance boys who think Prom is all about them, in addition to some caring, helpful boys willing to relieve some of your stress. Unfortunately, most are just average high school boys – clueless when it comes to Prom.

If these boys aren’t working for you, feel free to fish in a different pond. As long as you can catch a fish under 21 without a criminal record, you should be good to go.

For girls who choose to go dateless, more power to you. Finding a date is just one less thing you have to worry about, or about four less things in the long run.

If you’re anything like me, *promblem* number two is easily the most stressful: the dress.

I started dress shopping over two months ago, and here I am, three weeks from Prom, dress-less and as picky as ever.

Prom dresses aren’t a cheap buy, so finding one you like is critical. Typically, junior girls wear poufy dresses and senior girls wear straight dresses. This is a trend I really wouldn’t worry about in pursuit of your perfect dress.

My advice? Find a dress that makes you happy and don’t worry about what everybody else is wearing. Of course, I’m rather partial to poufy dresses.

by Annie Lillwitz
Editorials writer

My advice? Find a dress that makes you happy and don’t worry about what everybody else is wearing. Of course, I’m rather partial to poufy dresses.

Remember, there is no shame in buying or borrowing a previously worn dress. Sites like ebay.com and craigslist.org are great places to find once-worn, cheaper Prom dresses.

Promblem number three: Planning.

You’ll need a group, a time and place for pictures, some means of transportation, a dinner table to sit at and plans for after the dance, and in some cases, plans for the day after. This is why planning starts in February.

Try not to be overwhelmed by all of this. Just remember, start planning early and efficiently and make sure everything works for everyone in your group so you don’t have any mid-planning changes to make.

The last *promblem* won’t take place until April 10, 2011: the day of Prom.

And the final *promblem* is (drum roll, please)... Appointments. One after another...after another. Nails, hair and make-up all need to be done. Remember, you’ll still have to shower, shave and have time to lace up the back of that dress.

One way to take some of the stress off the actual day of is to get your nails done, or do them yourself, the day before. Of course, you’ll have to be careful not to let them chip, but that’s one less thing you’ll have to do the day of Prom.

As far as appointments go, don’t just walk into Mac expecting them to have time to do your make-up the day of Prom. They’re probably just as busy as you are. Make sure appointments are booked in advance and be on time so you’re not making others wait.

If you’re lucky enough to possess a hidden hair, make-up or nail polishing talent, or have a friend who does, be sure to put it to good use. You’ll be saving time and money but looking just as good.

Avoiding *promblems* is impossible, but overcoming them is not. As long as you keep your head on your shoulders, and remember stress is only temporary and *will* be worth it, you’re sure to have the Prom of your dreams.



NEVER SAY NEVER

by Andrea Earnest
Features Editor



He has countless chart-topping singles, two platinum albums, hundreds of sold-out concerts and most recently, a movie. *Justin Bieber: Never Say Never* made 12.4 million dollars on opening day alone.

I won't lie; I've always been a bit of a Bieber fan. His songs are catchy and he might be a year younger than me, but he's pretty cute. So when my friend texted me asking if I wanted to see the movie, I immediately agreed.

The 3D film starts 10 days before Justin Bieber's first Madison Square Garden performance, which he sold out in 2 minutes. The performer and his crew's excitement is palpable in every single moment, and you can see how much they love what they do.

While the film mostly focuses on Justin Bieber, stars like Jaden Smith, Miley Cyrus, Usher, Ludacris and Snoop Dogg also make some guest appearances.

Justin Bieber's story is the quintessential rags to riches tale. Director of *Never Say Never*, Jon Chu, agrees and has said that one of the reasons he jumped at the opportunity to direct was because Bieber had "a true underdog story."

The film is riddled with home videos and clips of a young Justin Bieber. The teen heartthrob is shown playing a drum set, singing outside theatres for money and just spending time with his family. Whatever can be said about

Justin Bieber, you can't deny that he is talented.

The now 17-year old grew up in a small town in Canada. His mom, who had him when she was 17, raised him the best she could, relying on her own parents and faith.

Bieber himself has said that growing up he didn't have a lot. His mother worked a series of low-paying jobs, and the mother and son lived paycheck to paycheck.

Times have certainly changed for the teen idol, who now makes 300,000-400,000 dollars for each of his concerts. Having a dozen singles make it onto the Top 100 Billboard charts probably doesn't hurt either.

Several of Bieber's songs are featured in the film, including "Baby" and "One Time." Another song "One Less Lonely Girl" also has a special place in the heart of many Beliebers. During each concert, one lucky girl is picked to go on stage and be serenaded by Justin Bieber and presented with a bouquet of roses. The movie depicted several of these moments, and although the girls' reactions are slightly hilarious, it is sweet nonetheless.

According to rottentomatoes.com, 65% of critics gave a positive review. The consensus states, "As a tour documentary, it's rather uninspired-but as a 3D glimpse of a building pop culture phenomenon, *Never Say Never* is unbelievably entertaining."

So if you're a Belieber or a hater, I recommend seeing *Never Say Never*. The movie has something in it for everyone. A bit of comedy, drama and a couple of catchy tunes never hurt anyone.

Couture Corner: Promathon

by Erin O'Connor and Caroline Celis
Fashion columnists

Practically every girl envisions the way she will look at her high school prom. Every last detail from her dress, shoes and hair to what her date's attire will consist of. Making these crucial decisions is vital to having the fairy tale prom of your dreams.

The tension has already begun to build as the April 10 date approaches. Stores have shipments of dresses arriving daily and you LHS'ers still can't decide what to wear.

Where to go

The daunting question of where to buy a dress can be a deciding factor on what type of experience you want to have. Peaches Boutique, located in Chicago is a dress store specifically for formal and prom attire. At Peaches, you "register" your dress with the hopes that no one else in your school will show up in it. However, this boutique gives a girl a less than personal experience when picking their dress; along with high price tags on designer dresses. Smaller boutiques often offer unique dresses and a much more personal experience for the buyer.

How much to spend

Prom dresses today range from about \$200 to \$800. When purchasing, one must consider, how much they are comfortable spending and what the true value of the dress is, after all you are probably only wearing it once. A dress does not have to be overly expensive in order to be fashionable.

Trend Report

Although it is stereotyped that juniors wear ballgowns and seniors wear more fitted dresses, what is most important is feeling comfortable in what you choose to wear. This year, many prom dresses are sporting bold colors and patterns: statement pieces. Short dresses are also making an appearance breaking the traditional long dress standard. Through vintage materials and asymmetrical seam lines nothing seems impossible for this year's event. With all of these different styles, flashy and bold dresses will make the statement many wish to step into the room with. When choosing your dress pick something you truly want to wear, not because it is trendy. Have no fear and be yourself.

Hair and makeup

One thing you can always expect from prom makeup, Lashes! While the look of long full lashes is always desired it is easy to go from a pretty length to obviously fake. While special occasions like prom do call for a more dramatic makeup look, remember that you still want to look like yourself. Don't overdo the lashes or the dark eye shadows or the bronzer, just look like a more dolled up version of yourself. You want to look pretty, not tacky. Choose one because a bold eye and a bold lip look don't work well together, keep it simple and know what looks best on you. With hair, don't go overboard on the spray, obviously you want your hair to last but if you are dancing and it is so hard it won't move, you have a problem.



Photos courtesy of Google



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This year romantic hair is in, long loose curls that look naturally pretty. Anything too tight or pulled back and you’ve got the classic brides maid do, and you don’t want that. So with hair and makeup, keep it simple, minimal and most importantly, look like you!

And for the gentlemen

Classic elegance is always a nice touch when preparing for prom. Don’t look sloppy, or as if you just rolled out of bed; take time on your overall appearance: trim the scruff and make sure your hair is styled to your liking. The classic tux is what most guys opt for when choosing prom attire, but don’t be afraid of what others will think if you take a risk. Printed lapels or perhaps a khaki tux? Take chances and defy the norms. This year skinny ties are making their way back onto the fashion scene, an eighties throwback giving prom looks a stylish flair. A classic favorite of ours is the classic bow tie, just something about it is so endearing; bow ties add style to a classic look.

This year making a statement comes in all forms. Remember not to get too focused on what you look like. As long as you are happy with the overall look that’s what matters. Prom is a night that creates lifelong memories with friends, what you look like in the pictures can be lost and fade into the dust, but you will always remember that night.

HE IS NUMBER FOUR

by Bridget Carr
Features writer

We’ve all seen the eye-catching commercials featuring the powerful song “Rolling in the Deep” by Adele, a myriad of intense action scenes and some of our favorite actors. We’re hoping to expect a lot from the movie *I am Number Four*; particularly those of us who read the novel, right?

Prepare for disappointment. I read the book and was greatly intrigued. I highly anticipated the release of the film and looked forward to see how it portrayed the unusual tale of these atypical aliens living among us.

I’ll give you a short brief of the plot, no spoilers included. There were nine young aliens sent to planet Earth after the evil Margodorian attacked and destroyed their home planet of Lorein.

These aliens from Lorein resemble humans in appearance, but they secretly have strength and abilities far beyond any typical Earth-dweller. The nine are each numbered, and they are protected by a spell that ensures they can only be killed in order.

At the start of the story, the first three have already been hunted down and murdered by the Margodorian. The main character is number four.

Number four, who takes on the name of John Smith to protect his identity, is constantly on the run to cover up any suspicion that could draw the Margodorian to him. He finds himself in the poorly-named town of Paradise, Ohio, where he wishes to remain invisible.

However, while in Paradise, “John” develops friendships and relationships beyond his prior capability. He loses his determination to sustain his race when he doesn’t leave Paradise to avoid the risk of being discovered.

Naturally, this leads to a few battle scenes, and John must work to overcome the Margodorian. His mentor teaches him control his powers and an adorable little beagle appears to consistently be at his side at any sign of danger.

This is pretty much all that the book and movie have in common, sadly to say.

To be blunt, I was disappointed. The character development was poor, as well as the relationship development. The action scenes did not live up to expectations, and overall the storyline came across quite choppy.

I suppose I can’t be too critical; I know that most readers can only dream for a novel to transform into a film effectively. Still, I thought too many significant changes were made and too many important details were left out.

My advice: reading is healthier and a better use of time anyway. Don’t waste your money on the movie ticket; borrow the book from a friend and explore the bizarre universe created in *I am Number Four* by Pittacus Lore.

Musical Connections

by Rene Tovar
Features writer

There are many musicians from diverse cultures and locations. Being able to see and hear these musicians creates a melting pot of different styles and influences.

Music today has adopted many of the same features of music from around the world. Today, mainstream music has found itself influenced by pop, hip-hop and jazz.

For many Americans, music finds itself intertwined with a person’s identity, whether it is socially or culturally.

For example, common topics such as race, religion, social class, sexuality and gender are often found. The relationship of music and race is probably the most prevalent factor in determining American music.

In Japan, the music styles are both traditional and modern. Traditional Japanese music usually has no specific beat, but is often found to be soothing and calm. A modern twist appeared in the 80s when punk and alternative music found its way mainstream.

Even though most music in Japan is usually improvised, Japan still finds itself to be the second largest music market in the world, behind the United States. Most of the market is dominated by Japanese artists.

Europe is known for having a wide array of indigenous music, but has also found itself adopting many different styles and genres from America such as jazz and hip-hop.

In France, modern music has been on the rise. Hip-Hop in France in particular is considered to be the first hip-hop scene.

Hip-Hop first appeared in France after World War II. It’s often associated with the political and social status of the people, especially minorities.

The classical music found in Germany is among the most played in the world because of the many accomplished musicians found there. Some examples are Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

As with France, World War II played a key part in influencing many different styles of music. Pop in particular has found itself high on the charts in West Germany, and it is very diverse.

The country of Puerto Rico is best known for its lively and upbeat music style. Pop and Mambo, or salsa music as we call it here, is quite popular and reached higher fame from the prominent Latin singer and musician Ricky Martin.

Ricky Martin, who is greatly recognized for his 1999 hit “Livin’ la Vida Loca” gave Latino dance and pop music a universal face.

Many other countries like Russia, Korea and Mexico offer different styles and tones which many enjoy. Next time you’re trying to tune in to new music, check out some of the sounds of the world.



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PROM DRESSES

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