

# A Rendezvous in Paris

## The price of a good time

In keeping with this year's prom theme, A Rendezvous in Paris, Antioch students might envision having to exchange their dollars for francs and book a first class trans-Atlantic flight from O'Hare to Charles DeGaulle Airport... Price of the round-trip flight? \$9314.91.

"Prom is way too expensive," said Trevor Cushman, ACHS senior. He said the expense is part of the reason he won't attend prom this year.

No matter how students decide to spend their money for prom, there is one expense that stays the same: the ticket.

The total combined cost of prom

is \$40,000 to \$45,000, according to ACHS student council advisor Susan Shrader.

The cost to the students is \$110 per couple, which is \$10 more than prom at Stevenson High School and Mundelein High School.

On Saturday, April 17, students were able to purchase tickets in advance for \$5 less for the first time this year.

Cushman said this discount isn't enough. "Five dollars is not enough to make me drive into town," he said.

Prom tickets have not increased in cost over the past three years, said Shrader, due to the fund raising of

the junior class. Usually the junior class raises \$9,000 to \$10,000.

"We, the class of 2005, have been fund raising since freshman year," said Grace Eidmann, junior class president. "All the money we have raised has basically gone towards prom."

This year, the junior class hosted the variety shows and Battle of the Bands. Both were very successful, according to Eidmann.

Meal cost, gratuity, room rental, bus cost, favors and the deejay all contribute to the cost of prom.

"The biggest expense is the facility and dinner," said Shrader. She said one reason that prom was

moved from downtown Chicago to Lake Geneva is the higher cost of facilities in Chicago.

Bus transportation is another big cost factor. Students must take coach buses to prom, which costs about \$10,000, said Shrader.

To students who disagree with the transportation rule to begin with, this cost seems unnecessary.

"Why not save the money and have the kids pay for their limos?" said Kristen Gleeson, ACHS senior.

Tickets to the post-prom activity, which is at the arcade Dave and Buster's this year, cost \$60 per couple. students.

The group raises money all year to lower the cost for students.

"We've done all kinds of fund raisers," said Carolyn Sehmer, ALL Parent Network President. They have sold salsa, suckers, team buttons, and sponsored volleyball tournaments and a Peddler's Alley Craft Show, according to Sehmer.

"Now, there is not enough help to do all those things," said Sehmer.

In fact, after this year, the ALL Parent Network won't sponsor a post prom activity due to lack of parent involvement, according to Sehmer. It is likely there won't be a school sponsored post prom activity next year.

## Boys empty their wallets at prom time

Every year, high school girls across the country go on a vicious spending spree, all in the name of prom. They spend months of preparation searching for the perfect ingredients to concoct their dream outfit for one special night. While girls undoubtedly put a lot of emphasis on their prom appearance, high school boys also think that how they look is very significant.

"I spent around \$130 on my tux for prom because I think that it is important to look good," said ACHS senior Bill Liniewicz.

According to a survey of fifty ACHS males, 41% spend over \$126 to rent a tuxedo for prom. 50% of males spend between \$50 and \$125 on their tuxedo, and a thrifty 9% spend less than \$50.

Although appearance is important, more money is not always the key to dressing sharp. While there are a variety of styles of tuxedos, ranging in many colors and fabrics, the average tuxedo costs between \$70-\$150.

At Jack's Four Squires in Antioch, all tuxedo's start at \$69, and the price goes up depending on how he customizes the tuxedo. Tuxedos at BJ's Fashions for men start at \$89, however, all of their tuxedo rentals cost under \$150.

Of course, depending on the look you want, there are many area businesses that rent tuxedos for more than \$150, and some with prices lower than \$70.

Some stores even offer special discounts to students who are looking an alternative to buying or even renting a tuxedo. Jack's Four Squires offers a free tuxedos for high school boys who wear one to school and hand out discount coupons. This is a good way to save money and still look great at prom.

ACHS junior Peter Scheidt compiled his tux from EBay purchases. "It's cheaper than renting one... and I can still look good," he said.

While the price range for tuxedos may seem low in comparison to the average cost of a girl's prom dress, the boy definitely covers many other expenses.

Another major item that the boy typically pays for is tickets. This year, students were given a break on ticket prices by giving them five dollars off each ticket if they bought them early on April 17. However, boys can also save money by splitting the cost of tickets with their date. 14% of ACHS boys said that they split the cost of prom tickets with their dates.

Added to the cost of tuxedos and tickets, boys also spend a significant amount of money on other aspects of prom including flowers, hair products, shoes, and sometimes the expense of asking their date to prom. While the total costs might seem high, every year prom is a highly attended event.

"Prom is a special event, and I think it is well worth the money. Of course, it would be nice if things were cheaper," said Jim Beatty, ACHS senior.

## Girls share perspectives on prom, fashion, money

Prom for high school kids across America is probably one of the largest investments that they make in their young lives, but does it have to be? The list of necessities for the event is endless for ladies and relatively short for the gentlemen. Some girls begin planning for the evening the minute they walk into high school, whether they admit it or not. As time passes, the planning only becomes more intense as she begins to focus in on certain necessities.

Girls scramble for expenses to cover their hair, nails, make-up, jewelry, shoes, purse, garter, corsage, pictures, and, most of all, their dress. A girl's dress is by far the most significant prom purchase of them all. It is a teenage girl's greatest fear to come to prom dressed the same as someone else.

"I spent \$430 on my dress because it is important to me since it's my senior year," said senior Stephanie Bodanyi. "I imagined a dress in my head that I wanted and I got it."

According to a survey of upperclassman females, the average price for 65% of Antioch Community High School girls to spend on their dresses is over \$125.

Next to dresses, a girl's hair is the next most important aspect. An average up-do costs an ACHS female student over \$26. Paradise Salon, located in Lake Villa, charges students \$30 for an up-do. One can also easily save money by having a friend do their hair.

"I get my hair done for free by an older friend," said senior Kaja Milovanovic. "When I get it done by her, it looks like a professional did it, and I don't have to pay anything."

For accessories, such as purses, jewelry, shoes, etc., 62% of ACHS girls pay between \$21 and \$50. On average all the remaining items for prom cost less than \$20.

A girl's receipt for prom could have a total as high as \$600 as with a or as low as \$100, depending upon the girl.

"I spent \$130 on my dress," said senior Heidi Gwinn. "Other girls seem to spend way more on it. I spend around what I did because I have to buy

other accessories that can add up just as much."

Local businesses and stores attempt to accommodate the average teen's income. The most expensive dresses in the area can be found at Group USA located in Gurnee, however they also have nice dresses for \$99. The least expensive one can find a dress in the area is for about \$99. Marshall Fields, in Hawthorn mall, sells dresses for around \$89.

The other important commodity for girls is their garter. A girl wants a memorable garter because that is what her date will remember her by.

"I think it is important to personalize the garter, so I made it myself, and it looks good," said senior Cara Anderson.

Garters can be found at BJ's Fashions for Men, in Antioch, for \$10.95 or they can be purchased at Jack's Four Squires, also in Antioch, for a price ranging from \$6.95 to \$ 14.95. Girls can save even more money by making their own garters.

"I could not find a garter to match my dress, so I decided to make my own," said senior Mandy Vickers. "To make one, I just used elastic, two types of fabrics, lace, ribbon and rhinestones."

Boys may ask why girls don't pay for their ticket, now they know. 59% of girls at ACHS don't pay for anything concerning their tickets, 28% girls pay for their own ticket, and 10% girls pay for pictures or post-prom.

"I usually pay for the pictures," said Milovanovic. "It's not fair for the boys to spend all the money because it is so expensive."

In the end, the majority of girls believe the money is well spent.

"It is worth all of the money for one night away from all the normal day occurrences. I enjoy having the time and place to dress-up and do something just for me. It is a fun night to escape and be myself," said Samantha Miller, ACHS senior.

Others empty their pockets for the memories that will last a lifetime.

"It is a memory that will be with you for the rest of your life. You're only a senior once, so make it worth it!" said Karly Schlisman, ACHS senior.

ACHS junior, Loren Scarborough disagrees with the majority. "I have better things to spend my money on," she said.

Prom is approaching the ACHS upperclassman and the students will continue to do what they can to make the night a fun one, even if they have to pay for it.

