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THE TEEN APPEAL

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The Teen Appeal ultimate prom guide

Prom shopping tips: Where are the best deals?

By Jacqueline Smith
Whitehaven High School

Anyone can tell you that shopping for senior prom is not an easy task. The biggest prom worry for some girls and guys is affording the dress or tux they really want for that special night.

Believe it or not, one can find some great deals for excellent prices. Extraordinary does not always mean expensive. First and foremost, know what your budget looks like and stick to it.

Ask a parent or go to a seamstress and find your measurements and know exactly what size you wear to avoid having to make several alterations.

Visit local boutiques and department stores like Macy's, Dillard's, and J.C. Penney. Locally, Kids & Moms Formal Wear (Stateline Road), Ross: Dress for Less and David's Bridal are good places to go for high quality and low prices.

Whitehaven senior, Khaliah Cooper, suggests: "Pick for comfort and versatility, not just for style. Nine times out of 10, you're only going to wear the dress once, so renting isn't such a bad idea.

You may even buy a regular party dress because it's for one, more cost efficient and two, less painful to your parent's pockets."

Consider shopping online to see a larger variety of the hottest styles for 2010. Online stores generally have great web-only dis-

counts and most offer free shipping and handling.

Formal wear stores advertise the same deals so always be on the lookout for "Clearance", "This Week Only Sales" and "Sweepstakes" promotions to win trendy dresses, suits and cash prizes.

Davidsprom.com, TJformal.com, and Promdresses2010.com showcase great collections for glamorous proms that will leave your classmates in awe.

Many stores have coupons printed in the Commercial Appeal. They send out sales papers to your residence as well. On some websites, you can sign up for text alerts, which include more coupons and package deals (dress, shoes, accessories, and even make-up) at a deep discount.

Alternatively, for those "It's not like I'll ever wear this dress anywhere else" people, you may also look into rental places, which are throughout Memphis and online.

Davida Pete, a senior at City University, thinks it's not a bad idea to have your dress custom made by someone. "Custom made means it's exactly how you want it."

Remember, whatever route you choose, shop wisely. Most importantly, have fun.

Change in prom dates causes conflict, decisions for students

By Natasha Mehra
White Station High School

While many students are speculating that this year's prom could be the last for Memphis City School students, high school juniors and seniors are anxiously awaiting this year's event. Prom is a time of celebration, fun and dancing. Some prom times have been changed from last year, and are taking place in early April. In fact, Overton High School's prom is April 9, more than a month before the end of the school year. Central High School and Craigmont High School are just a week after on April 16.

On the other hand, for schools like Whitehaven High School, Kirby High School, East High School and Hillcrest High School, prom is fairly close to Advanced Placement exams, which are scheduled during the first few weeks of May.

White Station High School junior Anjelica Saulsberry likes her prom's

date this year.

"I think it's a great idea, considering the date May 1 is a simple date that everyone will remember. I also think it offers a well-needed break from studying for us AP kiddos," Saulsberry says.

White Station student Elsy Rodriguez agrees.

She says: "Well, I think prom on May 1 sounds like a great date ... seniors have the opportunity to plan other events if they wish to do so. And it is the last month of the school year. I also think the date is well planned."

For some students, however, May 1 means the Memphis in May Beale Street Music Festival. This year artists like Colbie Caillat, Alice in Chains, Flaming Lips and Elmwood are all performing.

White Station senior Chris Hoyle is skipping prom to attend Beale Street Music Festival. He especially enjoys it, as he has his own band. Hoyle says, "It [Music Fest], is just more fun than prom."

Morgan Heathcock, a White Station senior says she would not mind missing prom for The Beale Street Music Fest.

"I would rather go to Music Fest because it is so much cooler than prom," she says.

For some students it is just a matter of celebrating the end of high school, and the date is not necessarily a factor. Regardless of whether they have studying to do or a music festival begins on the same day, students who are excited about prom will attend.



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Inside

All you seniors, the Teen Appeal has the cure for Senioritis.

p. 2

Seniors, learn about the MCS Career and College Expo.

p. 3

Learn first-hand about the Grizzlies Journalism Night.

p. 10

The Teen Appeal provides cure for Senioritis

By Alexandria Shores
Kirby High School

The weather is getting warmer, flowers are blooming and seniors are bursting with anxious excitement. 'Tis the season for senioritis.

According to wisegeek.com, symptoms include chronic yawning, laziness, failure to study hard for tests, a lack of interest in school-related activities, procrastination, a lack of energy, motivation and apathy.

"Another symptom is no drive. Senioritis makes you not care about anything. All you want to do is leave," said Velecia Robinson, senior at Kirby High School.

If you are a senior and find yourself experiencing one or more of these symptoms, you may have senioritis.

Senioritis is a term used in the United States to describe the decreased motivation toward studies displayed by students who are

nearing the end of their high school career.

Wisegeek.com says that senioritis can strike at any time during a student's senior year but generally appears around the final months of the second semester.

Around this time, students have received acceptance letters and scholarships and are aware that they are about to graduate.

"I've had senioritis since I stepped foot on campus. I do whatever the minimum is just to get through it," said Ciara King, senior at Kirby High School.

This bittersweet attitude toward their final days as high school students can cause seniors to start skipping school and paying less attention in class.

Some students find it hard to summon the brainpower needed to answer the easiest questions to recall simple facts.

This simple, contagious, and seemingly harmless condition,

which plagues thousands of seniors across the country every year, is beginning to claim its victims as the Class of 2010 prepares to exit high school.

Even though senioritis is very common, students who become consumed by it can be seriously affected. Some students may suffer from a low GPA, frustration and extreme apathy.

In order to counteract these effects, seniors should take a healthy dose of motivation.

Internationalcollegecounselors.com says students should stay active, stay involved and stay focused.

Seniors should not forget that their last few grades count and can effect admission into their dream school.

"Colleges can still see your transcripts from your second semester and if your grades are horrific, they can rescind your acceptance," says Priya Sonty, Spanish teacher at Kirby High School.

According to Internationalcollegecounselors.com colleges do have the right to block your admission and some students do get booted. Students can also get dismissed from an honors program or have their admission postponed.

Knowing this information may cause some students to become concerned.

Glensia Cooper, senior at Kirby High School says "All this stress and pressure makes me nervous about meeting graduation requirements."

Students should stay motivated, study hard and get tutoring if necessary.

Another good idea is to take the advice of Teresa Smith, a senior at Germantown High School, "Take it easy and try not to be so hard on yourself."

Seniors should also encourage each other. They can form study groups and work on projects together.

Seniors should do anything that will keep them happy and motivated during this stressful time.

If that is not enough, think of graduation. It is the moment all students have been waiting for and it is just around the corner. To ensure the right to a diploma one must continue to do well in school.

Many students slack off because they feel they have already met the requirements and believe they have all their credits so there is no use in making an effort.

"If you continue to do a good job it shows you are serious and ready for college and life in general. You will no longer be looked at as a child but as an adult, and there is a certain standard you must meet," said Marie Shores, a University of Memphis student.

Having a successful senior year shows one can handle college, a career and the world.

White Station "Internash Bash" teaches cultural awareness

By Ruthie Shaffer
White Station High School

The second annual White Station High School "Internash Bash" was held on Friday, March 12, 2010. The performance included a host of talent from karate, beatboxing, hip-hop, step dancing, Indian dancing and modeling. Many of the White Station High School student models wore authentic apparel to represent 32 countries and states.

Acts such as "Bumbro" (a traditional Indian dance) performed by Sandhya Sridhar and "Korean Fusion" (a modern Korean dance) performed by Seojung Kang and Alyson Lee entertained the audience by teaching them about amazing cultures

"It was great seeing dances from several different cultures," says

Rebecca McAlexander, White Station High School sophomore. In addition, spectacular Chinese dragon dances were performed using over 10 feet tall dragon costumes.

Beatboxing and umbrella dancing were also popular acts of the night as Sharif Kayali graced the eager audience with his beatboxing skills and Gina Sun danced her way to the spotlight with music and her umbrella.

"Sharif's talents will take him to far places," says Elyza Monetfalcon, White Station High School sophomore.

"I was really nervous, but an awesome audience made me feel much better," said Kayali.

"All of the acts were really exciting," says Austen Poynter, White Station High School sophomore.

Although viewers enjoyed Friday's superb performances the

focus was on the two worthy charity organizations: Passport to Hope and Children International. All ticket sales went to these organizations.

The Passport to Hope volunteers in addition to handing out food and clothes to indigent children around the world, they also get to know the children and their specific needs. They give mercy to children around the world. Although Passport to Hope is a Christian organization, the volunteers help anyone and everyone in need around the world, regardless of denomination.

"I think it is great that we can go to an event to learn about other cultures and benefit the children of the world as well," said Anneliese Sloves, White Station High School sophomore.

Children International is a similar charity. They provide food, clothes and medical care to children

throughout the world. Many people forget that food and clothing are necessary but not sufficient for a healthy life. Proper medical services and dental care are crucial to growth and prosperity. These services are often overlooked when addressing problems around the world.

This event was a great success on more than one level: it highlighted the cultural diversity at White Station High School, created an evening of excitement and learning

" I think it is great that we can go to an event to learn about other cultures and benefit the children of the world as well.

Anneliese Sloves, White Station High School sophomore

MCS expo provides students valuable opportunities

By **Jacqueline Smith**
Whitehaven High School

February 17 and 18, Memphis City Schools sponsored their 2nd Annual Career and College Expo for all high school seniors.

More than 6,000 students ventured to the Cook Convention Center to speak with colleges, universities, and vocational institutions, along with experts who talked about seeking financial aid to fund higher learning expenses.

A multitude of business and industry representatives were available to talk about potential jobs within their companies.

Medical Services, Culinary Arts, Criminal Justice, Fire Department Services, Military Branches, Hotel and Travel Agencies, Marketing and Tourism, etc., were also present to address global careers accessible to students who are willing to put in the effort.

Frank Jones, senior at City University remarks, "The Expo was a magnificent experience. I really met a lot of great people

“ The expo was a magnificent experience. I really met a lot of great people and received exposure to a diversity of career choices.

Frank Jones, City University senior

and received exposure to a diversity of career choices that I knew nothing about.”

In addition to learning about internships and apprenticeships (trade schools), students had an opportunity to interview on the spot for jobs—both year long and seasonal.

Whitehaven High School Salutatorian, Raven Chism, commented, "I found many summer programs based on business and medical fields, which are my college interests. I even accepted a job offer for a Performing Arts Summer Program where I'll be working and teaching elementary students Cheerleading and Hip Hop dance moves."

An idea proposed by Superintendent Dr. Cash and

spearheaded eagerly by Career and Technology Education (or CTE) Executive Director, Mrs. Willie Slate, the Expo falls high among the activities honoring MCS's department of CTE Month, which is in February.

Dr. Carol Peterson, CTE Instructional Supervisor said: "I'm extremely happy we have had the opportunity to help students focus on their future. The Career and College Expo has been excellent in implementing CTE's goal—helping students understand what's out there, whether its college, vocational programs, government, or military because each student's career path is different and CTE realizes that."

One unique highlight Dr.

Peterson pointed out is that the Expo goes beyond your traditional college fair. The Expo presented a wide range of career options to interest each participant.

As mentioned to MCS C19 News by Dr. Cash: "Some of our most successful local entrepreneurs did not go to college by the way, therefore we have a range of colleges and careers available."

The Expo also started a new element this year by providing each school with a small guide session and outlook of what to expect before adventuring inside.

Dr. Peterson explained this concept to be a premiere solution to time constraint complaints

from students from last year. With a session before hand, students may receive quick lessons on various topics: business etiquette, professional dress, leadership, résumés and more topics of their choice in the future.

And with a tour guide, the students hope to maximize their time by grasping an idea of what is there, where to look too, and who to talk to too within the time given.

An excellent component in executing the school board's mission "Break Through Leadership, Break Through Results...Every Child College Bound," students should expect to see more College and Career Expos in the future.



Photo property of Memphis City Schools, careers, technology and adult education

Friends, fun a must for post-prom activities

By **Alexandria Shores,**
Marie Ryall

Kirby, White Station High School

One of the most exciting and fun-filled event of one's life is finally here: Prom night. After finding the perfect dress, the best shoes and the cutest hairstyle. It is time to find a great post-prom hangout spot.

Of course everyone will have fun showing off their amazing dance moves and goofing around with friends, but one can make prom night just as fun after the big dance.

White Station High School Senior, Kesleigh Jones: said, "The actual

prom part is kind of lame. It's the before and after that rocks."

Prom tends to be just a stop along the way rather than the main event. The dilemma seems to be being able to find safe and inexpensive activities to plan for the night.

One cool idea is to go bowling.

Kendra Wilks, a senior at Southwind High School, said: "It's going to be fun! All of my friends will be doing it."

Keeping your dress or tuxedo on just makes it even more fun.

Everyone could also gather a group and go see a movie. This way you can show off your style and your cute date.

Teresa Smith, a senior at Germantown High School, said, "Everyone can have a great time after prom if they rent a hotel room

with all their friends and have a sleep over. That will be a cool way to spend your last few moments as high school students together."

Taylor Rice, a White Station High School senior, said she was unsure of her plans for this year's prom. She did, however, explain what she did last year. She said, regarding the typical format of the evening, "You take pictures with your date, go to dinner, go to prom, and then go to someone's house to hang out or watch movies."

The whole crew can participate by bringing bundles of junk food and scary movies that everyone can enjoy.

When tummies start growling everyone can grab a bite at a fancy restaurant or just hang out and talk about what a great time they had at IHOP or a fast

food place.

An interesting activity for prom goers is to have a progressive dinner before prom to save money on food. A progressive dinner is when you go to different houses for dinner, and each house has a different course of the meal. Another idea is to have an ice cream party at someone's house where everyone brings different ice cream types and toppings

"I'm hitting up an after-prom party," said Velecia Robinson, a senior at Kirby High School.

An after party is a great idea for those who do not want to leave the great music and crazy friends behind.

Many students go to after prom parties, but an alternative is going to a nearby coffee shop or a dessert place to

hang out and enjoy a cup of coffee and some dessert. They could even rent a movie and watch it at home. These activities are fun, safe and inexpensive.

After you have done everything there possibly is to do and are still not ready to go home, you, your date and all your friends can just go for a ride Remember always to drive safely.

Driving around with friends can be fun. You can recap the night or just laugh about some of your favorite memories.

No matter what you decide to do, do not forget to take lots of pictures so you can always remember what should be one of the greatest nights of your life.

Where is your prom this year?

BTW	May 14	No location available
Carver	April 23	Memphis Marriott East
Central City	April 16 April 30	Woodland Hills Secret Location
Cordova	April 30	Esplanade
Craigmont	April 16	The Palace
Fairley	April 30	The Peabody
Frayser	April 17	Holiday Inn on Popular
Hamilton	April 30	Hudson Hall
Hillcrest	May 7	Downtown Double Tree Hotel
Hollis Price	May 8	No location available
Kingsbury	May 3	Appling Manor
Kirby	May 8	The Peabody
Melrose	May 14	Woodland Hills
Middle College	May 15	Bridges Memphis
Mitchell	May 8	Minglewood Hall
Northside	May 7	Pink Palace
Oakhaven	April 30	April House
Overton	April 9	Woodland Hills
Raleigh Egypt	May 7	HomeBuilders
Ridgeway	April 24	Woodland Hills
Sheffield	April 30	Appling Manor
Trezevant	April 30	Memphis Marriott East
Westwood	April 30	Memphis Marriott East
White Station	May 1	No location available
Whitehaven	May 15	The Peabody

Despite numerous attempts in calling the main offices of Manassas and Woodale high schools, we were unable to gather prom information for these schools.

MCS students weigh-in on earthquakes world-wide, local

By Natasha Mehra
White Station High School

This year has been the year of the earthquake. An earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale ravaged Haiti on January 12. Although the earthquake only lasted 35 seconds, the destruction was massive. It took an estimated 100,000 lives and completely destroyed Port-au-Prince, the country's capitol.

Just when the media frenzy had settled down surrounding the Haiti disaster, another massive earthquake struck Chile.

Measuring 8.8 on the Richter Scale, this earthquake took an estimated 600 lives. Although this earthquake was stronger, it took fewer lives than the earthquake in Haiti because of Chile's stronger infrastructure.

Another earthquake rattled Taiwan at a 6.4 magnitude on March 4. It is estimated that about 10 people have died and more than 700 people have been injured. The earthquake hit in a sparsely populated area, but shocks were felt around the country.

Also in Asia, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.0 on the Richter's scale struck Turkey on March 8. At least 60 people were killed, most near the city of Basyurt, the epicenter.

Although the North Anatolian fault runs through the country, most earthquakes are not as high in magnitude. The last great earthquake to strike the country was in 1999, measuring 7.4 on the Richter scale.

With all these earthquakes happening, many people are speculating about the "great earthquake" that is supposedly

going to strike the New Madrid fault.

Many people have suggested that the pressure building up in the fault line near Memphis could be released soon. In fact, there was a scare in December of 1990 when Iben Browning, a scientist who had no former training in climatology or geology, predicted a strong earthquake. Despite the widespread panic, nothing happened.

White Station High School sophomore Anneliese Sloves says the speculation is pointless:

"They predicted a huge earthquake for us a while ago and it never happened. I don't think you can really predict when the plates will shift, plus the New Madrid fault hasn't moved in a while."

Fellow White Station sophomore Haley Harlen shares Sloves' opinion, "I don't think you can predict earthquakes. They happen when they happen."

The New Madrid fault runs 120 miles along the Mississippi River. The focal point of the fault is along the western border of Tennessee along the Mississippi River.

The last great earthquake was actually a series of earthquakes between 1811 and 1812. Most of these were at a magnitude of 7.0-7.5. The Mississippi River flowed backwards for three days and Reel Foot Lake was formed by this massive event.

White Station student Sharif Kayali has no doubt that this earthquake will take place: "This fault line has a long history of trouble; it dates back to prehistoric times. The magnitude of the 1811-12 'quakes is expected to happen just once

every 500 years. But a moderate quake with a magnitude 6.0 to 6.5 is expected to happen every 90 years, and the last one was in the late 1800s."

Kayali continued saying: "We are currently in 2010. So it will happen, no doubt. Earthquakes are definitely predictable, but not necessarily within a year or two that it will happen. On the other hand, don't count on this earthquake 'bypassing' or the fault suddenly becoming dormant or inactive. It will happen, unfortunately."

Scientist Michael Wyession believes that the chance of a major earthquake is not more likely along the New Madrid fault than in any other area.

"I'm not saying we won't get an earthquake here, but there is no indication that the risk is higher here than in Wichita, Kan., or Columbus, Ohio."

People across the Mid-south have different opinions. Austen Poynter, a student at White Station High School, is not sure about the possibility of an earthquake.

He thinks that scientists try their best to make sound predictions, but nothing is certain.

"They can make an estimation and hopefully science advances enough to be able to start predicting them accurately because it would save hundreds...thousands of lives," Poynter said.

As of now, the world can only wait for more earthquakes. Scientists have not been able to predict an earthquake accurately enough to make a difference. With the technological boom, however, anything is possible.

Teachers, students experience problems with new grading system, PowerTeacher

By Carmen Scruggs
White Station High School

Block scheduling, I.D. badges and exhibition projects have all been controversial additions to Memphis City School policy, but the switch from TeacherEase, the original web-based grade book, to PowerTeacher, the first district-wide electronic grade book, has caused additional confusion in some Memphis City Schools.

The new online grade book cost \$248,000 without the extra annual licensing fees, according to an article from The Commercial Appeal.

PowerTeacher was introduced into certain Memphis City Schools at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, yet the database has continued to cause conflict among teachers, parents and students.

In fact, the same article in The Commercial Appeal from September 2009, illustrated parents' concern over the new database, and that concern is still present seven months later.

Many parents and teachers find the lack of communication a significant problem with PowerTeacher.

"I would like a way to e-mail the teachers and I am not able to do that through PowerTeacher. We had a way that we could e-mail teachers, but we don't have that with PowerTeacher," said White Station High School parent Linda Nagy.

TeacherEase enabled teachers to e-mail parents about students' grades, behavior and assignments, a valuable asset to many teachers — one PowerTeacher lacks.

"TeacherEase wasn't just a grade system, but a communication tool as well. There's no way to communicate directly from the system through e-mail to parents with PowerTeacher," said White Station High School sophomore English teacher, Lorraine Hall.

"I think the board intended PowerTeacher to be a good thing, that they meant it to be easy for teachers—it has not been that way. [PowerTeacher] has resulted in a loss of communication between parents and teachers, and that's the last thing they want," said White Station junior English teacher, Suzanne Wexler.

The other major issues concerning PowerTeacher are those involving the absence and calculations of numeric grades and access to the system.

"[PowerTeacher] is the biggest waste of man hours when you have to recalculate grades five times and it's not an input error. It gives inaccurate averages and it bothers me that students can't see individual grades — only averages," said White Station Spanish teacher Lydia Martin.

Other teachers have also had problems with the system calculating grades.

"It seems to be a contradiction when the board asks us to spend time on quality lessons and then we have to spend hours checking calculations that a database should be handling correct-

ly," Hall said.

"We shouldn't keep PowerTeacher because it's messing up grades consistently. Every time we get report cards the grades are wrong," said White Station junior Corbin Hubbard.

The removal of weighted categories has also resulted in incorrect calculations and other problems.

"It irritates me that every new period, I have to go and tell the program how to weigh the grades again — there should be a default," Wexler said.

"The system goes back and recalculates the first nine weeks at the end of the second nine weeks. In the past, it threw out categories, so it came up with numbers that were incorrect," said Hall.

PowerTeacher does not allow parents or students to see individual grades in a given subject, which many consider a dilemma.

"[PowerTeacher] is not user-friendly to kids — it does not tell them their individual scores," Martin said. What does this mean? What does it do then?

Other difficulties include the viewing and access to the database.

"When I click to see my grades from past report cards or current ones, it won't show up or says it's unavailable. I think we should have kept TeacherEase — it is a lot easier to operate and use. My mom doesn't have a clue how to work PowerTeacher but got along with TeacherEase just fine," said White Station High School senior Rachel Owens.

"The school hasn't given me my password so I have no idea what I have in any of my classes. We should've kept TeacherEase — it got me in trouble because of behavior logs e-mailed to parents, but at least I knew what I had in my classes," Hubbard said.

Although PowerTeacher has caused difficulty, the system has corrected access errors.

"Everything works in relationship for parents to see, [PowerTeacher] is just not as accessible. Perhaps some people don't see it as user-friendly," said White Station senior principal and optional coordinator Carrye Holland.

Another important factor of PowerTeacher is the cost. The system has been paid for by the board, instead of by the individual school like with TeacherEase.

"I can see why the board chose it because it's not an added expense," said Nagy.

Other teachers find the price of the system a debatable one.

"I question who bought the program and what motivated them," Martin said.

"If the board had to pay teachers for the man hours used over PowerTeacher, they would see it is not a cost-effective system," said Hall.



TeacherEase.
Web-based Software for Teachers

Photo property of TeacherEase Software company

OPINION

THE TEEN APPEAL

Giving truth to Memphis youth

April 2010 Issue Contributing Reporters and Photographers

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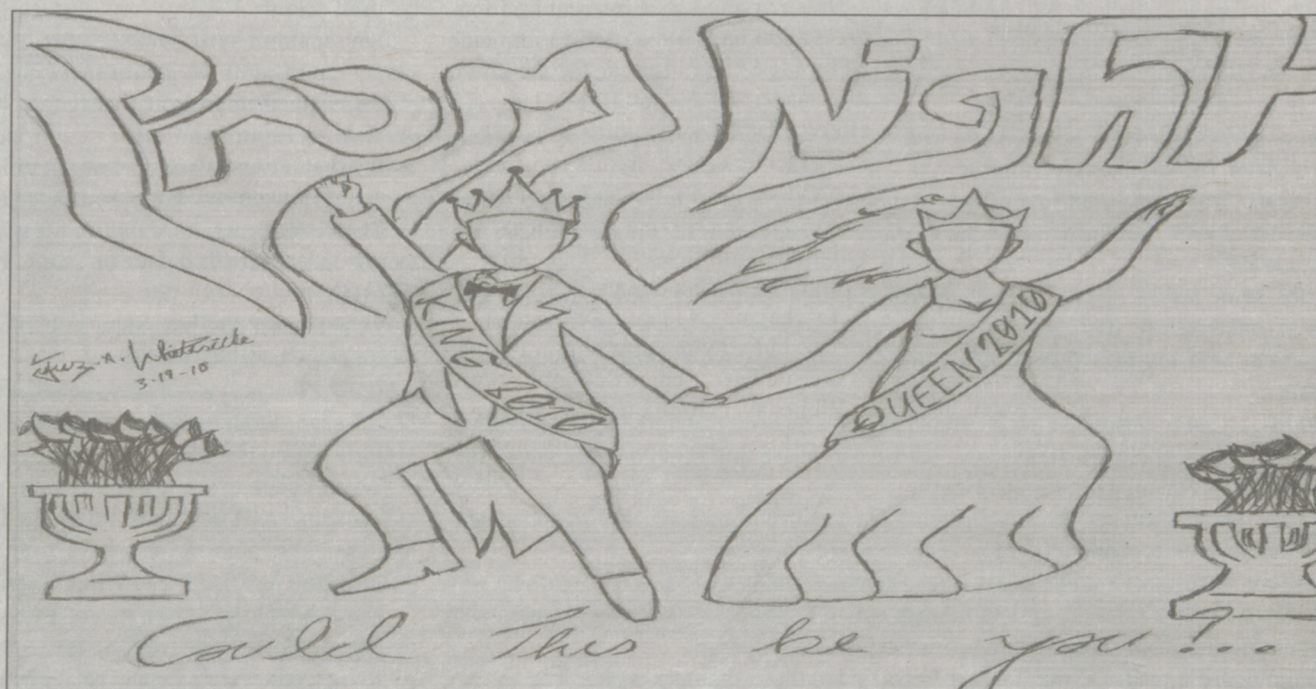
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Prom 2010 | Jamar Whiteside, Central High School



Spike Lee, shows importance of passion, drive in career

By Marcus Matthews

Teen Appeal Coordinator

Director Spike Lee came to the University of Memphis March 17. He spoke and answered questions from the audience. I was excited to attend.

After seeing *Do The Right Thing*, one of Lee's most popular movies, when I was nine years old, I became a fan of his work. The movie chronicles a hot day in Bed-Stuy, a New York neighborhood. Everyday hood life, love for family, soulful music, the destructive power of racism and violence were major themes in the film.

My older brothers discussed how Lee, who played Mookie, the little guy

delivering pizzas in the movie, had directed the film, too.

I was surprised because he looked like a young Black kid. In my nine-year-old mind, Black kids were not filmmakers. I thought they looked more like Steven Spielberg.

I later found out Lee graduated from Morehouse College and the Tisch School of Arts and was 32 years old when *Do The Right Thing* was released in June 1989.

He directed three more movies over the next three years, *Mo' Better Blues* (1990), *Jungle Fever* (1991) and

Malcolm X (1992). His movies encouraged me to develop my story telling skills.

Mo' Better Blues' plot was similar to the plot of my life. Bleek Gilliam (played by Denzel Washington) had a strict mother who made him stay inside and practice his trumpet while the other neighborhood children were sent out to play. My mother would not let me leave the street unsupervised when I was young.

Jungle Fever dealt with interracial dating. Although I was not dating at age 11, I knew that people had opposing viewpoints about Blacks and Whites dating, especially in the South.

see Marcus page 7

No Prom in 2010: Fact or Fiction?

By **Jacqueline Smith**
Whitehaven High School

Rumor after rumor has permeated the hallways of Memphis City Schools regarding big changes for future high school students, including no senior prom after the graduating class of 2010.



Despite the increasing speculation, no one has asked students how they feel about the potential change—until now.

Seventy percent of Whitehaven High students that were asked their thoughts of senior prom replied: “Yes, I would definitely care if my class was forfeited the activities from senior week and senior prom that every class looks forward to.”

Fifty seven percent of those who showed a desire for a senior prom were tenth graders. Others didn’t care or were neutral about prom.

As a freshman from Whitehaven High, Brittany Jones, showed her anger and

went on to say: “This is my last memory with my best friends from high school that I may never see again. I want to remember those moments before I enter the next important phase of my life, which is college.”

Drastic policy changes required for graduation have already been implemented by MCS just this year for the graduating class of 2013 and all the classes afterwards: 40 community service hours, 22 academic course credits (up from 21 in previous years), and completion of one online course. Having no week of senior activities or prom would be another change for these students.

Not that any students are owed such luxury, but why break with tradition all of the sudden? Senior School Counselor at Whitehaven High, Ms. Dana Baker says: “It’s wrong to take away such privilege for those who work so hard all four years of their high school career.”

A few factors students have considered in trying to reach the bottom of this rumor is that senior prom functions at seniors expense as included in their seniors dues, the list of people graduating is

final so more class time won’t help, and since when did a little get together hurt anybody?

But ending your suspicions. No discussion or plans have been made by Superintendent Dr. Cash or the Board of the Commissioners to end the tradition of Senior Prom.

According to Mr. Quintin Taylor of the MCS Department of Communications, “Senior Prom is however determined by the discretion of your school’s principal as prom is not a right but more of a privilege.”

So class of 2011, fear no more. The party shall continue so long as you continue to play the leadership role of sen-

iors and set the standard for how your school should act each day.



Photo illustration by
Jacqueline Smith, Whitehaven

“

Senior Prom is however determined by the discretion of your school’s principal as prom is not a right but more of a privilege

Quintin Taylor, MCS Department of Communications

”

■ from Marcus page 6

Malcolm X chronicled the life of one of the leading figures in the Civil Rights Movement, Malcolm X. I remember all the hype surrounding the release of the film based on one of the most controversial men in American history. I did not know much about X before the film, but I wanted to know more about him after watching it.

Lee was not the only person who influenced me to pursue storytelling, but he is one of them. And I wanted to hear what he had to say to the buzzing audience at The Rose Theater at The University of Memphis.

I’ll paraphrase one of the messages he shared with the capacity crowd on campus.

When you start thinking about careers and choosing a major be sure to choose something you will be happy doing.

It worked for Spike Lee.

What stories are we leaving out?

The Teen Appeal is distributed to all 28 traditional Memphis City High Schools and we want to make sure we are representing all of them.

If you have a story idea that you would like to see in your newspaper, please call us at 678-4710, or e-mail theteenappeal@hotmail.com.

Also, don’t forget to check us out online at www.teenappeal.com.

MEMPHIS HAPPENINGS

By **Natasha Mehra**
White Station High School

April 1- 6: Come see Follow the Drinking Gourd, a historical program about African Americans using constellations to escape slavery featured at Sharpe Planetarium. For more information visit <http://www.memphismuseums.org/>.

April 2: Come see Robin Thicke at the Cannon Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Visit <http://www.thecannoncenter.com/> for tickets and more information.

April 3: Watch the Grizzlies play yet another division rival in the Houston Rockets in back-to-back games. Come out and see former Grizzly Shane Battier, Trevor Ariza and Yao Ming. Game time is set at 7 p.m. For tickets call 888-HOOP or visit grizzlies.com.

April 10: See the Grizzlies play their final home game of the 2009-2010 season against the Philadelphia 76ers. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. For tickets call 888-HOOP or visit grizzlies.com.

April 10: Come see the Central High School Choir Singers join with the Memphis Symphony to produce Mozart's Requiem. This event is taking place at the Cannon Center for Performing Arts at 8 p.m. Visit <http://www.thecannoncenter.com/> for more details.

April 13: Ani DiFranco, Grammy winning singer, is coming to the New Daisy Theater at 8 p.m. Log onto <http://www.newdaisy.com/> for tickets and more information.

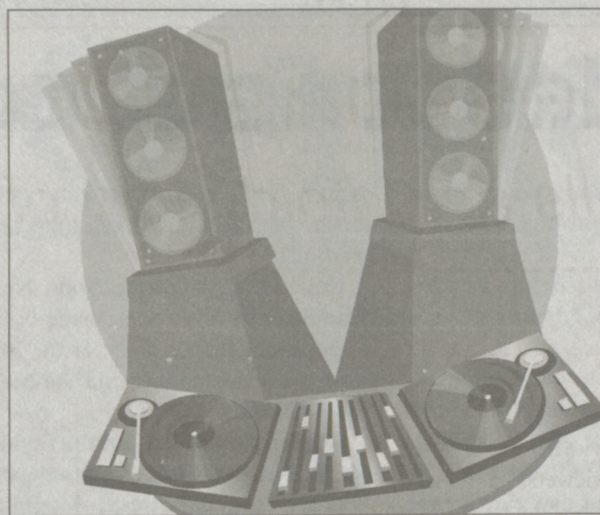
April 16: Bill Cosby is coming to the Horseshoe Casino Hotel in Tunica. Shows are at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. For tickets visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com/Horseshoe-Casino-tickets-Tunica/venue/221506>.

April 17: The Southern Hot Wing contest and festival is back again. This event benefits the Ronald McDonald House. Visit <http://www.southernhotwingfestival.com> for event information.

April 20 - 22: Come see NASCAR Sam's Town 250 at Memphis Motorsports Park. This race benefits St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For tickets or more information visit www.memphismotorsports.com or call 1-866-40-SPEED.

April 24: Come see Kings and Queens of Soul: A Tribute at the Cannon Center for Performing Arts at 8 p.m. For more details log on to <http://www.thecannoncenter.com/>.

April 26-27: Enjoy Celtic Women: Songs From the Heart at the Orpheum Theater. For tickets and more information visit <http://www.orpheum-mem->



Prom playlist

What songs are worth hearing at your prom this year?

By Carmen Scruggs, White Station High School

To hear

DJ Khaled ft. Ludacris "All I Do Is Win"

With its combination of great artists, including T-Pain, Rick Ross and Snoop Dogg, all I do is listen to this song.

Taio Cruz "Break Your Heart"

The song has a very upbeat tempo and soulful lyrics, breaking the heart of listeners everywhere.

B.O.B. ft. Bruno Mars "Nothing on You"

Other songs have nothing on this one because of its good lyrics and catchy beat.

Weezer ft. Lil Wayne "I Can't Stop Partying"

Pardon me for being cheesy, but Weezer and Lil Wayne are one great crowd pleaser. Still not at its full eminence, this unique combination is a surprisingly good one.

Lifehouse "Halfway Gone"

This band continues to release great and unique singles.

Train "Hey, Soul Sister"

Having been ranked on the Billboard, this song is clearly a crowd pleaser- even with Train's new style.

Not to hear

Justin Bieber ft. Ludacris "Baby"

Please hit puberty before you release songs on the radio. This combination does not work.

Kesha "Blah Blah Blah"

You may have gotten away with your obnoxious valley girl voice in Tik Tok, but your time has run out on this song.

Jay Sean "Do You Remember"

Unfortunately, I can't forget how annoying this song is.

Shinedown "If You Only Knew"

If you only knew what an awful musician you are, then maybe you would stop putting about these unbelievable bad singles.

Nickelback "Never Gonna Be Alone"

I mean, it's Nickelback. What do you expect? They are going to be alone without any fans sooner rather than later.

Carrie Underwood "Temporary Home"

This song was poorly composed - I hope it has a very temporary stint on the radio.

Movie teaches lessons about prejudice

My Name is Khan tells an untold story of loss, heartache

By **Natasha Mehra**
White Station High School



My Name Is Khan is a story about a Muslim man, Khan, with Asperger's Syndrome, living in San Francisco, Calif., and how his life is dramatically changed by the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

He and his family are victims of discrimination and racial prejudice although Khan had nothing to do with the attacks. Their business

goes into the red and their friends refuse to remain acquainted with them. His wife, a Hindu woman, leaves him and extremely angry, tells him to not return until he has told the president of the United States that he is not a terrorist.

Being a man with Asperger's Syndrome, he cannot comprehend facial expressions and emotions. He takes her words seriously, and is on a quest to meet the president and tell him, "My Name is Khan, and I

am not a terrorist."

The movie does drag on for some viewers, as it is two and a half hours long, revolving around Khan's attempt to meet President B u s h .

The movie is humorous throughout despite the tragic situation.

When he goes to Georgia

i n
h i s
attempt to meet the president, Khan runs into a funny woman named Mama Jenny. Her presence lightens the movie's mood and makes viewers laugh, whether it is from her grandmother-styled hugs or her exaggeration of everything. Overall, *My Name is Khan* has a good message, but it is a little too

Natasha's take:



**The
Reel
Facts**

Title: *My Name is Khan*

Rating: No rating

Running time:

2 hours and 28 minutes

Web site:

<http://www.mynameiskhanthefilm.com/>

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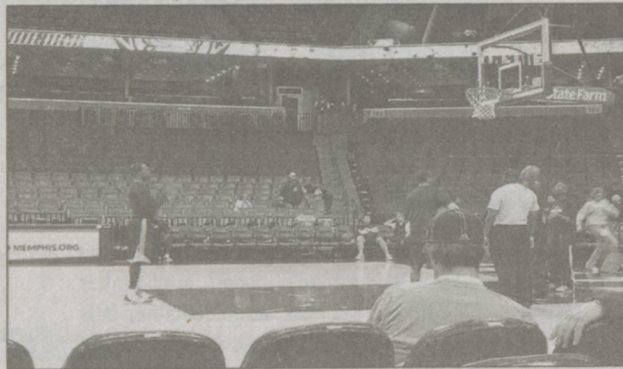
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SPORTS



Photos by Natasha Mehra
Memphis Grizzlies warm-up before the game,
OJ Mayo and Marcus Williams



Photos by Natasha Mehra
Memphis Grizzlies warm-up before the game, Mike Conley



Photos by Natasha Mehra
Postgame conference with Memphis Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins

Grizzlies Journalism Night teaches, entertains Teen Appeal

By Natasha Mehra
White Station High School

On Saturday, March 20, 2010, Teen Appeal reporters received the opportunity to visit the FedEx Forum and speak with journalists and professionals who deal with the media every day. They spoke with Matt Tumbleson, the Grizzlies Manager of Corporate Communications and Public

Relations, and Ron Tillery, the Grizzlies reporter for The Commercial Appeal. Student Journalists learned about journalism and asked questions about the field, especially those interested in covering sports. Later, the Teen Appealers toured the FedEx Forum Media Center and watched the Grizzlies warm up for their game against the Golden State Warriors. After watching the Memphis

Grizzlies defeat Golden State, three students who wrote sports stories for their schools attended the Grizzlies post game interview with Coach Lionel Hollins. They received first hand experience by being in a press conference. The Grizzlies Journalism Night offered valuable experience for aspiring journalists and allowed them to observe much of what a journalist does first-hand.

Melrose wins state championship

By Natasha Mehra

After the long wait, basketball finals season has come around again. Many sports fans were excited for March Madness, but many people were looking forward to the high school basketball state championships as well.

Sophomore and Teen Appeal staffer Ruthie Shaffer enjoyed watching the matchups. She said: "The high school basketball championships were really exciting and the competition was fierce!"

Fellow sophomore Khang Ngyuen agreed. "This was a good year (for fans). I actually participated in homecoming week which was really fun," he said.

Many schools have excellent basketball programs and that rival the White Station Spartans, last year's state champions. Memphis has many great basketball teams including Raleigh-Egypt, White Station, Ridgeway and Melrose.

People eagerly watched the high school matchups after the disappointing season for the Memphis Tigers, who lost to the Ole Miss Rebels in the second round of the NIT on Friday, March 19. Senior Kevin Patel was among them. He says, "It (the championship game) was a solid performance."

Memphians kept a close eye on Joe Jackson, the starting point-guard for the White Station Spartans, since he will be in a Tigers uniform next season.

Tennessee Volunteers fans closely watched Chris Jones, the starting point guard for the Melrose High School Golden Wildcats, who has verbally committed to the Vols.

Two Memphis rival teams Melrose and White Station met in the finals with Melrose gaining the victory. Jackson led his Spartans with 22 points, seven rebounds, and six assists, but he also had five turnovers.

The Golden Wildcats scored 14 points off Spartan turnovers, compared to the seven points the Spartans scored off Melrose's turnovers. That could have very well been the difference in the game. Their senior point guard Chris Jones who had 35 points and made 18 of 19 free throws led the victorious Wildcats.

The rivalry between Joe Jackson and Chris Jones may continue on next year, if Jones attends the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Two point guards who battled it out in high school, may very well meet again in college.



BODY & MIND

Healthy teeth yield healthy bodies

By Jacqueline Smith
Whitehaven High School

The American Dental Association celebrated National Children's Dental Health Month in February.



Many people don't know that the health of your teeth affects the health of your entire body. Studies show people who value taking care of their teeth tend to have healthier bodies and ultimately live longer.

Recent research published in the Southern Medical Journal revealed that treatment for gum disease significantly lowered patients' cholesterol levels. A study conducted by Delta Dental showed that a pregnant woman with untreated gum disease is more likely to deliver her baby prematurely.

Each day a thin strip of plaque containing bacteria grows on top of your teeth. The bacterium then feeds off the sugar in the food you eat and forms acid, which can be harmful if it is not brushed off daily. Such behavior can lead to gum disease and create cavities within the mouth, according to the ADA.

Dr. Derrick Payne of Derrick D. Payne Family Dentistry in the Whitehaven community tells patients to "educate yourself on

the facts about dental health. Make an effort to seek dental care at least twice a year and with basic tips, a healthy smile is only a brush away."

Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services gives the following advice on how to maintain healthy, oral hygiene:

- Brush for two minutes, twice each day at a 45-degree angle.
- Brush your tongue, which removes bacteria and keeps your breath fresh.
- Floss your teeth once a day to remove plaque found in between your teeth.
- Choose healthier snacks and refrain from foods and drinks high in sugar.
- See your dentist twice a year for a dental exam and professional cleaning.

Through Colgate's Caring for Teen Teeth program, the company educated teenagers on the importance of oral health. "Dental problems can and do occur during the teen years. Becoming better informed about issues that effect oral health can make it easier to make the best decisions," says the company.

" Make an effort to seek dental care at least twice a year and with basic tips, a health smile is only a brush away.

Dr. Derrick Payne, Payne Dentistry



Photo Illustration by Jacqueline Smith, Whitehaven
The Tooth Fairy

Hamilton educates students about infant mortality

By Cynthia Diaz
Hamilton High School

Shelby County is ranked No. 1 in Tennessee in mortality among children less than a year old.

Infant mortality is the number of infant deaths (one year of age or younger) per 1000 live births.

Hamilton High School hosted a five-week program featuring infant mortality training in partnership with the March of Dimes, under the direction of Mary Jackson.

The most common cause worldwide has traditionally been due to dehydration from diarrhea caused by pneumonia. However, information is spreading about Oral Rehydration Solution (a mixture of salts, sugar and water) to mothers around the world, which has decreased the rate of children dying from dehydration. Other causes of infant mortality include malnutrition, malaria, congenital malformation, infection and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Students received certificates and attended a luncheon after completing the training, where they were designated Hamilton High School's "Lay Health Advisors" for the community.

"This training is needed in all Memphis middle and high schools," said Hamilton High School health and fitness teacher, Denise Wilson.

Other organizations involved in the training program at Hamilton were Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) and the Ladies of Virtue.

Prom style is all about having fun with dresses, tuxs and accessories

STYLE

Prom style is unique to everyone so embrace your stylish side

By Jacqueline Smith
Whitehaven High School

What am I going to wear?

Does this dress or tux look good on me? Who's going to be my date? I hope nobody

has on my dress or the same shoes or hairstyle as me. All these thoughts run through your head when preparing for senior prom.

Face your fears with these tips: **KEEP IT SIMPLE, ACCESSORIZE, AND HAVE FUN WITH IT.**

Keeping it simple includes picking and sticking with a theme color. Consider bright and lively colors because it is springtime.

Multi-colored clothing is okay, but don't blind your date, and always remember accessories.

Ladies, you can never go wrong with your radiant red, pumpkin orange or rosy pink dresses, which are always sure to bring out your skin and highlight your doll faces. Bustier dresses, strapless, formal gowns and cocktails have made the popular list for 2010!

Guys, dress to impress the ladies with your undeniably debonair tuxedos. Vests and bowties in Egyptian gold, sapphire blue and pretty pink will set the tone just right.

Accessorizing is the key to turning simple into spectacular. Diamond jewelry (earrings, necklaces and cuff links for guys) always gives an extra glow (if you're on a budget, cubic zirconium's are a good substitute). Broadway, San Juan and Atlantis heels are elegant styles for prom. Corsages (usually provided) also emphasize one's beauty.

The last and most important tip is to have fun. This is the last party with some of your classmates, so enjoy the night, eat, talk, take plenty of pictures and dance the night away.



Top right: Juniece Rutledge, Whitehaven alumni 2008
Top left: Ranesha Taylor, Whitehaven alumni 2008
Side left: Antonio Askew, Bishop Byrne alumni 2008
Side far left: Josh Ruben, Whitehaven alumni 2009 and Camry Porter Whitehaven junior