



STUDENT TEACHER PAUL MANNION and Spanish teacher Maria Sanden grade papers and discuss lesson plans during study hall.
— Dictator photo by Marci Matchett

Spanish teacher still learning

By MARCI MATCHETT
Going from teaching geography courses in college to teaching Spanish, Paul Mannion, 30, drives from Lenora to teach and to learn. Mr. Mannion is doing his student-teaching under Señora Marie Sanden at Decatur Community High School. "The experience of working with Pablo [his Spanish name] has been nothing but positive," said Señora Sanden. Mr. Mannion grew up in the city of Pittsburgh, Pa., with his parents Frank and Fran Mannion. His parents still live in Pittsburgh, where they are remedial reading and math teachers. He also has three siblings: Liz, Mary, and Steve. While in high school, Mr. Mannion went on a youth group trip to Mexico where he picked up on the

language quickly. This is when his career in Spanish all started. After high school, Mr. Mannion attended several different colleges. He first attended California University of Pennsylvania where he studied Spanish, geography, and French. Moving on from there, he attended Arizona State University and afterward went to K-State. At both of these colleges, he studied geography and taught geography college courses. Mr. Mannion is currently going to Fort Hays State University where he is studying education and earning his teaching license for kindergarten through twelfth grade. Mr. Mannion met his wife, Haley, in the spring of 2003 and has been married for one and a half years. Haley works for Rural Telephone as a CAD technician in Lenora. While Mr. Mannion has had the

opportunity to get to know the students and our school, he said that the students are "welcoming, understanding, and easy to teach." He thinks the school is a good size and says he likes it a lot. He is also proud that he is learning the names of the students slowly but surely. "I am very impressed with the knowledge and speaking skills of the Spanish students here at Decatur Community High School," said Mr. Mannion. "It has been very beneficial for the students since Pablo works hard at making the classes active and fun," said Señora Sanden. Although Mr. Mannion doesn't know where he will be teaching in the future, he said that he does plan on living his life to its fullest, and finding a job that suits him and that he can enjoy.

Oberlin teams go to K-State game

By MEGAN BARRETT
The Decatur Community High School basketball teams traveled to Manhattan on Feb. 5 to attend the Kansas State University men's and women's basketball games. The men's team played Colorado and lost by ten points. The women's team played Oklahoma State and won by ten points. It was an exciting day for everyone. A stop at the Town Center Mall and K-Mart helped to waste time between the games. Not everyone cheered for the Wildcats, but they still found ways to enjoy the trip and the games. Senior basketball player Andy Anderson said, "It was interesting to watch a live college basketball game." Sophomore basketball player Whitnee Ashley said, "It was a fun experience."

Voice of Decatur Community High School

Decatur Dictator

By the DCHS Dictator Staff

The coaches also seemed to think it was a good trip. They had fun and so did the kids. The games turned out well, and it was overall a good idea to go. Girls' basketball head coach Terry Ream said, "It was a good

break from practice and school. Watching the college teams was good observation for everyone." The teams left Saturday morning at 6:30 a.m. and returned home around midnight. It was a long drive, but well worth it.

Speech team attends first meet

By JUSTINE MILLER
Bright and shiny were the speech team's faces on Feb. 5. Everyone's nerves were jumping and the butterflies accumulating as they boarded the bus at 6:15 in the morning to head to Hill City for the first speech tournament of the season. "The first tourney was pretty rough considering I was memorizing everything the night before, but it was tons of fun," said Anthony Marshall. Placing first or second at an individual tournament, depending on the size, is the only way speech team members can qualify for the state championship tournament. Qualifying for state were Jeremy Tally and David Morris in improvised duet acting, placing first at Hill City. Jeremy also took second in his humorous solo.

Kelly Olson and David Morris qualified for state by placing second in duet acting. Anthony placed second in poetry interpretation, and qualified for state. "I'm very proud of this team's first tournament of the year," said speech Coach Leigh Davis. "We have some improvements to make, but I don't doubt we will make those improvements." Also competing in Hill City were Anthony, third place overall in humorous solo acting; Destry Jackson in serious solo, sixth place, and poetry interpretation; Kellen Doeden and Kelly Olson in poetry interpretation; Karyn Jordan and Sarah Marcuson, duet and prose interpretation; Becky Helm, prose interpretation and extemporaneous speaking; and Gabe Moore, prose interpretation.

As a team, Oberlin finished fourth behind Quinter, Ellis and Colby. David Morris was the highest team scorer with 49 points. "I enjoyed my first speech tournament," said freshman Becky Helm. "It was a great learning experience." The next tournament was to be in Norton on Feb. 12. **Video has message for students**
By KAYDEE LEITNER
Camfel Productions, sponsored by Teens Acting and Caring Together (TACT), came to the high school to teach the students about responsibility and never giving up. Camfel Productions uses rock music, movie and TV clips as well as interviews with real teenagers to get through to kids about tough life decisions. The video is displayed on three huge screens. This year's video featured music by Bon Jovi, Simple Plan, Usher, Good Charlotte, and Black Eyed Peas. "I liked this year's film because it had a message that the students can relate to," said TACT adviser Wendy Scott. The film wasn't just for the high school. The sixth graders also came to watch the film. The Camfel video is usually the student body's favorite lyceum of the year.

Join Us for our Open House

Sunday, Feb. 20
1-3 p.m.

to celebrate our new addition
Drawing for \$50 gift card
on Sunday &
Savings all week



Window Washer Fluid

99¢/gal.

Potting Soil
20 lb. bag

\$1.39

Bird Food
20 lb. bag

\$3.99



Do it Best
Duct Tape

\$2.99

Do it Best
Light Bulbs
4 pack
60&75 watt

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Light bulb

99¢

\$1.29



Sale prices good Sunday, Feb. 20-Monday, Feb. 28

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School Menus

February 21-25
OBERLIN

(subject to change)
Monday — Breakfast: cereal, muffin, peaches. Lunch: trustworthy taco boats. **Tuesday** — Breakfast: waffles, ham patty, applesauce. Lunch: chicken sandwich, cheesy rice. **Wednesday** — Breakfast: sausage and cheese biscuit, pineapple. Lunch: biscuits and gravy. **Thursday** — Breakfast: donut, yogurt, fruit cocktail. Lunch: hamburger with bun. **Friday** — No school. Milk served with all meals. Choice

bar served with all lunches.
PRAIRIE HEIGHTS

Breakfast is served daily: toast, cereal, juice. Lunches: **Monday** — No school (teacher in-service). **Tuesday** — hamburgers, Tater Tots, baked beans, pears, cupcakes. **Wednesday** — chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, rolls, peaches. **Thursday** — sliced ham, au gratin potatoes, peas, rolls, strawberries. **Friday** — pizza, green beans, breadsticks, applesauce. Milk served with all meals. Salad bar served with all lunches.