

Stellar H.S. Student Doesn't Make Principal's Grade

By Craig McGuire

Being at the head of the class is not all that it's cracked up to be, as Bishop Kearney High School Junior Amanda Jordan is finding out. Jordan is not being allowed to participate in any senior activities because, while she will have fulfilled all of her graduation requirements one year early, she is officially a junior at the all-girls Catholic school.

"They're taking everything away from me," said

the distraught Jordan.

In addition to not attending graduation, Jordan will also be excluded from all senior activities, including yearbook pictures and the senior prom.

Sister Joan McAvoy, C.S.J., principal at Bishop Kearney, Bay Parkway and 60th Street, said Jordan will not have taken her junior final examinations until the end of June, weeks after graduation.

"She is perfectly welcome to attend graduation

next year," said McAvoy.

Robert Jordan, Amanda's father, said, "This is absurd. If there is a legitimate legal basis for not being allowed to receive a diploma during graduation exercises, why not, when her name is called and she crosses the stage, hand her a blank paper?"

"By participating without having fulfilled requirements, she would be making a mockery of the ceremony of graduation," said McAvoy.

The principal added that Jordan is not being singled out, and any seniors who haven't fulfilled graduation requirements on time will not be allowed to participate either.

"We were told she will be the first student in the history of Bishop Kearney to complete her high school academic requirements in three years," said Robert Jordan. "Why must she be penalized for exhibiting a desire to excel in her academic career?"

McAvoy said that while it is a rare accomplishment, it is not a unique one. According to McAvoy, the last time the feat was accomplished was over a decade ago.

"It is not as common as it was 20 years ago, mainly because our students opt to

take advanced college courses," said McAvoy. "Where she did four years in three, most students do five years in four," said McAvoy, explaining that many students prefer entering college as sophomores.

In order to graduate early, Jordan's parents were required to pay an additional \$2782.50 over the regular tuition fee of \$3975 which will encompass senior classes in gym, religion, english, and history.

"I believe Bishop Kearney is taking unfair advantage of me by charging an exorbitant amount of money for three credits," said Robert Jordan. "A rate, I'm sure, that surpasses those of any Ivy league school."

McAvoy said the parents had been notified of the procedure of payment when the student expressed her intentions, and that she had actually reduced the fee.

Jordan says that McAvoy now refuses to even meet with her. "She will not hear anything, and now she refuses to talk to me."

McAvoy stated that she had met with Jordan's parents on two separate occasions, and had also written them an official explanation.



Amanda Jordan.

While stuck in a deadlock with administration, students at the school have rallied around Jordan.

A petition was circulated to include her in senior activities, and was signed by 600 juniors and seniors. "Virtually all of the juniors and seniors came out to support me," said Jordan.

Graduation or not, Jordan said she is looking forward to attending Canisius College, where she has been accepted for enrollment starting September 1994.

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