

Themed dances make NT different, and that's okay

by Abby Burton

How would New Trier be different than every other public high school if we didn't have themed school dances?

The answer is that we wouldn't be different. New Trier attempts to make our school unique by calling gym kinetic wellness and spelling advisory with an e, but what truly sets us apart from every other public institution is our themed dances.

Although loads of stress goes into the preparation for choosing a stellar theme and perfecting a crowd pleasing outfit, the final result of these themes makes up for all the smaller issues that go into these "dress up" dances.

It's an exciting idea for the juniors and seniors because we finally get to wear creative outfits on a day other than Halloween.

It's also fun to show up to the dance at New Trier and spot friends and their costumes. No one admits to it, but everyone gets joy out of critiquing every groups outfits.

All I end up hearing the Monday after Homecoming and Turnabout is about how horrible or great a certain theme looked. As

long as you weren't part of the group that is being ripped to shreds, you're in the clear!

However, if you are that group, I strongly advise you to walk in confidently Monday morning and block out all the haters.

I personally think that having themed

dances also cuts down the day of preparation time by at least half. I'm mostly referring to the time needed for girls to get ready, but in general, I never end up putting as much thought into my hair and makeup for these dances as I would for Prom.

Some argue that formal dances look more put together. Sure, some themes can be a little weird, but that's the fun of it! We're going to look back at these photos in 10 years and laugh at how funny we looked. Themed dances will only end in entertainment and hopefully good memories.

Why would people want to dress formally for all three dances anyways? We already have one dance for which we are required to dress formally, and that's enough for me.

I also think that only having one formal dress dance makes Prom that much more special. I mean really, what fun would it be to get all dolled up if you already did that for two other dances?

Another huge advantage of these themed dances is that girls don't have to worry about other girls wearing the same dress as them. I know that's always an awkward moment. No one likes to look like a copy of someone else.

I'm not saying that I would want to eliminate formal dances all together, but I do think that it's great to mix the attire up with some themed dances and creativity.



From the left: Ben Connelly, Gabby Kraus, Emily Carothers, and David Hammes dressed in a Noah's Ark Theme for Homecoming | Carothers

The season of spray tans

by Leah Pearlman

Last week I took a look around my classroom and noticed that a few girls must've taken spontaneous trips to Mexico over the weekend. Then I remembered an upcoming event that always seems to brighten the faces of girls around me, literally.

Turnabout is an exciting dance because girls ask boys, every grade is allowed to attend, and, like Homecoming, Juniors and Seniors dress in fun themes. But it's during winter, which may cause some to complain. Not me! Because luckily we have spray tans. The spray tans are terrific because they bring a summer feel back to the school when we're all feeling pretty down about the weather.

It makes me feel like we've transported back to the first week of school, and in the best way possible. Can't you smell the new fall sandals and school supplies in the air?

For those of you who don't know, I only get freckles when I try to tan. I am, therefore, only jealous and slightly admirable of those who come back after summer vacation gleaming bronze and pretty.

But because the sun is actually out during the beginning months of school, I can contain my jealousy.

Dont get me wrong, my opinion on tanning in general is that it is awesome. If you think you look prettier certain ways, then why not undergo something to make you more confident? If I could get tan, I would.

And, tanning year round makes sense. It's like getting trims year round. Once in a while you may opt for a new do completely chopping off 8 inches for a mid-bob look. But people will notice this change. Everyone will. And it's not very organic but it's fine because people get

haircuts and that's normal.

However, if you show up one day to school 16 shades darker, people are bound to notice. And it's a tad more awkward than a haircut. And by a "tad" I mean "wow someone fell in orange paint."

Again, my Leah jealousy is coming out because I just want to be tan too. Then again I barely have the time to wash my hair so I don't think I should try and step up my beauty rituals at this point.

Also I know it is possible to get a tan that doesn't turn you orange; I've just had one bad experience, okay guys.

Tanning yourself year round makes more sense. Then, you have your known color. It may not look or even seem natural but at least everyone sees you with a darker complexion all the time, whereas spray tanning every once in a while for a dance is a random and uncomfortable change. Especially in winter, a sudden tan just seem ridiculous unless you've just traveled to a warm place.

And again, there are no long breaks before Turnabout.

One might say something like "I want my pictures to look, like, really good, ya know." Well, person who might say this: think about all of the other parts that go into getting ready for dances.

From manicures and pedicures to hair and makeup and now: spray tanning. When does prepping for a school dance go too far?

Adding in other logistics such as, "are other girls in my group getting one?" "Will our dates look like heliophobiacs compared to us?" may make you rethink.

When it comes down to it, maybe we shouldn't be so quick to enhance ourselves for a school dance.

Don't hide from the facts.

Teenagers who regularly use weed lose, on average, 8 I.Q. points.*

Most NTHS students have not used weed in the past 30 days.**

UNDER YOUR TOWN INFLUENCE

*Data from the 2014 KW Survey. N = 3,127.
**Data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse for Teens. Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"I know I'm not the only one" who's still looking for a date

by McKenna Patterson

Once the first person asks their date to a dance, whether it be Homecoming, Turnabout or Prom, a frenzied panic ensues.

Those with boyfriends and girlfriends silently breathe a sigh of relief and take a seat, comforted by the fact that they won't have to engage in the high stakes game of New Trier dances. Even three months premature, once that first date is secured, no one is safe.

All it takes is one girl asking out her Turnabout date before winter break to send a ripple of drama through an entire grade.

Once everyone is taken and you're scrambling to find a date, awkward Facebook messages ensue. You might have not spoken to this person for a year or two, but you take the plunge with the initial, "Hey!" After awkward small talk and fake laughter, you find out if the other person already has a date. If so...



Senior Mimi Smith asked Noah Decker to Turnabout with a poster in the P stairwell | Minturn

you have to finish this small talk with a weird goodbye. If they are in fact dateless, you swoop in and ask that person ASAP.

Now what happens to these who had a date, but it fell through? Relationships end, new ones begin, and the date situation gets pretty complicated. After a breakup, couples can still decide to go together and promise themselves it won't be awkward, they can decide not to go at

all, or they can find another date entirely.

The next stage is marked by the time for all newly single students to scramble to find any willing individual to go to the dance with them. The problem is that no one wants to have an awkward night with a complete stranger, but then again if no close friends are available, the pool of people to choose from is already limited.

Mutual friends are suggested who have a place in the group, and drama and stress increases. Friends ask potential dates of other friends, ex-boyfriends and girlfriends try to avoid being in groups with each other, or someone gets mono...the morning of the dance.

There is really no solution to that.

After finally securing your target (date), now you need to find a group. Your friends, your date's friends, acquaintances, classmates, Facebook friends, complete strangers you had no idea are in your grade let alone attend the same school; some groups are great, some were obviously thrown together in the name of necessity, panic, and potential friendship. It could be fun, maybe.

At the end of the day, it doesn't matter who you end up going to your high school dances with, unless of course you get married and happily spend the rest of your life with them. But that's your business.