



1938 DECATUR COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL graduate Delbert Townsend (third from right) told one of his stories to a group of Oberlin students, who recently visited Washington.

Colonel Townsend lives in Fort Washington and treated the group to dinner at Gadsby's Tavern, a city landmark.

— Photo by Charles Haag

Decatur Dictator
By the DCHS Dictator Staff

Oberlin student takes league title

By AMBER BARRATT
Anthony Marshall is the 2005 Northwest Kansas League speech champion in poetry.

Anthony became champ by placing first at the league tournament on Thursday, March 30, in Oakley. Anthony was also 2004 league champion in humorous solo acting.

For his poetry selection, Anthony read two pieces by Edgar Allan Poe, "Dream-Land" and "El Dorado."

League runner-up was Jeremy Tally. He placed second in humorous solo acting, followed by Rory Wendelin, third; and Anthony, fourth.

Kellen Doeden placed third in poetry, and Molly Coleman, sixth.

Karyn Jordan and Sarah Marcuson placed fourth in duet acting, while the team of David Morris and Kelly Olson finished in sixth place.

Placing fifth were Aaron Helm in extemporaneous speaking, David Morris and Jeremy Tally in improvised duet acting, and Andy Dempe-wolf in oration.

Danica May took sixth in informative speaking.

Overall the Oberlin team came in second with a total of 202 points. Quinter won the tournament.

Other team members who helped Oberlin to their second-place team finish were Tricia Dorshorst, Jenny Hirsch, Destry Jackson, and Gabe Moore.

"I am very proud of the team," said speech Coach Leigh Davis. "They did an outstanding job."

To see the league placers as well as the rest of the team in action, don't forget the annual Evening of Forensics on April 14 at 7 p.m.

Student Council members visit capital

By KELSEY GALLETINE
A "once-in-a-lifetime" experience, that's how senior David Barth described the fourth annual student council trip to Washington over spring break.

Seniors Molly Coleman, David Barth and David Morris and juniors Drew Martin, Jason Thomas and Anne Wasson left March 20 and returned March 26. Principal Charles Haag and his wife Betsy accompanied the group.

"It was fun and educational," Jason said.

"Having the opportunity to venture to our nation's capital was a wonderful experience," said Student Council President Molly Coleman. "I never expected such an educational vacation could be so enjoyable."

En route to the airport in Kansas City, the group spent Sunday night, with Mary Getto in Ozawkie. Ms. Getto is the sister-in-law of Student Council Advisor Dick Ahlberg, who organizes the trip.

Monday morning the group flew to Atlanta and on to Baltimore.

John and Heidi Lesinski picked

them up and took them to their home in Great Falls, Va, 20 minutes from Washington. Heidi, whose maiden name is Martinson, is a 1983 Oberlin graduate. Each year she and her husband invite six student council members and two sponsors to spend a week at the capital.

"John and Heidi are great people," said Drew. "They know all about the history of our capital. It is extremely generous of them to give students this opportunity."

"Not only do the Lesinskis provide comfortable hospitality, they are also both very well educated of the history of our government and war battles," said Molly. "Our group had fun experiencing ethnic food, touring the monuments at night, and relaxing in the hot tub."

Another Oberlin graduate, Col. Delbert Townsend, treated the Oberlin group to dinner at Gadsby's Tavern.

"I could have listened to more of the colonel's stories, but we didn't have enough time with him," said Drew.

The group went to Arlington Cemetery, Ford Theater, Mount

Vernon, the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korea Memorial, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Capitol, the National Archives, the Air and Space Museum, and the Smithsonian Museum. They also visited the house where President Lincoln died.

Most said that seeing the monument at night was the best part of the trip.

Anne said, "I learned a lot about our Nation's history."

For Jason one of the most memorable tours was the Holocaust Museum.

Anne also said that the Holocaust Museum is something she will never forget.

"The shoes and the hair display were overwhelming," she said. "For me standing in the railroad car was the worst because we were in an actual car where so many Jewish people stood years ago. It was hard to breathe. I will never forget that."

Drew said that Arlington Cemetery was "sobering."

Jason added, "To stand there and

see all of those crosses knowing that each one represents someone who died for our country is sobering."

Jason said that one thing he would have liked to have seen was the Reflecting Pool, but it was drained for cleaning.

"When I first saw Arlington Cemetery, it was kind of morbid," said David Morris. "The graves almost seem like they go on forever. It is sad that because of war all those people had to die."

David Barth liked the Air and Space Museum.

"It was amazing," he said. "When I first walked in I couldn't believe what I saw. I got to see the 'Spirit of St. Louis,' the Wright brothers' first plane, the jet that dropped the atomic bomb, Apollo 13, and the first lunar model that landed on Mars."

Drew said it was interesting that their tour guide of the Capitol was Brett Moore, a 1999 Oberlin graduate who attends Kansas University and is doing an internship in Washington.

"That trip was awesome," David Barth said.

Oberlin to hold league art show

By KAYDEE LEITNER
The Northwest Kansas League Art Show is held this year in Oberlin at The Gateway this year.

The show was to begin Tuesday, and run through Thursday. Public viewing hours for the league show were set for 6-9 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 a.m.-9 p.m. today, and from 8-11

a.m. on Thursday. The schools participating this year are St. Francis, Atwood, Oberlin, Goodland, Colby, Oakley, Quinter, and Scott City.

The displays exhibit artwork in various media from elementary, middle/junior high, and high school students.

Forensic group to show off talents

By JUSTINE MILLER
Parents, grandparents, teachers, friends, and anyone wanting entertainment are invited to the Evening of Forensics.

This is a special night for all speech members as they get to perform for the public in the events they have been working on since January.

The speech team will start performing at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, and you are welcome to come and go as you please between performances. Students will perform in three different rooms: the library, room 117, and room 118.

The public is invited, and the speech team encourages you to come.

School Menus

April 11-15
OBERLIN

Monday — Breakfast: breakfast burrito, pineapple. Lunch: ham, roll with butter. **Tuesday** — Breakfast: cereal, muffin, peaches. Lunch: chicken enchiladas. **Wednesday** — Breakfast: donuts, yogurt, tropical fruit. Lunch: Tater Tot casserole. **Thursday** — Breakfast: pancakes, sausage patty, pears. Lunch: potato bar, chicken nuggets. **Friday** — No school (teacher in-service). Milk served with all meals. Choice bar served with all lunches.

PRAIRIE HEIGHTS

Breakfast is served daily: toast, cereal, juice. Lunches: **Monday** — beef nuggets, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, rolls, pears. **Tuesday** — chicken party sandwich, Tater Tots, baked beans, applesauce. **Wednesday** — Crispitos, refried beans, peaches, cookies. **Thursday** — sliced ham, au gratin potatoes, green beans, rolls, tropical fruit. **Friday** — burritos, refried beans, fruit cocktail. Milk served with all meals. Salad bar served with all lunches.

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