

# Be-all and end-all of high school is not prom



*In today's age, prom has been transformed from a fun night out with friends to the focal point of the high school experience.*

**STEPHANIE WATSON**  
Staff Reporter  
**FREEMAN**

**GRAPHIC BY CAROLINE O' GRADY  
LEWIS AND CLARK**

Prom (prom), n. 1. a formal dance, usually toward the end of high school 2. an evening of fun with friends 3. a reason for students to spend ridiculous amounts of money on a single affair 4. a high school tradition that is overrated 5. a stressful occurrence during high school repeated every spring 6. an excuse for high school students to play dress-up

Prom is different things to different people. To some it is the fulfillment of a magical fairytale or Disney movie. Formal dresses have replaced ball gowns. Limousines have replaced enchanted carriages. Your chemistry partner has replaced Prince Charming. And killer stilettos have replaced glass slippers.

Some students view prom as an ex-

cuse to ask Mommy and Daddy for a couple hundred dollars for a night out on the town. Others work extra shifts in order to experience prom in all of its glory. Some have been looking forward to prom since they saw "Pretty in Pink," others decide to go purely to partake in the high school tradition.

Granted, dining at a ritzy restaurant that you would normally not eat at is fun. But is it necessary to make the entire evening enjoyable?

Prom is really about spending time with your friends, and if they are truly your friends, you will be able to have a good time no matter where you eat. Whether it be Clinkerdagger's, Applebee's, Dick's or just going to a friend's for dinner, there is more to prom than

the food.

Looking like a princess, complete with fancy hair, a makeover, French-tipped nails, a puffy dress and shoes that are seldom seen from under the puff is amusing, if nothing else. We girls tend to have a fondness for dressing up, ever since we were four and played with Barbie dolls.

However, the guys are not all extremely psyched to wear tuxedos. Honestly, I don't blame them. Rented tuxes are not the most comfortable attire.

It is ironic that prom is based upon a dance, yet this is often the aspect that is overlooked.

Most of the prom attendees don't ac-

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tually like dancing. In fact, most people stand in circles and chat with their friends.

Girls are on one side of the dance floor, talking about how pretty the other looks and how dinner was. The guys are on the other side of the dance floor, sharing their plans for after the dance, and talking about how badly they want to get out of their tuxes.

However, as soon as the DJ puts on a slow-song, couples come together like silly-putty on carpet.

Prom is many things, but your high school experience does not hinge on your Prom experience, and it would do all of us a little good to check ourselves on this matter before we go "all-out." Remember that it is just a dance that consumes one night. And the night can be as extravagant or memorable as you would like it to be.

Hold prom as lightly as a thistle. Without excessively high expectations, you will leave little room for being let down.