

Prom: A Night Among The Stars

BY ANDREA YOUNG

Traditionally, high school is a milestone in the life of teenagers. Disregarding the educational elements of the four year journey, high school is also a time for students to let loose, have fun, enjoy their lives, and live to have memories to look back on for years to come. One of those memories is Junior/Senior Prom.

Every year, across the country, students attend their Junior/Senior Prom. The girls become more high maintenance than usual in the midst of getting hair and nails done and ordering a dress. The boys, commonly, experience a time when they have to sit around and enjoy watching girls frantically prepare themselves for a night that they will never forget, but they too become busy with prom preparation, ordering tuxes and limos. Cameras are pulled out, as parents sit back and reminisce about how their baby was "just in diapers" and now they're off to their prom. Everyone prepares for this momentous night.

This year, Bartow High School's prom will be an event to cherish. The theme "Night Among the Stars" slightly touches the journey that students will have as they make their way to Lakeland's Lake Mirror for an evening that promises sophisticated grace and a good time. Class of 2011 officers and

their advisors are working diligently to make this event special for Juniors and Seniors. There is a lot of preparation in place in order to make that night notable.

But some students say they are avoiding prom, all because they can't dance the way they like. Last fall, the Polk County School Board initiated a new rule stating that each school must now have regulations as to how the students conduct themselves at school dance. PCSB did not approve of the manner of dancing at school functions and therefore instructed all schools in the county to control students who did not follow the new guidelines.

Bartow High School obeyed the new rules of the PCSB. As a result, at the 2009 Homecoming Dance many students were upset. "I think the main two reasons are that no one wants to pay \$60 to go to Lakeland and that new pointless distance rule," notes Camilo Baustista, senior.

Senior Shea Perez says her friends are "not sure if [they] will be attending prom because [they] won't be able to dance freely."

Past experience and school policy alone, however, shouldn't be students' only criteria in deciding whether or not they'll attend prom. It is, after-all, the last prom for seniors who may later

regret their decision to "just skip" a milestone on their way to graduation. The DJ students have loved in the past will once again take the stage and the planning committee promises a prom worthy of the ticket's expense.

"Prom won't be like any other prom that this school has seen," according to Class of 2011 President Porcilla Charlton. "Even though a lot of the students are skeptical about the new rules, it will be fun and classy and the students won't regret coming."

"To be honest, I didn't want to grow up and say I didn't go to my senior prom. I'm still not ok with the strict dance rules and was definitely contemplating on [not] going because of how our Homecoming was," stated Kimberly Lunn, a senior who is planning to attend prom. "In the end, I decided to go."

Unlike the numbers (administration estimates the number under 50) who were asked to leave last fall's Homecoming dance for refusing to comply when asked to not dance inappropriately and chose to continue to do so, others appreciate the new rules and feel that they are more comfortable with the changes made.

"The students will be satisfied with prom no matter how negative their remarks are," commented advisor to the class officers, Kellie Burkey. "The

beauty of the event and the memory in itself will overwhelm all the negativity."

Several seniors have noted that they are boycotting prom because it's been moved to Polk County. The economy was a major factor in the Junior officers and advisors' decision to keep prom in-county this year.

"With so many parents out of work and our economy suffering," says BHS dean Marcia Davis, who's assisting with prom, "it made sense to not only save parents and students money but also to put our dollars back into the local economy rather than to take it to a tourist area that already enjoys a healthier economy from that" No out of county prom means less expense in terms of travel, hotel and in the higher dining expenses associated with tourist areas.

The overall success of the prom can only be measured by those attending, including seniors hoping to win the honor of being this year's Queen and King. They and others who attend will have made a memory to last a lifetime. For those who don't attend, they'll have one part of their journey to graduation marked "detour" - once passed, unable to be enjoyed.

Prom will be held at the Lake Mirror Center of Lakeland, FL on April 10, 2010. The event will last from 8 p.m. to Midnight. Tickets are being sold in the BHS Main Offices through April 2.

The Apple iPad

BY JONATHON CASTELLANOS

On January 27, 2010 an Apple Press Conference was held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco, CA. There, Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, announced the all new iPad. Very similar to the Amazon Kindle, its allows a user to listen to music, watch videos, browse the web, use apps, and look at photos all on a 9.7 LED-backlit glossy widescreen Multi-Touch screen. With a 10 hour battery-life this new device lets you do all the things you love to do on an iPhone and an iPod Touch on a screen that is four times bigger. Brian Patterson employee at MidFlorida

in Lakeland says he'd like to have an iPad. Patterson is heavily into technology, including having an iPhone and driving a voice-active car. For Patterson, this new technology would be "cool" to own. "I want one so bad" he exclaimed, "it is like a big iPod Touch!"

This new device will be released with one model that has only Wi-Fi and another that has both Wi-Fi and 3G. The 3G model will have a SIM Card inserted into the iPad and, as long as someone pays the bill, they will have 3G coverage for the iPad, and internet anywhere with 3G coverage. The pricing will vary depending on the amount

of memory someone purchases it with and these Wi-Fi/3G features. It is very light weight, with the Wi-Fi model at only 1.5 pounds and the 3G model at 1.6 pounds.



Many critics are saying that the iPads will only be bought by the person with a lot of money to spend. Few people will be able to buy it. Only parents like Joe and Julie Van Hart's dad

and Patterson may fit into that category, while few BHS, IB, or Summerlin students hope to own this technology. CNNMoney.com said in a video introducing the iPad that "the Upper Class

who has money to throw around, and doesn't really care how they use it," are the ones who will be buying the iPad. In a recent poll 14% of people will buy the cheapest iPad, which is the 16 gigabyte version with only Wi-Fi and 52% are planning not to buy an iPad at all. The Apple Company is big fan of being environmentally friendly, so when they built this new device they made it to reduce environmental impact using some chemicals that are less harmful to the planet and recyclable aluminum. With all these new features, there is one question to be answered, is the iPad going to be a failure or success? Are the Bartow High students planning to buy one?