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University Leader - February 24, 1978

University Leader Staff

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The University LEADER

Fort Hays State University Hays, Kansas 67601 Friday morning, February 24, 1978 Volume 71 No. 38

Black Oak: 'full of ammunition'

by DARLENE HAMMERSCHMIDT
Copy Editor

Charisma, personality, articulate and impeccable are the words J.D. "Jim Dandy" Mangrum uses to describe Black Oak. "These guys are really good, and on stage they're exciting to watch," said Mangrum. "They have a lot of charisma, they personify a lot of personality and, at the same time, are very articulate and impeccable on their instruments."

In a telephone interview, Mangrum discussed the changes in Black Oak. Mangrum and Jimmy Henderson are the only original bandmembers. The four new members are Jack Holder on guitar, keyboards, saxophone and vocals; Greg Redding on guitar, keyboards and vocals; Andy Tenas, on bass and vocals; and Joel Williams on drums.

Mangrum describes the change in personnel as "a blessing in disguise" for him and the people who have been with him for a long time.

"It really makes a happy night for me," he said. "It's something I've been waiting for for a long time: to be able to have a band that's really full of ammunition."

The Black Oak concert has been postponed twice because of inclement weather, but will appear in concert at 8 p.m. Sunday in Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Tickets for the show are available in the union director's office. Prices are \$5 with activity ticket, \$6 without and \$7 for all tickets at the door.

Mangrum said Black Oak Arkansas fans seemed to take the band under their wings. He felt they were a people's band and they didn't receive much air play.

In its old form, Mangrum felt that the fans saw the band as "a diamond in the rough," and expected it to evolve into something more polished. The members ran out of steam, he said, after they felt they had made it, and stopped applying themselves.

He added that this attitude showed in their recordings, some of them lacking direction or newness. "I was concerned. It might have been my shortcomings as a leader, but I just didn't have the heart to kick out any guys in the group I'd grown up with."

Mangrum decided to let "nature take its course. I figured if I deserved it I would have a good chance to keep going with what I love so much."

He said that the new band still captures the excitement and the positive energy which was always the trademark of himself and Black Oak Arkansas and anything they were involved in.

"At the same time, now it has a new, more sophisticated sound and much more versatility. We have more instruments and ammunition in general," Mangrum said.

The group has added keyboards and incorporated four-part harmony into their music, he said.

"To me it's a whole new echelon — a whole new frontier — we're freed from the crudities. I want it always to be able to be as pure to the heart as it was, but with a better capacity to reach farther musically," he said. "Now it is that way."

Mangrum has known the new band members for 14 years, because they were situated in the same locality.

"I really want people to respect them as equals as soon as possible because they've been at it for a long time, and they are the best in my country down here," he said.

Mangrum described himself as coming from the "roots" of rock 'n' roll, and from its meaning more so than the music.

"I was one of the first long-hairs in the South, back before flower power, protesting and all that stuff. I don't really know how it happened," he said.

"I wanted to be free with whatever I wanted to do, and I didn't see it hurting anyone. I just happened to be a long-hair," he said.

This time period was before the Beatles were popular, and when they emerged he was called a communist. "They thought the Beatles were communist. They didn't even like civil rights down there in that day and age," Mangrum said.

The lead vocalist referred to a quote from Bob Dylan, which said, "We're only a pawn in a game." Mangrum believes this is true. "I still love and I'm still trying to fix what was wrong," he said.

"But you know that's what started rock 'n' roll." He referred to the lyrics of a Carl Perkins song sung by Elvis Presley, saying "You can do anything you want, just don't step on my blue suede shoes," as a statement of freedom.

"To me it has a meaning, and that's why I started getting into rock 'n' roll. It was a vehicle for me," Mangrum said, "and it

really had a meaning way back a long time ago. I love it because it gives me a way to get it out."

Mangrum said he was influenced a lot by the Byrds, the Beatles and Buffalo Springfield.

Currently Black Oak is working on an album to be released this summer, according to Mangrum. "We've got a whole bunch of new material burning a hole in our pockets, and we can't wait to get in and do it."

Since the reorganization of the band, Black Oak has released an album entitled "Race With the Devil" and completed a three-month tour with Blue Oyster Cult.

"With the new group and everything, it gave us a chance to really get it tight from a lot of one-nighters. That's what it takes," he said. "We really feel like we're water-tight, and really together."

The concert will include much of the material from the recent album, plus old favorites such as "Jim Dandy," "Lord Have Mercy" and "Hot and Nasty."

Mangrum said, "The old Black Oak will definitely be there because people wouldn't let me out of the building if I didn't sing a few of the old ones."

For Memorial Union Senate recommends tuition increase

Student money collected through tuition fees was the focus of Student Senate's attention at its meeting last night.

The Student Senate passed a resolution recommending a 25 cent union fee increase for next fall.

Three appropriation bills were also passed. One of the bills passed by only one vote after a discussion on proper ways for student money to be appropriated.

Resolution 313, originated by the Council of Chairmen, recommends to President Gerald Tomanek that union fees be increased by 25 cents next fall and another 25 cents in the 1979-80 academic year. Present union fees are \$1.25 per credit hour per semester.

Kappa Psi member, abstaining. As the roll call ended, Hay changed his vote to "yea" and the bill passed with the 11 necessary votes.

Administrative Assistant Rick Allton, Hays graduate student, told the senate that, according to Robert's Rules of Order, any member with a direct or pecuniary interest in legislation should abstain from voting.

Halderman said that appropriating money to these groups would be "arbitrary and capricious" because neither activity would benefit the student body in general.

"The point of appropriations is not to reward a group for how good it functions on campus," Halderman said, "but for how good the function will benefit the campus."

He warned the senate that approving Alpha Kappa Psi's request would start a "dangerous precedent." The organization presented a request two weeks ago and was rejected.

By approving the appropriation this time, Halderman argued, the senate would be "laying its doors open to any organization, if rejected, to come back with a different excuse."

Hay said, "Part of the benefits of attending a university are things like this (field trips): things students can get through the university."

The discussion often became almost a debate between Halderman and Hay although both stressed that they held no "personal vendetta."

Several pieces of legislation were introduced at the meeting.

Resolution 314, originated by Teasley and Halderman, recommends to Tomanek that a facilities policy board be created to oversee the Health, Physical Education and Recreation facilities on campus.

Resolution 311, originated by Craig Green, calls for the creation of an ad hoc committee consisting of three senators to investigate the various parking problems and make recommendations for possible solutions.

A resolution recommending that the Kansas attorney general's office investigate building deficiencies on the Fort Hays State campus. The resolution also calls for the attorney general to investigate the possibility of bringing legal action against the contractor and/or architect.

Also introduced was Bill 116, which would appropriate \$57.50 to University Young Democrats to attend a state convention in Junction City on April 8-9.

Legislation introduced last night will be voted on at next week's meeting.



Bloodmobile
Donations totaling 175 pints were collected at the Bloodmobile yesterday in the Ballroom of the Memorial Union. Members of Alpha Kappa Psi, Alpha Lambda Delta, Phi Omega Phi and students from the Nursing Department donated their time to help the Red Cross. (Photo by Dave Shield)

Wood told senate last night, "I see the resolution as not being in the best interests of the student body or Student Senate." He admitted that he had hoped the senate would support a 50 cent increase.

Appropriations Bills 112 and 113 were passed despite objections from Brent Halderman, Long Island sophomore.

Bill 112 appropriated \$375 to Chemistry Club so 20 members could take a field trip to Dallas next month. The vote was 13 in favor and three opposed.

Bill 113 appropriated \$400 to help fund a field trip to Dallas for 16 Alpha Kappa Psi members. The vote was 11 in favor and five opposed.

The original vote was 10-5 with Clark Hay, Newton senior and Alpha

In the only uncontested appropriation bill, the senate appropriated \$320 to the Fort Hays State Players to attend the Association of Kansas Theatres Convention in Wichita next month.

Concerning the bill, Halderman said, "I can't bitch about this one."

The bills do not go into effect until Student Body President Stan Teasley, Phillipsburg senior, signs them.

In other business, Jac Jensik, Belleville junior, and George Arm-

bruster, Lindsborg junior, were ratified unanimously as Associated Students of Kansas (ASK) campus director, and board of director of ASK, respectively.

A new sorority will be initiated on campus by next fall through cooperation between Panhellenic Council and the Phi Sigma Sigma sorority.

The main reason for introducing a fourth sorority is to increase the population and interest in Greeks, representatives of the three sororities said.

Diane Woelk, Russell sophomore and spokeswoman of the Sigma Sigma Sorority, said, "A new sorority is needed on campus to strengthen the bond among the three present sororities. We will all be working together for the sorority."

Kathy Calvert, Hays junior and spokeswoman of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority, said she thought another sorority was needed.

Last spring, after Panhellenic Council discussed bringing another sorority to Fort Hays State, Dorothy Knoll, associate dean of students, contacted the national sororities that had expressed interest in obtaining an FHS charter.

Of the four sororities expressing interest, two came to Hays to give presentations about their sororities.

Phi Sigma Sigma came this fall and Zeta Tau Alpha was on campus last spring.

The recency of Phi Sigma Sigma's presentation increased Panhellenic Council's interest in that sorority, Connie Melkus, Coldwater sophomore and spokeswoman for Delta Zeta sorority, said.

Panhellenic initiates Phi Sigma sorority

Another plus for Phi Sigma Sigma was its description as a flexible and liberal sorority. Their national chapter has few of its own rules for individual chapters to follow. Their belief is that the local chapter should follow the Panhellenic rules on campus, Melkus said.

"Phi Sigma Sigma was chosen because it seemed they would fit in with the other sororities, yet it was different enough to add variety," Knoll said.

Other than that, the sororities had no real preference between the sororities. Their feeling was that all sororities exist to achieve the same basic objectives, Calvert said.

"It's really not which sorority that's important, because the women are the ones who make the chapter," Melkus said.

Panhellenic Council had to consider women's interest in sororities on campus in their decision to bring in another sorority, without quotas decreasing. "Quota" refers to the number of women each sorority is expected to pledge each semester.

The statistics from last semester showed that approximately fifty women were rushed who didn't pledge a sorority. Knoll believes the new sorority will attract the women who were not interested in the existing sororities.

Also, women going through rush to observe the new sorority might at the same time become interested in the existing sororities, Melkus said.

Phi Sigma Sigma will receive its campus charter in September 1978 after formal rush is finished. Quota won't be affected until formal rush, according to Knoll.

The national officers and alumni members of the sororities met the proposal for a new sorority with a more negative reaction when consulted before a decision was made.

All members of the sororities voted on the proposal of a fourth sorority on campus. Calvert said members of the existing sororities believe Phi Sigma Sigma sorority will benefit the campus.

Search begins for new planning director

Efforts to find a new director of planning are under way. Walter Keating, vice president for administration and finance, said.

Keating, who is handling the procedure, was also placed in charge of planning director duties in the interim.

The search and hiring is required by law to be conducted by federal Affirmative Action procedures, Keating said.

Major requirements of the procedure call for establishing a search committee and notifying potential applicants of the vacancy 60 days in advance of hiring.

Keating said he was preparing a

notification statement Thursday, but a committee hadn't been designated yet.

He said he hoped a new director would be hired within three months.

"We don't have a written job description for that position," he said. But Keating added that major job requirements will include "responsibility for development of the long range physical plant plan."

University President Gerald Tomanek directed Keating to take over the Rank Hall project, he said.

The position was left vacant when Earl Bozeman, who served as planning director for the past six and one half years, died Feb. 16, following a heart attack.

Students to attend ASK mass lobby

Mass Lobby Day for the Associated Students of Kansas (ASK) will be Sunday and Monday in Topeka.

Students from Fort Hays State can become involved with the lobbying efforts at that time.

Issues ASK has voted to lobby for include reduction in penalties for marijuana, establishment of housing complaint boards in cities with university campuses, increasing student salaries, implementation of an energy savings proposal and simplification of voter registration.

Students to attend ASK mass lobby

Jac Jensik, Belleville junior and ASK campus director, said Gov. Robert Bennett allocated \$33,185 for student salaries at FHS.

Any FHS student may attend Mass Lobby Day. Interested persons should contact Jensik. A final meeting will be at 2 p.m. today in the Student Government Office.

Mass Lobby Day is the only time when students from the six member institutions come together to lobby for student issues. Other member institu-

tions are Kansas State, Wichita State, Pittsburg State, Emporia State and Washburn Universities.

On Sunday, students at the lobbying activities will attend a simulated lobby session. The members will have a chance to meet legislators.

Students and legislators may attend a breakfast on Monday.

Later that day, ASK members will meet with legislators from their respective districts and attend a committee hearing.

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Kansas: cultures vary from east to west

By **BILL WARD**
Senior Staff Writer

Eastern Kansans showed surprise recently after a Kansas City newspaper published a story that a Fort Hays State professor wrote a doctoral thesis proving that western Kansans were more cultured.

But that hypothesis was not the point of his doctoral thesis, Paul Phillips, associate professor of earth sciences, said. Phillips said that after moving to Kansas, he heard there were differences between the eastern and the western parts of the state.

He said he wanted to "find out if I could isolate any differences in the culture of western Kansas and eastern Kansas," Phillips said.

Although several scholars have indicated a difference in the culture of the Great Plains, Phillips noted that they "never could put their finger on it exactly. Because Kansans think there is a difference, I decided to see."

Phillips tabulated traits which supposedly differed between east and west — such as friendliness, Old West spirit, independence, love of travel, gambling, outdoor living, informality and humor. He also explored jaywalking habits, use of the term "sack," preference for California wine and the use of silver dollars.

He looked specifically at friendliness, independence, gambling, wanderlust, promotion of self interests and love of the outdoors.

The only trait showing measurable differences from east to west was the

willingness to travel longer distances, he said. "The isolation (of western Kansans) causes them to have to travel," Phillips said.

He explained the similarity of the other traits could be because they were primarily frontier traits, and have been absorbed across Kansas since the frontier days.

Phillips also looked at four other cultural characteristics and found some differences.

"I had expected religious differences, with the east having one and the west another. I found that the west and the east have no major differences in denomination," Phillips said.

He did find a tendency for western Kansans to have a higher per capita church membership than their counterparts in eastern Kansas.

"It may be related to isolation again," Phillips said. "The church may be the focus of the small community, especially the social activities. For example, the 'potluck supper'."

Phillips stressed, however, that his does not necessarily indicate that western Kansans attend church more often, only that they have a higher church membership.

Another area that Phillips investigated was language variations, as he believed there had never been a study done on the east-west split. He found that the people have what is termed the "Midland Dialectal Region" speech patterns, but Phillips postulated that some terms might vary,

such as ranch/farm, canyon/ravine and more.

For the third area, Phillips examined magazines. "I was looking for a split in the magazines from east to west," Phillips said.

He found that Kansans read a variety of magazines such as American Home, Farm Journal, National Geographic, Newsweek, Reader's Digest and TV Guide.

While finding that most Kansans read the same magazines, Phillips discovered that western Kansans take more magazine subscriptions.

"It was the isolation factor again," Phillips said. "Without the library or the availability of newsstands, the people (in western Kansas) have to subscribe." He also guessed that more free time could also contribute to increased subscriptions.

The University LEADER

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Leader Fort Notes

Professor to present poetry reading

John Knight, assistant professor of English, will present a poetry reading at noon today in the Hays Public Library.

Financial aid applications are available

Financial aid applications for the 1978-79 academic year are available in the Office of Financial Aids, Picken 200. Applications should be submitted before spring break.

Biblical archaeology seminar to be Sunday

A biblical archaeology seminar will be presented at 6:30 p.m. Sunday at the Ecumenical Campus Center. Discussion will include plans for an Israeli expedition in the summer of 1978 or 1979.

Student teacher applications due Wednesday

Applications for students planning to student teach in the 1978 fall semester must be completed by Wednesday. Applications can be obtained in the Education Office, Cunningham 138.


Physical Education Club to meet Wednesday

Physical Education Club will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Cunningham 143. Persons interested in the national convention should attend.

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Crossover: 2,000 Hz
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Compile best record ever

Tigerettes warming up for AIAW

By ROD GARDNER
Sports Writer

Looking forward to the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women's Regional Qualifying Tournament this coming Wednesday in Manhattan, the Tigerette basketball squad have put another victory under their belts against Kearney State College.

Last Monday the Tigerettes played KSC in their last Central States Conference (CSC) and regular season battle, winning by a score of 61-59. The game had been rescheduled from Feb. 14 due to snow.

The victory boosted the Tigerettes' overall record to 15-4 and an almost perfect 31-1 CSC record.

Although the Tigerettes were victorious, it wasn't easy, with the lead changing hands many times during the second half. Fort Hays State had to come from behind in the closing four minutes to win.

Connie Wilkens led all scorers with 21 points while grabbing 14 rebounds to lead in that statistical department, too. Kathy Cannon added 12 points and Jeri Tacha, 7, for the FHS squad.

In scoring, KSC was led by Godberson with 15 points.

Leading the team in both scoring and rebounding this season is Wilkens,

6-3 Lorraine junior. She is averaging 14 points a game and 11 rebounds in overall play. In CSC competition she is averaging 15 points and 12 rebounds a contest.

Also averaging in double figures are two other Tigerettes. Tacha is averaging 12 points a contest and Cannon nearly 11 points a game.

Deb Robinson, Mayetta sophomore, is right behind Wilkens in the rebounding department, grabbing an average of 10 rebounds a game, while averaging nine points a contest.

In individual single game high performances, Tacha leads in most points scored (34) and most field goals scored (15) against Missouri Western College on Jan. 18.

Tigers to tangle with conference champs

By SCOTT MILLER
Sports Writer

No. 22 dribbles the length of the court, drives into the lane and passes off to a teammate for an easy layup.

That's what the Fort Hays State fans are hoping to see as the FHS basketball team entertains Missouri Southern College and Pittsburg State University this weekend in the final home games of the season.

No. 22 is Mark Wilson, the team's and Central States College Conference's leading scorer.

Wilson, who has been slowed by some form of mononucleosis, has missed the last two Tiger games.

The Tigers lost both games by more than 15 points.

"Without Mark we're not the same team," Rosado said before the games last weekend, and apparently he was right.

The Tigers will try to avenge two earlier season losses at the hands of conference leader MSC and powerful PSU this weekend.

Rosado said that if Wilson continues his recovery, he will play in this weekend's games.

"With Mark we still have a chance at that District 10 playoff berth," said Rosado.

The Tigers must win both games this weekend to keep their playoff hopes alive.

Mike Pauls continued his consistent play last weekend leading the Tigers in both scoring and rebounding. On Friday he scored 22 points, and for the 17th time this season he had at least 10 caroms.

Rick Albrecht also upped his scoring average by collecting 30 points in the two games.

Gymnastics teams hosting dual meets

Both the men's and women's gymnastics teams will be competing at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at Gross Memorial Coliseum.

Washburn University and Wichita State University.

The men will entertain New Mexico State College.

The women will face Emporia State University, University of Kansas,

This will be the final meet of the season for the women while the men are preparing for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics national championships to take place March 3-4 in Hays.

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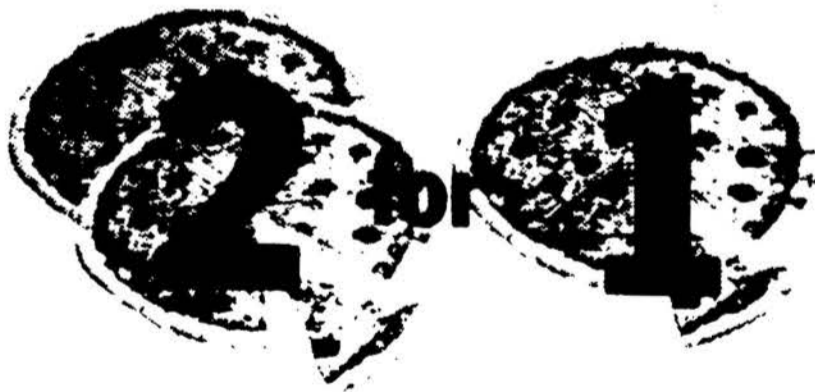
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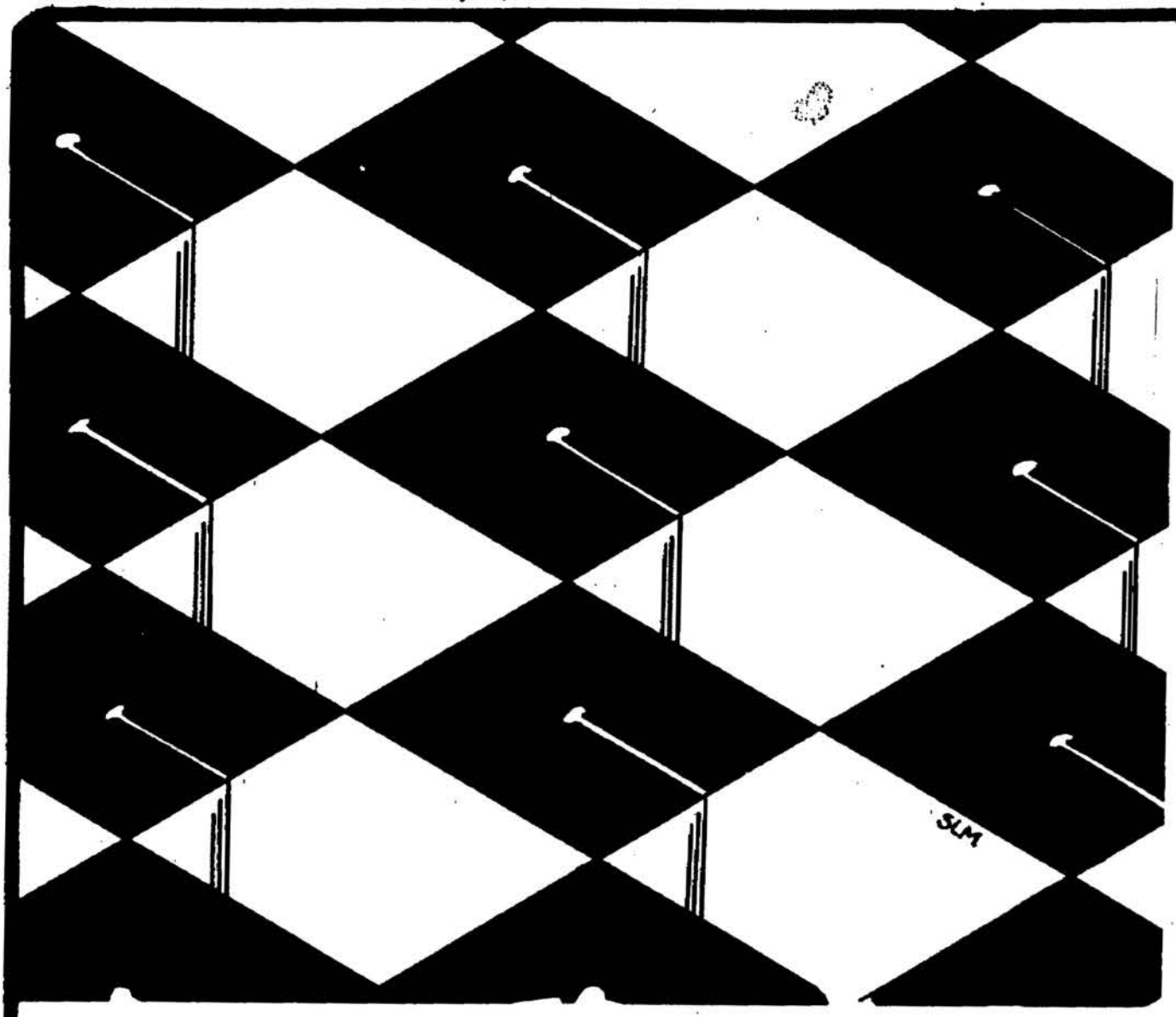
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IN CONCERT



Will Johnny learn to read?

Legislature considers competency testing

by GARY HENNERBERG
Editor In Chief

Competency-based education examinations covering reading, writing and mathematical skills are being considered for elementary and high school students in the Kansas Legislature this session.

The competency testing concept began a few years ago, and about half of the states in the nation have adopted laws requiring elementary and secondary students to take such an exam.

Members of the legislature agree that chances are good that legislation will be passed in the Kansas Legislature to implement some type of required competency testing in the state's elementary and secondary schools.

From the House Education committee, Bill 3115 has emerged to the House floor which would require students from kindergarten through eighth grade to take such competency tests. (See box lower right.)

If students pass the test at the eighth grade level, they will not be reassessed. However, if a student fails to pass the exam in eighth grade, he will be required to take the test each year until satisfactorily completing its requirements.

Earlier this session a bill was introduced in the Kansas Senate by Sens. Bill Morris, R-Wichita; Charlie Angell, R-Plains; and John Chandler, R-Holton.

The Bill, numbered 507, is different from House Bill 3115; and Senate Bill 507 is also different from the bill being drafted in the Senate's Education Committee.

Morris said the final version of the Senate committee's bill will probably be different from the one he co-sponsored.

The original bill would force students to take the tests at grades three, six, nine and 12. The Senate committee's proposal would require testing at grades three, five, eight and 11, according to Committee Chairman Joe Harder, R-Moundridge.

"People who fail at grade 11 would take the test again at grade 12," Harder said. "This would give students the option to take it again. In (Bill) 507, there is no provision to take the test again."

Bill 507 indicates that students failing the test at grade 12 would receive a certificate of completion of attendance at high school. However, students would not be given a certificate stating they had completed course requirements.

Harder and Morris agree that some version of required competency tests will pass the legislature, and there will probably be a compromise between the House and Senate bills.

Last year Rep. Keith Farrar, R-Hugoton, introduced a bill that would have required high school students to pass standard educational and academic proficiency tests before they could graduate from high school and be admitted to a Kansas college or university.

The bill was not passed last year, but proponents of the bill would like to see it passed this session.

Some educators in the nation have been concerned about the results of required Proficiency exams and their effects on students. Some have expressed concern — among them the Kansas National Education Association (KNEA).

Lee Wastell, a KNEA lobbyist in the Kansas Legislature, said KNEA had no evidence showing a need for proficiency examinations in Kansas.

He said the exams should not reflect on teacher evaluations.

"We're concerned that a student's assessment from the proficiency exam is not used as a part of the teacher's evaluation," Wastell said. "Students differ from year to year."

Wastell added the teachers want to

have input into the structure of the exams if the legislation is passed.

He also stressed that Bill 3115 does not have a provision for financing.

"There is no address of where money will come from, so local systems will have to get its own funds," Wastell said. "The state has not said it will provide money, so local mill levies will have to be raised."

Regarding funding, Sen. Morris said of his co-sponsored bill that he was not sure how much the implementation would cost, but Bill 507, which he co-sponsored, was patterned after the competency-based legislation passed in Nevada. Morris said implementation of the Nevada law cost around \$250,000.

The student lobby in the Kansas Legislature is urging careful and serious study of required competency examinations in Kansas.

Associated Students of Kansas (ASK), to which Fort Hays State and five other Kansas institutions belong, has decided to "endorse the concept of competency-based education in Kansas."

Deb Harrison, ASK executive director and organization lobbyist, said, "ASK is vitally interested in the quality of elementary and secondary education in Kansas. Competency-based education raises many questions about the goals of our education system that need to be addressed. "While ASK believes that all

students should have a minimum competency based education to prepare them for adult life," she said, "at this time, it (ASK) neither supports nor opposes the legislation."

House Bill 3115 is now on the House floor, and the Senate Education Committee is still working on the concept. Some legislators agree that there will probably be a compromise between both houses.

Regarding the current proposals, legislators are optimistic that the exams will improve education in Kansas.

"We won't see immediate results," Morris said, "but maybe we will see improvement (in education) in the future."

Freshmen competency sees no decrease

by STEVE QUAKENBUSH
Senior Staff Writer

Three Fort Hays State professors said Monday they have not noticed a freshmen competency decrease in mathematics and English courses taken here.

But they did say some students feel unprepared for college level mathematics, and that student reading ability is not as high as in the past.

"I really haven't noticed much difference," Dr. Cliff Edwards, professor of English, said. "But it would help if we'd turn off the TV a bit and concentrate more on reading."

John Knight, assistant professor of English, said he had not noticed much of a change between present freshmen competency and competency in the past.

Dr. Eldon Bougher, mathematics department chairman, said a two-year-old survey completed by his department found that many freshmen felt they were not prepared for college algebra and trigonometry.

Knight and Edwards said they felt that reading skills are closely linked

with writing ability. Knight said, "We're not a literary culture. We're bound to TV."

He said TV orientation keeps students from reading and writing as much as they used to, causing a lack of practice.

Bougher said he feels high schools do not encourage students to take enough pre-college mathematics.

He suggested that requirements for college-bound high school students include two and one-half to three years of algebra and geometry.

Knight said he would support the idea of competency tests in English for high school students before graduation. But he said such tests would have to be regionalized to avoid what he terms "unfair cultural advantages" that could result from nationally oriented tests.

Edwards said competency testing would have both strengths and weaknesses. The major advantage, he said, would be that students would have to be competent or they would not pass.

But he said the system would tend to

create a teaching system aimed only at instructing students to pass the test. He said he feels the attitude behind the system assigns the responsibility to the instructor.

"You can't pin it all on the teacher," he said. He added that he felt parents should be responsible for helping their children develop a positive attitude toward learning at home.

Bougher said he has misgivings about competency tests. "They're coming," he said. "We'll have to live with them."

He added, "We'll have to be careful," explaining that he felt people who set standards for tests should be chosen for their knowledge of education.

He supports the idea of the State Board of Education doing the task of compiling the test, but added he thought state legislators were not qualified.

Edwards said parents, the public and recent graduates should help establish standards. Knight said professional educators should do the

job, "sure as hell not state legislators."

Bougher said reports he has received from other departments show that students "get what they need" by the time they graduate from FHS.

Edwards said his department emphasizes reading skills, especially for students who plan to teach, and added that "we'll sit back and see how this (emphasizing reading) works" before taking any action.

Students in general are "probably not as sharp as they used to be" when they graduated from college, Knight said.

But none of the three said they definitely felt there was a trend among college entrants toward declining competency.

"However, somebody still has to do the script," Knight said. "Somebody still has to write."

Dr. Donald Bloss, professor of education, said graduate students preparing to take their teaching block requirements at FHS are screened for competency.

Teachers mixed about testing

by DANA MEYER
Staff Reporter

Local high school teachers expressed mixed feelings about the possible passage of Senate Bill 507 which would require examinations of students to determine their proficiency in certain subjects.

"It would be great if it's going to do the job, but it may create more problems than it solves," Vernon Kisner, Hays High School mathematics teacher, said. "I'm afraid it will cause teaching to be directed toward passing the test. If this happens, then an examination would not necessarily prove that a student is proficient."

"I think the bill could be good on one hand, but right now, I feel more negative about it," Karen Nichols, chairperson of the Hays High English department, said. Nichols also thinks that teaching directed toward passing the test might be an outcome of the bill.

"I think the bill will pass," Zee Neely, Hays High School English teacher, said. "And if they follow through with the testing on the different levels, it will be great. We won't have such a divided class and it will make our job a lot easier."

"If the bill is passed, I think most students would study harder in order to pass the proficiency examinations," Wilma Schmeller, Hays High School English teacher, said.

While the teachers differed in their views on the outcome of the enactment of such a bill, they all agreed that incompetency is a problem at the high school level, especially in the area of reading and writing.

"Some students just don't have the skills they should have," Schmeller said. She explained that these students have tremendous difficulty, particularly in picking out the basic ideas in reading material.

"The difficulty students have in working word problems in math is evidence that they are having trouble in

interpreting what they read," Kisner said.

Colleges, technical schools and employers have also been complaining about the writing competencies of the high school graduate, according to Nichols.

Hays High School has taken several measures to help decrease incompetency among students. The English department has extended the senior program to include a full semester of composition.

Previously, only the first nine weeks were composition courses. They have also selected a new literature textbook recently.

"We tried to select a text which is geared more toward basics," Nichols said.

"At the junior level, we are working on vocabulary, composition and reading, picking the central idea out of a paragraph," Schmeller said.

Senior English at Hays High School is a college-prep course. "We still include the basics, though, and we try to individualize with the students to give them help they need, but at the senior level, it's a little late," Neely said.

The mathematics department has also "gone back to the basics" in its programs, Kisner said.

"We've been attempting to get the lower grades to get back to the basics of arithmetic," he said. "You can hardly go on into advanced mathematics when you have trouble with ordinary multiplication."

Where did this problem of non-proficiency originate?

"Education is where the problem is based," Nichols said. "Our lifestyle is the biggest part of the problem. We live at such a high speed that people simply do not take time to sit down and read a book anymore. Television is a lot to blame also. We've become very vision-oriented."

"Students do seem to expect to be entertained in the classroom," Schmeller said. She thought some of

the blame for the incompetency problem should lie with the student. Some of them are lazy, they will do just enough to get by."

Kisner blames the problem of incompetency on the breakdown of the family unit.

"I've found that students who are deficient generally do not get the necessary encouragement from parents," he said.

He cited the elimination of the Parent-Teacher Association at the local high school as an example of the effect of the breakdown on education.

Nichols, Neely, Schmeller and Kisner gave various explanations of why students are promoted to the next grade or graduated when they are not fully competent.

"It's one way to get them out of the classroom. They become someone else's worry if they are passed on," Kisner said.

"It's a moral thing with teachers," Nichols said. She explained that if a student doesn't get a diploma, he can't get a good job.

"And if you keep flunking a student until he reaches the level of proficiency, he will eventually get discouraged and drop out," she added.

If Senate Bill 507 is passed by the Kansas Legislature, it will become effective for the 1980-81 school year. However, the teachers do not expect many changes to occur in the Hays High education system.

"They will probably include remedial teachers in our program if the bill does pass," Schmeller said.

"The bill would force the high school to provide attendance certificates for students who have earned that credit," Zeely said. "This would be a great help to students in future job employment."

Nichols feels that one proficiency examination would be unnecessary. "Teachers are already aware of the students who need help in their program."

Education Committee Bill 3115

AN ACT concerning competency based education; requiring the state board of education to prescribe and adopt standards of competency in basic skills and to prescribe instruments for assessment thereof; imposing certain duties on boards of education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. As used in this act:

(a) "School district" means any public school district.

(b) "Board" means the board of education of any school district maintaining any of grades kindergarten through 12.

(c) "State board" means the state board of education.

(d) "Pupil" means any person who is regularly enrolled in any of the grades kindergarten through 12 of a school district.

(e) "Competency based education" means an education concept based upon the identification and specification of explicit skills which individual pupils can demonstrate.

Section 2. (a) Prior to July 1, 1979, the state board shall:

(1) Prescribe and adopt standards of competency in basic skills which shall be uniform for all pupils attending schools within the state. The basic skills for which standards of competency shall be prescribed and adopted hereunder shall include reading, spelling and mathematics. Such standards of competency shall be related to those levels of competency in basic skills which are necessary to enable pupils to function competently in school at their present grade level and, upon graduation from high school, to function competently in adult society; and

(2) prescribe a uniform state retention/reassessment instrument designed to ascertain and evaluate a pupil's competency in basic skills and to determine if such pupil has met the standards of competency prescribed and adopted by the state board under paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) On or before Sept. 15 of each year, commencing in 1979, the state board shall distribute to each board the standards of competency in basic skills prescribed and adopted pursuant to subsection (a) together with the assessment instrument prescribed under said subsection (a).

(c) The state board may prescribe and adopt differential standards of competency in basic skills for pupils determined to be exceptional under the provisions of Article 9 of Chapter 72 of Kansas Statutes Annotated.

Section 3. The board of education of every school district shall adopt and implement a system of competency based education for all pupils in that school district and such system shall include the following provisions:

(a) The board shall ensure that the standards of competency prescribed and adopted by the state board are implemented in each school district within the state. Said system of competency based education shall be adopted and implemented not later than for the 1979-80 school year.

Section 4. Each board, in order to comply with the requirements of Section 3 of this act, shall provide for:

(a) The administration of the assessment instrument prescribed under Section 3 of this act to all pupils in attendance in its schools at least once during attendance in each of the grades kindergarten through eighth. Any pupil who meets the standards of competency in basic skills by satisfactorily demonstrating competency in such skills at the level of grade eight need not be reassessed. Pupils at any of the levels of grades nine or above who have not met the standards of competency in basic skills prescribed for pupils at the level of grade eight shall be reassessed in each school year until satisfactorily demonstrating competency in said basic skills; and

(b) remedial programs in basic skills for all pupils who do not meet the prescribed standards of competency. Each board shall be responsible for creating and maintaining the policies, procedures and administrative funding necessary for such remediation. Remedial programs which are provided pursuant to this section shall be subject to approval by the state board; and

(c) intensive in-service training programs for all personnel of the school district who are responsible for implementation of the system of competency based education.

Section 5. Each board shall also disseminate information in basic skills shall have reviewed in the transcript of his or her school record that such pupil has met the standards of competency in basic skills prescribed and adopted by the state board pursuant to the provisions of this act.

Section 6. The state board may adopt rules and regulations for the administration of this act. The standards of competency in basic skills and the instruments prescribed for assessing pupil competency in said basic skills shall be developed in consultation with school board members, school administrators and teachers, and persons representative of the public.

Section 7. The state board shall give technical advice and assistance and make recommendations to any board concerning the adoption and implementation of a system of competency based education, and shall consider and advise any board concerning problems encountered by such board in complying with the requirements of this act.

Section 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.