

Totan Echo

THE STUDENT PUBLICATION OF GRAND TERRACE HIGH SCHOOL



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Get Funky : New DJ Club Gets Spinning

Story and photo by Alexander Santos, Page 5

Titan Town Traffic Drives Us All Crazy

By Jillian Deuel (2019) Editor-In-Chief

TITANTOWN- Have you been stuck in traffic on your way to and from school? I'll bet anything the answer is yes. You're not alone. The "GREAT" thing about traffic is that nobody is spared from its frustration. Hey, at least we all share the burden and all schools have traffic issues.

Traffic at the intersection of Main Street and Michigan Avenue can be a nightmare, especially in the morning. Traffic gets backed up in every direction, as long lines of vehicles form and crowd the streets. Whether you're trying to go straight through Main or make a turn from Michigan, expect delays.

The streets usually are much less congested the sooner you arrive before school. After 7 o'clock, rush hour begins, becoming worse the closer it gets to 7:25. For those who live further away from campus, or rides to school revolve around their parents' schedule, there may be no choice but to sit through the traffic and watch the minutes tick by. Students, like myself, who are running late everyday because they need five more minutes of sleep or Starbucks are probably most familiar with this scenario.

Nobody likes being late, and everyone is aware that tardiness violates school policy. We know that our morning routines can be adjusted to allow time so that traffic doesn't cause us to be late, but what about the reasons why traffic gets heavy in the first place?

The most obvious culprits are the two stop lights in the vicinity, the one previously mentioned (Main and Michigan intersection), and the one directly outside the second parking lot entrance. Waiting for the light to turn green can be tedious, especially when the line of cars is so long that it takes multiple cycles to get across. Sometimes drivers even block the intersection so that when it is your turn, there is nowhere to go.

The next stoplight located outside the second driveway

can also cause back-up if cars are trying to go straight and the light is red. When this occurs, cars are blocked from entering the first driveway if the line stretches back far enough. In rare instances, it has even stretched all the way to the intersection of Main and Michigan.

Once you've finally made it into the parking lot, the next challenge is trying to exit the vehicle and make it to the front gates. If you're a student who drives to school, you probably park at the at same spot (or one in a similar area) daily, after navigating through the crowded parking lot that seems like a demolition derby. If you get dropped off, there is a line of cars letting students out, upon which you are faced with two options. You can either A) wait until you get closer to the front gates and then get out the car, or, B) get out right away and trek across the parking lot.

Regardless of which choice you make, being a pedestrian is very nerve racking. Many people are in a rush and drive at unsafe speeds or do not give the right of way to students trying to cross. Unfortunately, much of the reckless behavior behind the wheel seems to be displayed by parents rather than student drivers. Thankfully, there have not been any incidents in the parking lot that I know of.

After the bell rings to dismiss students that are eager to get home crowd the parking lot and surrounding streets, resulting in a repeat of the morning congestion. The stoplight at the main exit of the parking lot causes a pile up of cars and buses trying to get through. Each row of parking spaces has its own line of cars trying to go the same way, which is a recipe for disaster. People often cut each other off in the commotion or try to squeeze between buses that are very adamant about being bumper to bumper, a convoy of aggressive buses. Better not mess with them.

After making it passed the parking lot, cars disperse and go their own way. Main Street and Michigan avenues can be pretty slow, but it feels a lot less frustrating because you're on your way home. Don't get me started on the train.

Overall, it's quite difficult and time consuming to navigate the roads in and around Titan Town. However, with much patience and (hopefully) time to spare, it can be done with only a minor headache.

THE TITAN ECHO

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Please submit all letters to victor_morales@cjusd.net.



Is the New Rally Schedule a Good Change?

By Alexander Santos (2019), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN - For the past five years, two sport rallies were spread out during second period and attended by different students depending on their second period building. However, this year, a major change to that schedule was implemented.

This year the school decided one pep rally would suffice and changed the period in which it was held, fifth period. The rally held on Oct. 5 was clearly noisier, warmer, boisterous, and more crowded since the entire school was present unlike past rallies.

Some students felt the rally was too full, but at the same time, felt very natural. "I didn't like how there was too many people there, but it seemed more organic," said **Maddie Parkes** (2020). Teachers also felt the excitement. "I think this rally was the best. It was great to have the whole school together! Looking forward to more," exclaimed Ms. **Heidi Wilson** (English).

Like past rallies, this one had many sorts of entertainment like mini games, which included students from each grade competing against each other and having fun, teacher and student made videos, band and cheerleader performances, and music that had the crowd going crazy.

This new change had some students surprised. "The school rallies back then were not as exciting but this year's was fun because everyone was all together and it was louder than all the other ones," said **Clarissa Castro** (2019).

Above: The dance club Marquee New Gen performs for the entire school Oct. 5. Photo courtesy by Ms. Zoe Pamintuan

Universal Petition to End Dress Code Starts and Dies

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITANTOWN- Lately, there has been an outbreak of dissatisfaction with the general dress code of public schools. Students express the fact that they feel uncomfortable with adult staff correcting what they wear. Titan Town is no exception.

A petition, started by an unknown female student, is spreading around social media. The student states her mission is to end dress codes at every school, citing that it is "wrong and degrading" when security guards interrupt a student's school day over something as minor as showing a bra strap. She feels that students should have freedom and the right to judge their own attire.

School officials cite safety, modesty and education as reasons for a dress code. The GTHS handbook is no exception. "The purpose of the student dress and grooming regulations is to maintain a safe and orderly environment, to promote modesty, and to encourage students to dress appropriately and to come to school properly prepared for participation in the educational process," says the GTHS Student Handbook.

A male student (name withheld) commented on the online petition, saying that students are stopped selectively. He said some security guards at his school are unfair when they cite a female student showing a bit of her bra, and then shrug it off when a male student shows his underwear. The student's petition had gained 356 supporters as of Sept. 20. The petition, however, seems to have died since.

Dress Code Alert



Think Colorful: Muslim Attire on Campus Can be Diverse

By Sakinah Storks (2020), Campus Editor

TITANTOWN- Have you ever seen someone walking around campus and wondered what they were wearing and why they were wearing it? Maybe they always cover their hair, or maybe they never wear shorts. Those people might be Muslims, followers of the Islamic faith.

The personal dress code for some Muslims might differ from what others wear, but there's no reason to be intimidated. The diversity in what Muslims wear can range from shirts and shorts, to full coverage from head to toe - it all depends on the person.

A common misconception is that the more a Muslim covers, the more religious they are. That's not necessarily true, because you never know what someone is thinking or what they do when they get home. The best thing to do if you have a question for someone who dresses in a way that you are not familiar with is to ask them about it, and get answers straight from the source.

Muslims, as well as the other cultures, have trends in fashion, say students who follow that faith. "A trend within the Muslim community is covering up," said **Alia Contractor** (2020). Contractor describes her style as "just shirts and pants every day." When asked if the weather ever affects her personal dress code, she explained that even in the heat, shorts are not a part of her personal dress code. Similarly, **Amal Kwefati** (2020) noted how sometimes her clothing does not match the hot California weather. Kwefati would describe her style as "American Trendy," and gets complimented quite often on her style and her hijabs.

Dressing in a way that covers more of the body doesn't have to completely hinder one's creativity when it comes to choosing an outfit to wear. There have been many cases of Muslims customizing clothing or just dressing fancy while still following their personal dress code. Overall, the usual Muslim dress code is very versatile.

Muslims wearing colorful hijabs and abayas during Eid al-Adha, a Muslim holiday. Photo by Sakinah Storks

NEW DJ CLUB EXPOSES STUDENTS TO THE ART



*Mr. Adrian Merendon, AKA DJ Merendon, demonstrates the fine details of DJing to various students of the DJ Club.
Photo By Alexander Santos*

By Alexander Santos (2019), Campus Writer

TITAN TOWN- Schools all over the world are finding ways to attract students to join extracurricular activities and the DJ Club here at Grand Terrace is just what some students might be looking for.

Mr. **Adrian Merendon** (English), put together this club to get students interested in music and to get a feel or a head start into DJing. New this year, about ten students are in the club so far. Mr. Merendon, who is also known by his professional DJ tag, DJ Merenden, teaches the mixing of the music and special effects. At the Sept. 12 meeting, students played with different samples of music and learned how to mix the music Mr. Merendon provided.

"I loved music my whole life and it's cool to meet people with similar interests and learn how to professionally mix music and Mr. Merendon is very knowledgeable," said **Noah Rodriguez** (2019). Mr. Merendon quizzed students toward the end of class about the functions and tools they learned about. It's a complex art, that entails mixing tracks, switching tracks, and adding effects, which gave the students an idea of what DJing is all about.

"I hope to inspire the next generations of DJs, that they learn about the culture, the technology, and to have fun with all types of music," said Mr. Merendon.

**Get
Funky** at
the DJ Club
Where: A160
When: Thursday
2:30-3:30
Who to See: Mr.
Merendon





Lebron Becomes a Laker

By Rodri Smith (2019), Executive Editor

TITANTOWN- It's official. LeBron James is apart of the Lakers. From the moment that LeBron's agent sent an email to the Lakers, 'Let's talk about LeBron,' he has become the big talk in the NBA among all the basketball fans.

Everyone knows that Lebron James is a great player. Not only is he one of the best basketball players, but he is guaranteed to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. LeBron James has many accomplishments in basketball. He has four NBA Most Valuable Player Awards, three MVP final awards, two Olympic medals, three All-Star MVP awards, and an NBA scoring title.

Laker fans were beyond happy to find out this news and now cannot wait to see what the upcoming season will bring. Since LeBron is a new player, many sports analysts and fans are curious to see what other players will be brought to the team. James said in an interview with Rachel Nichols, "I want to come to the Los Angeles Lakers because I feel this will be better for my family and my future." He added, "The goal is to win it all and get a ring."

Mr. **Juan Jimenez**, a teacher in the Spanish department, is a huge Lakers fan. He said, "I think it's awesome that the Lakers have LeBron James. This makes us a playoff team. With having James on the team this will make us a better team. I think that this year we will be able to surprise some people with the talent that we have, plus the new talent."

So far, many Laker fans are representing the number 23, James' jersey number. Compared to his other old teams, the sales have gone through the roof and still are. "In the first three hours of sales, there was a 600 percent spike compared to how his new Cavaliers jersey sold on the site the day when he returned to Cleveland from Miami in July 2014," CBS News reported.

However, other people have a different point of view. Mr. **Victor Morales** (English), said, "It's typical Laker philosophy, where the Lakers build a team around a couple of superstars. Personally, I don't like those teams. I like teams with character like the Lakers of the 90's. They were struggling, but they were a true team."

The record the Lakers had in the season of 2016-17 was 26-56 and the team finished in 16th place in the whole NBA western conference.

Sports

By Jaycee Valadez (2020), Sports Writer

TITANTOWN- From the time the school was open, Grand Terrace High School's volleyball team has been a force to be reckoned with. The volleyball team has pushed through all these years and have done a tremendous job, but the team unfortunately still does not have a banner on the wall. They finished this season on Oct. 12 with a 12-14 overall and 4-6 league records and placed fourth in the Sunkist League, according to the MaxPreps Website.

Volleyball has faced many challenges throughout the years during season and pre-season. These lady Titans have practiced morning and night to try and perfect their skills to make it all the way to the top. The majority of the team were seniors and juniors this year. Most have been playing together since freshman year, allowing them to know each other's strengths and weaknesses and what it takes to win together. The team has been known as the 'wild card' (one picked to fill a leftover playoff or tournament berth after regularly qualifying competitors have all been determined) among the Sunkist League during the preseason and past years. This throws the other teams off because you never know what you're going to face. These factors have led to the question of, when will it be the year GT Volleyball breaks through and wins a league title?

"I like how our team can come together to encourage each other and help each other on and off the court," said defense specialist Daniella Ferreras (2020).

"My expectation for this year (was) to compete for the league title," said Coach Ryan Purdie, who is on his second year at the helm.

From left, Coach Purdie and Daniella Ferreras. Photo by Jaycee Valadez

Volleyball: Still No Banner but Still a Contender

COACH
PURDIE

TITANS

Will There Be a 25th Round?

By Rodri Smith (2019), Executive Editor

TITANTOWN- The fight of the year happened Sept. 16 when Saul Canelo Alvarez fought Gennady Golovkin. These are two toe-to-toe fighters and both of them were hungry to fight one another after last year's fight ended with a draw and the rematch scheduled for May 2018 was cancelled. The delay got the media crazy.

On Sept. 15, 2017, the first fight between these two fighters took place. During the fight, both fighters were doing great and all the rounds seemed like they could go either way. At the end, no one was knocked out. It was now time to wait and see what the judges had to say and how they scored the fight. There were three judges: Judge Adelaide Byrd scored the fight 118-110 for Alvarez, Judge Dave Moretti scored the fight 115-113 for Golovkin and Judge Don Trella scored it as a draw 114-114. The boxers record change to, 49-1-2 with 34 knockouts for Canelo and 38-0-1 with 34 knockouts for Golovkin.

Golovkin was very unhappy with the draw. He quickly wanted a rematch and wanted to knock out Canelo in the next fight, he had said. Canelo agreed to the fight and was scheduled for May. Everything was going well until doctors found that Canelo had a type of banned drug that was no longer legal for professional boxers. The drug test traces of clenbuterol was detected, which is often found in athletes in Mexico and China. During some of his training time, Canelo was in Mexico and said in a video, "I ate a piece of meat in Mexico. I did not know this drug would be in the meat. I respect the sport too much to do something like this." Canelo went to court and was suspended from boxing for 6 months, delaying the May fight. Later, they agreed to fight on Sept. 15.

The fight was finally here and both of fighters said they were going for a knockout. The fight was going toe-to-toe during all 12 rounds and as a leader emerged, the other would come back to retake the lead.

At the end, Saul Canelo Alvarez won. The score cards were, 114-114, 115-113 and 115-113. Canelo is now holding all the middle-weight class belts and Golovkin holds none. GGG was reportedly upset when he heard that Canelo won. He immediately walked out of the ring and went back to his room and would not say anything to anyone, it was reported.

Rumors are going around talking about the next fight. Triple G has expressed that he would like another fight to have a trilogy, media reports said. This next fight, if it happens, would be the start of the 25th round between the fighters.

From left: Saul Canelo Alvarez and Gennady Golovkin

Google Images





Why Travis Scott's "Astroworld" Tops Charts

By Jasmin Chinchilla (2019), A&E Writer

Let's start off by learning about artist, Travis Scott. He is a rapper, singer, songwriter, record producer, boyfriend to Kylie Jenner, and Father to Stormi Webster. Travis Scott has been teasing his fan base with snippets of *Astroworld*, his third studio album, over the past two years. Even new fans were excited for "*Astroworld*."

Scott released "*Astroworld*" on Aug. 3 2018. When it was released it came with over 16 features by popular artists including: Drake in "*Sicko Mode*," The Weeknd in "*Wake Up*" and "*Skeletons*," and Frank Ocean in "*Carousel*" and many more. Scott did not name-drop any of the features on the track, but fans can hear for yourself the different artists that you might be familiar with or you can search online for all the features and producers.

The album is just over an hour long, featuring many producers — up to three in one song, like in "*Sicko Mode*." The producers are Hit-Boy, OZ, Cubeatz, and Tay Keith. Frontman Kevin Parker of Tame Impala produced the track "*Skeletons*," with heavy psychedelic influences he has carried over from his own personal work.

An R&B legend from back in the day, Stevie Wonder, plays the harmonica in the track "*Stop Trying to be God*." Scott managed to get the Sir Duke on the track by doing Stevie's kids 16th birthday and from there it was history. Wonder came down to the studio and they just put out magic with the harmonica and played on a bunch of records, media reports said.

Astroworld's legacy will live on always be remembered because of how the hip hop world was anticipating it since 2015 and its variety of guest artists and producers. If any album deserves the label instant classic, its *Astroworld*.

It is an amazing album from top to bottom, and should be heard thoroughly. It deserves to be in top charts for all its dedication put into it from the one, the only, Travis Scott.



Jojo Siwa's Rise to Fame

By Sakinah Storcks (2020), Campus Editor

Joelle Joanie “Jojo” Siwa is a 15-year old American dancer, singer, actress, and YouTuber. She was born in Omaha, Nebraska on May 19 2003. As a small child, her life revolved around singing, dancing, and wearing bows and her environment was a big part in shaping her interests. Her mother, Jessalyn Siwa, owned a dance studio, so Jojo developed her love for dance very early in her life, according to biographies on the Internet.

Siwa’s first brush with television happened when she was nine years old. She was on a dance competition show called *Abby’s Ultimate Dance Competition*, and was a top five finalist until she was eliminated in week nine of the competition. In 2014, Siwa auditioned for Abby Lee Miller’s dance team and a spot on the show *Dance Moms* and in 2015. She got on the team. There, she became known as “Jojo with the bow bow” for incorporating big, colorful bows in almost every outfit. Jojo separated from the team and the show in 2016.

Siwa went on to make uplifting songs, such as “Boomerang” and “I Can Make You Dance,” with the central focus on anti-bullying. Siwa signed to Nickelodeon, and has since made multiple appearances on Nickelodeon shows. At the age of just 15, she already performs at concerts and has been nominated for a Teen Choice Award. Siwa got an early start to fame, and she continues to rise to this day, according to the Nickelodeon and other websites.

Google Images

**Do YOU Have Something to Say? Write it and Submit it
to the Titan Echo for Publication
Why Get Published on the Titan Echo?**

Having your work published in the Titan Echo is great way to communicate to hundreds of your peers, faculty and community members a message about a topic you believe in. It highlights your literary talent and makes a historical record of your contribution. It is also a great bullet point for resumes, college admission and scholarships applications, and other academic endeavors.

The Titan Echo welcomes letters to the editors and other literary genres, such as poetry and short stories. Please send all submissions for considerations to the Titan Echo faculty advisor at victor_morales@cjUSD.net.

Lil Uzi Vert has become one of the most interesting artist to watch grow over the past few years. From his days of "Luv is Rage," to deriving his multi-platinum hit "XO Tour Lif3," he's proven himself to be on top of the rap game.

But something bizarre is happening. Many fans speculate that he has some sort of affinity to evil, due to his incited controversy for referencing dark imagery and symbols in his music.

During his show at London's 2018 Wireless Festival, Uzi had an off-the-cuff message for his fans while performing his hit song "XO Tour Lif3." He stopped the music, telling fans that they have entered the rapture and are all going to hell. The exact quote is not publishable.

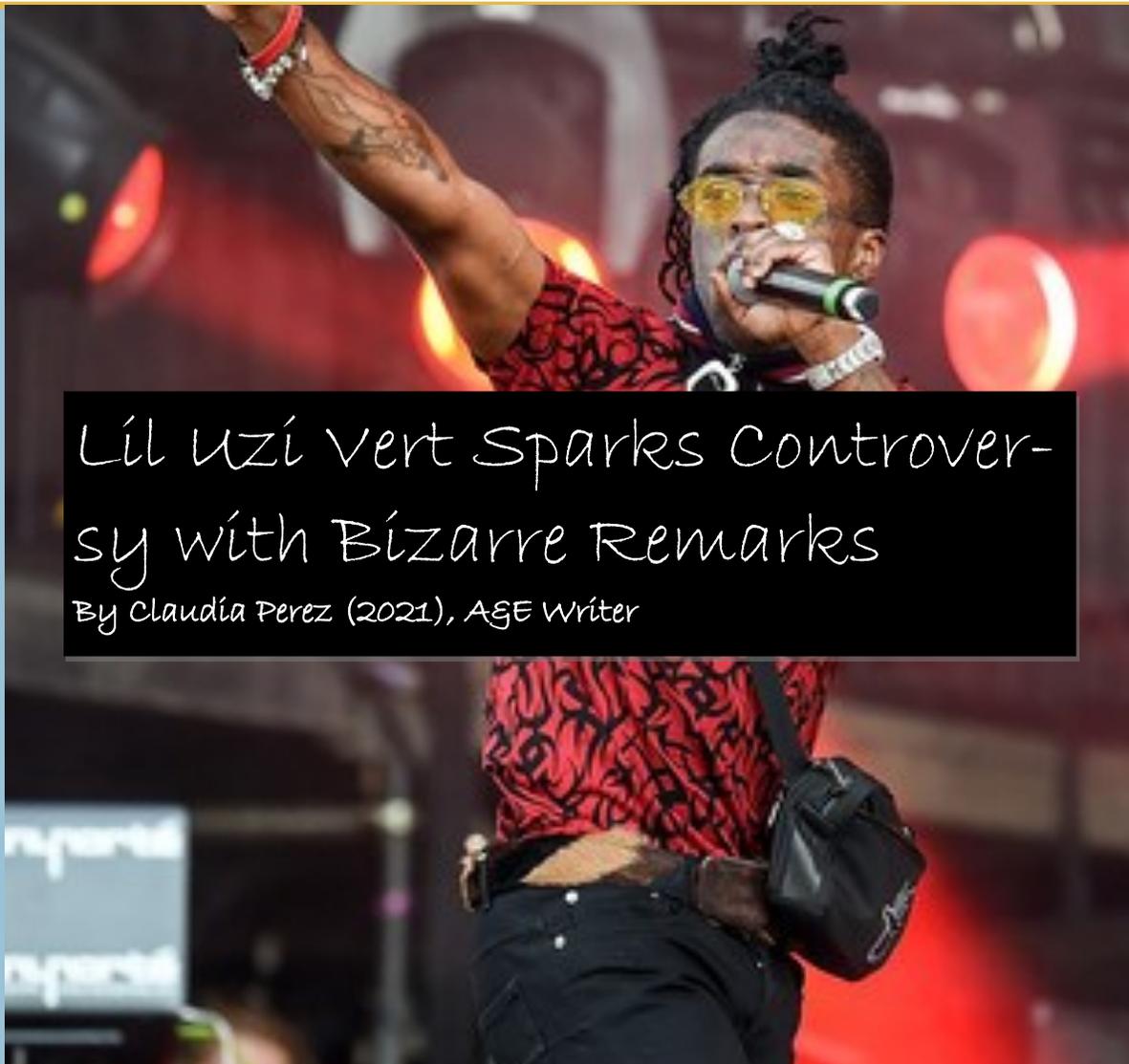
Fans had mixed feelings on social media. A video from YouTube that captured Uzi's performance had comments that were both negative and positive.

"For all of you defending this guy, he's got you under his spell and you don't even know it," wrote one fan.

There are some fans who weren't affected by his message at all and believe he's just doing this for clout. "I still love Uzi I don't care. I'm not defending him but I love him and his music anyway," wrote a fan.

Most of Uzi's music inspiration comes from rock and metal artist Marilyn Manson, who is well known for his dark themes and music. Marilyn Manson also used dark symbols to stir up controversy and it could be possible that Uzi might just be following in the footsteps of his idol.

Goolge Images



Lil Uzi Vert Sparks Controversy with Bizarre Remarks

By Claudia Perez (2021), AGE Writer

Is Sadies the Dance to Attend?

We Polled and Got the Info *By Jasmin Chinchilla*

TITANTOWN- Is the Sadie Hawkins Dance GT's wildest dance? The Titan Echo conducted an informal poll, using Instagram. The results gave Sadies the nod with 66 percent of people agreeing that Sadie's is the wildest and 34 percent disagreeing.

However, the poll's sample pool was skewed. For example, the majority of people who agreed were students that currently go to Grand Terrace High School. The majority of people who did not agree were people who graduated Grand Terrace High. Does this mean that the dance has gotten progressively wilder in the common GT era? Perhaps.

Some of the 66 percent of those who agreed, cited the quality and variety of music being played and the environment.

"It's the craziest dance because people can dress more casual, like they're going to a concert, so it creates that kind of vibe," said **Christian Perez** (2019).

Some of those that did not agree were recent graduates and cited their experience of attending all the dances, including prom, which is held toward the end of the year.

"It's just filled with too many underclassmen," said by **Brittany Sandoval** (2018). Brittany compared Sadies to

"...because it just didn't bring the hype of the other dances, also they don't have the voting either for queen and king," she said.

It makes sense that grads believe Prom is the wildest dance. Anticipation for Prom begins at the elementary and middle schools, where kids would see older siblings attend. There is also prom-themed movies they are exposed to. The built-up excitement may give Prom the perception of the wildest dance.

Only one way to find out. Come on out to this year's Sadie Hawkins Dance scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 3. The prom will likely be scheduled in May.

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