

## SATELLITE

BY AND ABOUT TEENS

### Your weirdest dream:

1. Being naked in school.
2. Dr. Seuss kidnapping me.
3. Marrying Barack Obama.
4. Having to do homework. Chills.
5. I was a monkey.
6. It involves leprechauns, a pot of gold and a ditch.
7. Fighting over a guy while on toilet seats.

#### Next week:

What's the best part of going back to school?

To answer, go online to [tulsa-world.com/satellite](http://tulsa-world.com/satellite) and click on "Satellite 7."

## column

### An argument for book banning ... or at least a forewarning of content

BY DIA DARCEY  
Satellite Correspondent

My advanced literature class has introduced some truly enlightening literature this semester.

"Yay! More black-and-white pornography!" I exclaimed as we students were assigned the latest required reading by our English teacher.

In Advanced Placement, we are offered both timeless classics and newer, popular titles to challenge and advance our thought processes. Still, at times, I feel that I'm being subjected to more detail than may be found in an X-rated movie. This kind of pornographic content should be banned, or at least censored.

Heck, I'd even appreciate a warning scribbled on a Post-It note inside the front cover.

Personally, I would prefer that my primary sex education NOT occur accidentally during English class. When teachers require this material, they condone the content, whether they like it or not. How can administrators sleep at night when they're promoting this double standard?

"Here, read about this and this and this. Aren't we learning a lot? Whoa, hey! Stop that! Where ever did you ever get that idea?"

"Monkey see, monkey do" goes doubly for teenagers, and as much as we teens try to prove our maturity, the facts still stand firm: Raging hormones, developing frontal lobes and social stresses combined with ever-widening freedoms create more judgment problems for teenagers than any other age group.

How can intelligent parents block cable, V-chip MTV, ban HALO III and punish us for dirty language, but not bat an eyelash as we pull out our homework assignment to annotate the (at least) R-rated "Beloved" or "Catch-22"?

What, you think it won't affect us because it's on a page? Because



DIA

it's not a series of moving pictures or graphics? Because it's in print, it requires an advanced vocabulary and increases our comprehension? Some of the most influential mediums in the world were and are books. Anyone ever heard of the Bible? "Mein Kampf"?

What we listen to, what we watch and, believe it or not, what we read, affects us.

When faced with my resistance, my English teacher does her best to give me a few reasons that we, as high school seniors, are exposed to these kinds of books:

- Art is art, and those who would define, refine or confine it lose its very essence.
- Who is to say what is acceptable and what is not, and how long will it be until the tyranny of politically correct editing creates a real "1984" state?
- The truth is only truth when it flows without barrier or constraint, letting loose the human soul to spring unfettered across the wide expanses of creativity!
- Only illiterate, ignorant zealots want to censor books — we fear what we cannot understand!
- Truly discerning readers are able to appreciate the author's purpose in including any language, events or descriptions.

Personally, and as an AP literature student with a kick-butt ACT reading score, I'm a bit skeptical of the generalizations that all censorship is the product of ignorance and can be placed on the same level as cannibalism, deforestation and Hitler. It seems to this ignorant National Merit Scholar (not to drop titles or any-

SEE BOOK D8

## student news



Malikah Bowlds (left), a student at the Margaret Hudson Program, and Genevieve Dukes, president of the Tulsa chapter of Becca's Closet, show off their dresses at the Margaret Hudson prom last spring. Malikah credits Becca's Closet for giving her a chance to go to prom in style. The organization stores prom dresses and accessories for students who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend their high school proms.

Photo courtesy BREE GAVLIK

### Make room for back to school by donating your prom dress

BY SARAH KRANAU  
Satellite Correspondent

Tired of your closet overflowing with the glitter and fluff from last year's prom season? Need a way to make room for all those fabulous back-to-school outfits?

Remedy both problems and help out a local organization at the same time — donate the formal dresses to Becca's Closet and help another girl's prom dreams come true while making room for your next dream dress.

"The whole prom was awesome," said Malikah Bowlds. "My favorite part was when we danced, took pictures and had a good time. Just seeing the smiles on everyone's faces was fun."

Her memories of the prom sound like that of any teenager's, but she might not have been able to go to prom at all.

Malikah is part of the Margaret Hudson Program, a Tulsa Public School alternative school for pregnant and parenting teenagers whose mission is to help teen families succeed. This year, through generous donations, the program was able to organize a prom for every girl in the school to attend for a minimal fee.

But anyone who has been to prom knows that the expenses do not end with the ticket — Malikah was going to need a dress to go to the prom she had always dreamed of.

"I wanted a pretty dress," she said. "I guess I would have found one some other way."

Becca's Closet is a national program with local chapters run by volunteers. It houses gently used or new prom dresses and accessories and gives them to girls who would otherwise not be able to afford a dress.

Malikah was introduced to Becca's Closet through Genevieve Dukes, a Holland Hall student and the director of the Tulsa chapter, who also organized the partnership with the Margaret Hudson Program.

"Getting something beautiful for so little and feeling comfortable is just a great experience. I'd never gone to prom before," Malikah said.

Becca's Closet was created in south Florida by then-high school freshman Rebecca Kirtman, who began collecting dresses for students who couldn't afford prom-wear. Though she was killed in a car wreck in 2003, her family continued Becca's Closet. The philanthropy now operates through different chapters across the country.

"I feel so fortunate to have been introduced to the Margaret Hudson Program," Genevieve said.

"The first time that I set foot on campus, I knew that it was a special place. I immediately wanted to do anything I could to support the school, and helping make prom possible seemed like the perfect way."

The two entities developed a cooperative relationship, and Genevieve said she was thrilled that Becca's Closet had dresses that needed girls and Margaret Hudson had girls who needed dresses.

She said that the prom was a huge success this year, and she hopes the partnership will continue.

"Becca's Closet aims to provide girls in financial need with a true prom experience, and who could be more deserving than the Margaret Hudson students?" she asked. "They work so hard and have given up many aspects of a normal high school experience in order to be good parents. Every one of them ought to have prom night to feel beautiful."

Many girls, such as Malikah, refer others to the program.

"If you want to go prom, just try out Becca's Closet because you might find something either better or nicer, or something that you really like," she said. "I decided to give it a shot, and look what I got out of it."

To get involved or donate dresses or accessories to the Tulsa Chapter of Becca's Closet or to arrange a consultation, contact Genevieve Dukes at 557-3192 or go to [tulsa-world.com/beccascloset](http://tulsa-world.com/beccascloset).

## applause

### Evangelistic Temple student wins scholarship

Ryan Thomas of Evangelistic Temple School received a half-tuition Founders Scholarship to Evangel University in Springfield, Mo., to study business.

Founders Scholarships are the highest academic scholarships offered at Evangel with the requirements being a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.8 and at least a 30 on the ACT or a 1320 or more on the SAT 1.

### Local students participate in Youth Leadership Oklahoma

Recently, 54 of the state's top high school students were selected to travel across Okla-

homa and learn about the state as part of Youth Leadership Oklahoma. The seniors heard from state leaders, witnessed firsthand Oklahoma's resources, learned about and participated in the issues that affect the state and discovered Oklahoma's many treasures.

Tulsa-area students chosen for the honor and their high schools included:

Mason Barber, East Central; Kalie Jean Cook, Inola; Blake Duncan, Hale; Michael Elliott, Jenks; Christian Ewing, Holland Hall; Jessica Farmer, Sapulpa; Payton Fesperman, Bishop Kelley; Caroline Foutch, Cascia Hall; Myka Glennie, Broken Arrow; Cole Haskins, Booker T. Washington; Mackenzie McDaniel, Bartlesville; Carson Misner, Sapulpa; Shelbi Phelps, Inola; and Krishna Suthar, Union.