

# SATELLITE

FOR, BY AND ABOUT TULSA-AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

## Cinderella stories

### Sperry student wants all girls to have the perfect prom



Lots of shoes are available to choose from in Tiffany Grant's prom collection.



Photos by TOM GILBERT/Tulsa World

#### FROM CORRESPONDENT REPORTS

**T**iffany Grant spends a lot of time thinking about prom.

She hopes for designer gowns with matching shoes. She dwells on earrings and handbags and gloves and up-do's.

Of course, she's only a sophomore, and she won't attend her own prom at Sperry High School until she's a senior.

But in a couple of years, when Tiffany's prom finally rolls around, she'll have plenty of experience with the big night.

That's because she will have helped scores of underprivileged girls attend their proms in style, with donated dresses and accessories she spends all year gathering.

Tiffany is the creator and proprietor of the Picture Perfect Prom Dress Project, now in its second year. Recently, Tiffany won a \$1,000 grant from a foundation that honors students who volunteer despite disabilities.

Tiffany has been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

"ADHD is a blessing in disguise," Tiffany said. "It's helped me to concentrate harder and have a fun attitude all the time."

Tiffany got the idea to donate and distribute gowns as a 4-H project when she realized how expensive a traditional prom night could be.

"I just really wanted to help make a difference in a girl's life," she said. "I saw a need in the community and surrounding areas. There were girls who just could not afford to go to prom because of financial needs. I really wanted to help them."

Tiffany keeps her dresses at the First Baptist Church of Sperry, where girls make an appointment to see the dresses and get fitted.

Tiffany Grant's Picture Perfect Prom Dress project means area girls don't have to skip their proms just because the night is so expensive.

“Even though we may be a little afraid to say it, we all need help sometimes.”

**Tiffany Grant, on the Picture Perfect Prom Dress Project**

And, Tiffany said, don't be afraid to call. "I know it's difficult to ask somebody else for help, but you'll really love to go to the prom in the long run," she said. "Even though we may be a little afraid to say it, we all need help sometimes."

Dresses are donated, and Tiffany is always looking for more prom dresses and bridesmaids gowns that are in good condition.

"It's never too late (to donate)," she said. "The ones that we don't use ... we use them for next year if nobody comes by."

Dresses for donation into Tiffany's program can be dropped off at the Tulsa County 4-H office, 4116 E. 15th St.

Tiffany also takes donations like shoes, handbags, jewelry, makeup and services from salons, dry cleaners, restaurants and florists.

Right now, Tiffany has about 100 dresses, from size 2 to plus sizes. And the quality of the gifted gowns?

"Actually, I've been really impressed," she said. "We've had a designer dress ... we just got in a couple of dresses with shoes dyed to match."

At home, Tiffany's mom helps her daughter manage the project by answering the phone while her daughter's at school.

"She's always been someone who wants to give back to the community," said Tiffany's mom, Sherry Grant. "She's always been there to help someone else out and make a difference in this world."

Grant said the project has been rewarding.

"We had a single dad come in who was out of work and his daughter had been asked to the prom. He was almost in tears because he wasn't able to afford a dress for her to go."

The service is especially valuable for students in the foster care system or who are homeless.

"The girls' eyes lit up when they found out they would get a free prom updo and a manicure and a purse that matched her dress and shoes," Grant said.

Last year, the project served 19 girls with free dresses. This year, more than 100 students have benefited, and many received accessories, a hair appointment and a manicure as well as the dress.

"This year's been so much more exciting because we've touched so many more lives than we did last year," Sherry said.

Students who can't afford a dress but would like to go to the prom can call the First Baptist Church of Sperry at 288-7711, Ext. 0, to schedule an appointment.

Tiffany said she and her mother get along great. "She's actually my best friend. My dad also has been very supportive."

Tiffany has enjoyed her work so much, it's what she'd like to do professionally one day.

"What I really want to do is to get a grant from the government and continue this project," she said. "I just really want to continue this, even when I'm gray and old."

## I don't want my MTV

### Videos have stripped music of its greatness, and real artists don't stand a chance

By **STEPHEN CARRADINI**  
Satellite Correspondent

From the second it went on the air, MTV has created a downward spiral in music.

The Buggles were the first musicians to be played on MTV, with their prophetic song "Video Killed the Radio Star."

From the instant that video was played, music changed. Today the industry cares less about the sound of music than about having a pretty, money-making face.

In fact, the only way the Buggles could have been more visionary is if they had sung "Video Killed Music."

Music today has become more and more about the face assigned to the music and less and less about the actual music. In fact, a large portion of the "Billboard Top 100" (aka MTV) music isn't even created on instruments. Many rap, hip-hop and pop songs are cooked up in a studio on a large keyboard possessing thou-



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sands of programmed sounds. This is wrong.

They even tamper vocal tracks, fixing a flat note here and a sharp note there, or bury a weak "star" under the sounds of the backing track.

The "producer" comes up with the music (I'm sorry, the background noise in a song is called "the beat" now — I'm outdated, apparently) and the face, I mean, the artist sings and/or raps over it. Sometimes the "artist" doesn't even write his or her own songs.

Rappers write great rhymes sometimes, but when they can't find a word that fits, they might just make up one. "Chingy" and "right thurr" are just two samples from the immense rap-tory of vapid, pointless words created out of writer's block.

And rhyming is the only thing they're getting paid for! If only I could make up words when I had writer's block. That would be the easiest job on the planet. (And in other news today: seet, gotar tanyo.)

Maybe we're paying them for something other than talent. Perhaps the fact that they have the innate ability to be shot more than once and live (in fact, up to nine times — see 50 Cent!) is the reason rappers are so popular.

Yeah, that's it. What was I thinking?

Getting shot nine times and living is definitely worth some money — in a freak show.

Pop stars are even worse. Those who don't write their own lyrics just wait for the music and words to be brought to them, and then they huski-

ly squeeze out some notes and strip on stage.

And if their voices aren't that great, the studio can touch them up, as well.

This leads to a great injustice: Many people in America have more talent than Britney Spears. Your grandpa, who plays the spoons and sings is, in fact, more talented than Spears. But he will never become rich and famous. Tragic.

So all this music-less music is what controls the radio waves, the TV stations, the magazines, the Super Bowl — in fact, popular culture as we know it.

Pretty faces, I have news for you. Want to be a pop star? No talent needed. You can contribute to the demise of good music, get rich and be idolized by millions. Oh, and you need to have no qualms about nudity.

Thanks, MTV.

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