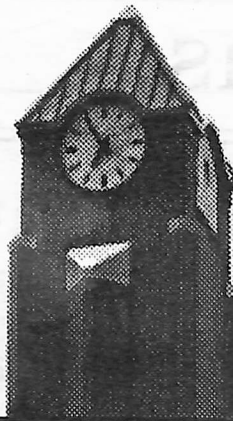


WHAT'S INSIDE?

- > Jay Birmingham reveals his coaching philosophies
- > Learn a bit more about the new Senate president
- > Vikings pick-up another softball win
- > Admissions takes a look at methods of recruiting

HERMIES

DANA COLLEGE



Vol. 77 No. 20
April 18, 1997

Out with the old and in with the new

AMY BENEDICT
Editor in Chief

The Student Senate changed hands Wednesday evening as the old officers and members had their last meeting and the new Student Senate took over.

The old Senate started off the evening holding their meeting first. The Academic Affairs committee representatives reported that Academic Affairs is changing the policy on incompletes on grade reports. These will no longer be used, but a new process will take its place so students will still be eligible to earn Dean's List honors. The representatives also addressed concerns on the Honor Code that the Academic Affairs committee is discussing putting in effect next year.

The Senate approved to give \$50 to Music Educators National Conference for a speaker that gave a presentation in the month of April. Social Awareness Organization was granted \$8.25 for cookies for an upcoming event.

Some student concerns voiced were that the security vehicle was left with the motor running for long periods of time without being moved. Another concern was that the MacIntosh computers in the Macintosh lab in Madsen Fine Arts Center were going to be upgraded and students were hoping the

computers currently in the lab could be put in the residence halls for students not familiar with IBM computers. This will be discussed in greater detail after Senate representatives discuss the matter with Computer Services.

The old Senate then adjourned their meeting and the new Senate President, Rodney Ronk, called the new Senate meeting to order. New elected Senate members are junior representatives: Dottie Whitehill, Amy Benedict, Sara Duff, and Elaine Rivard. Sophomore representative: Lindsay Bruning, Nicole Kinsey, Sandi Frey, Amy Klusmeier. Freshmen representatives: Mark Lepper, Mark Knudsen, Rachel Hospodka, and Thomas Blase.

The new Senate opened their meeting with voting for committee chairpeople. Elaine Rivard was voted as chairperson for the communications committee, Amy Klusmeier as budget committee chairperson, Amy Benedict for student services chairperson, and Lindsay Bruning for policy committee chairperson.

The Senate was asked to participate in the previous Senate's community service project of campus recycling and signed-up for times to help with energy packs. The group was orientated with Senate procedure and other upcoming events and concerns before the meeting was adjourned.



Watch Out! JoAnn Beck and Julie Seeba are armed with foam noodles as they battle it out to relieve stress and tension at the Resident Hall Association's Stress Relief party on Tuesday evening. (photo by Shawn Isaacs)

What to do about those finals?

LESLIE SCHROETER
Reporter

How do you prepare for finals and deal with the fast-approaching end of the semester?

"You don't," replied sophomore Becca Plowman.

On a serious note, however, there is a major resource on campus that can benefit students trying to pre-

pare for finals. The Learning Center is a quiet place where students can study, use computers, and get help from tutors. It is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday through Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The Learning Center has books that aid in research, writing, proofreading, and documenting sources for research papers, as well as many handouts to help students learn how to study and

manage time wisely.

Director of the Learning Center, Lori Nielsen, said that making calendars of what's due and when can put things in perspective for students and help them to plan and get things done according to a schedule. Hopefully, students have kept up on reading and other assignments throughout the semester.

See Finals page 3

Plans now finalized for peddling around Denmark

JENNIFER BURGER
Reporter

Who would want to spend three weeks of his/her summer participating in a grueling cross-country bike ride? Dana students Laura Meldrum, Marnie Jensen, and Sonya Weber do. They have elected to go on a three-week bicycle tour of Denmark. Accompanying them will be Dr. John Mark Nielsen, professor of English and Danish.

The first three days will consist of traveling to and touring Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark. Other sights include the Kronborg Castle, where Shakespeare's Hamlet is set, and a visit to the Hans Christian Andersen Museum and Research Center in Odense. Many other towns are included in the itinerary. The trip will end back in Copenhagen with a free

day for touring and a farewell dinner. "We've tried to include sights in the itinerary that will be interesting to each individual. We have a biology major, a history major, and a psychology major, so we planned to go to places that would suit everyone's varied interests," said Nielsen.

All the students have had at least three years of studying Danish. "I've been studying Danish for three years. I wanted to go on this trip because there are not many Danish-speaking places to travel to. I wanted first-hand experience with using the language. Plus I've never been outside the U.S., so I'm really excited," said Weber.

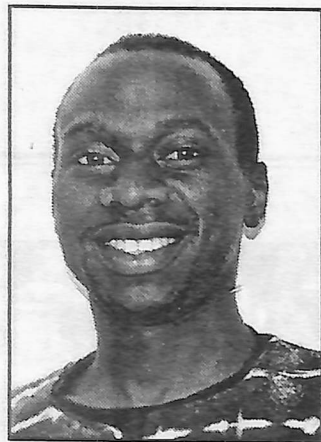
"Marnie and Sonya asked about taking a trip to Denmark a few years ago and I thought about it and started to seriously consider it. We're using this trip as a sort of experiment for the success of possible trips in the future," said Nielsen.



Beth McCabe, Heidi Gerth, Beth King, Gina Schoening, Kristin Hansen and Jenny Lemmerman rehearsing for the upcoming play "Guys and Dolls" that opens April 23. (photo by Shawn Isaacs)

What is your favorite thing about Spring?

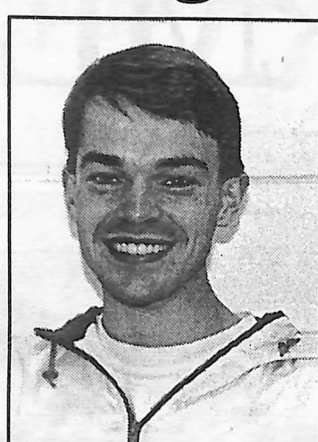
Pictures and questions by Janet Reisdorff



"Everything turns green. It reminds me that God is recycling and I need to recycle too."
Benjamin Bundi, Senior



"I get to wear shorts and sandals outside and I'm not cold."
Christina Nutter, Freshman



"Graduation."
Lars Jensen, Senior



"That I can go outside and do stuff because I'm tired of being cooped up inside and watching movies."
Tricia TeSelle, Junior



"I know summer is coming and it'll all be over soon."
Ann Myers, Junior

How did you choose to attend Dana? Admission's look at prospective students

SARAH PETERSON
Special to the Hermes

Do you remember how you chose Dana College? Think back to your senior year in high school. What factors helped make your decision? Spring is a hectic time for prospective students as they search for a college to match their needs. Acting as representatives, the Admissions Office works to promote Dana's excellence to students and to help them choose a college. This past year our office examined the focus of our promotion. With the services of a professional consultant firm, Hardwick*Day, we enhanced and increased our contacts with prospective students. We continued our special visit days, added student and faculty phoning, and sent special alumni correspondence letters.

So, how do students choose a college? Well, that question became the subject of the 1997 Presidential

Scholarship Competition essay. The question, developed by the English Department, asked participating students to evaluate the recruitment process and their criteria for a college. On February 16, 1997, 151 contestants participated in the competition. Each high school senior described their needs in a college and their decision making process. Most of the high school seniors reported feeling bombarded with mail from colleges and turned off by the numerous and uninteresting phone calls.

Several important characteristics reported to affect the participant's college choice included academic programs, location, size, and financial aid ability. The student's essays conclude, however, that personal interaction with students, faculty, and representatives form final impressions of a school. Fearing the thought of "just becoming a number somewhere" students at the presidential competition indicated that they were looking for schools with personal care.

One way to experience the personal touch of a college campus, also reported by competitors, is to visit. Students believe that the friendliness of the environment, professors, and students reflects the atmosphere of the college. Most students who visit Dana for individual tours or visit days praise our students and faculty for their personal touch and availability. The Admissions Staff appreciates the friendly nature of Dana's campus and enjoys presenting it to prospective students.

On Saturday, April 19, Dana's Admissions Office is hosting the last of five Discover Dana Days. If you see students in the cafeteria or on campus, we encourage you to continue to be friendly and invite them to attend a school that cares about them personally. Maybe when you visited Dana there was a student or professor that influenced your decision to attend. Perhaps your smile or friendly "hello" will help influence someone to attend Dana!

Christopherson hopes to globalize Dana

BIAMA SABIYA
Reporter

Dr. Myrvin Christopherson has been president of Dana College since July 1, 1986. Prior to coming to Dana, he taught at 25 different universities. At other universities, Christopherson had the opportunity to lecture overseas and head the communications department.

Christopherson came to Dana in 1961 as a student. His past experiences at Dana lead him to believe that Dana College is a good place to be and will only improve as time goes by.

Christopherson's future goals include developing facilities and the student body, faculty and staff.

Christopherson stated that before coming to Dana, endowment funds barely exceeded \$1 million dollars and today the endowment fund is at approximately \$6 million. These funds are used to help students afford Dana College. While this increase is impressive, Christopherson states that more is needed.

When asked what makes Dana College different from other colleges, Christopherson stated that Dana is a liberal arts college unlike other surrounding colleges and universities. Christopherson also hopes to increase the number of the student body, including the international and minority students, to help make Dana known throughout the country and around the world.

HERMES

DANA COLLEGE

Editor in chief: Amy Benedict
Copy Editor: Emily Kempcke
Feature Editor: Joy Pudenz
Sports Editor: Chris Chance
Photographic Editor: Heather Olsen
Graphics Editor: Janet Reisdorff
Business Manager: Carla Jo Krance
Advisors: Dr. John M. Nielsen, Joan Bucy

Hermes is written and published by students of the Dana College Communication-Print Media Department on Fridays during the fall and spring academic year. Content of the paper is developed independently of the student government, faculty and administration and does not reflect the policies of those groups. Opinions expressed in Hermes are not necessarily those of the editors, college or the college community.

Hermes welcomes letters to the editor expressing all original points of view. Hermes reserves the right to edit all letters according to space availability. All letters must include the author's name and address. Under certain circumstances Hermes may respect requests to have names omitted at time of publishing.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments by calling (402) 426-7328, or via Hermes, Dana College, Box 1086, Blair NE 68008. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday to be printed in the weekly issue.



"The Forum Girls," KimWingad, Elaine Rivard, Marnie Jensen, Sandy Smith, Roisin Bell, and Erica Swanson meet in the Forum in the afternoons to study, visit, and enjoy free time between classes. (photo by Emily Kempcke)

Rodney Ronk tackles adversity with open, positive attitude

JILL DEWALD
Reporter

A week and a half into the 1993 fall semester, Dana College welcomed transfer Rodney Ronk.

Ronk, of Emerson, Iowa, attended Buena Vista in Storm Lake, Iowa, the previous week. He hated it. He planned on being football equipment manager to become involved in college just like he did in high school, but was thoroughly disappointed. On Friday, he packed his bags, drove home and declared he was never going back to that college again.

Ronk's neighbors, the Babbitts, heard of his situation. Mrs. Babbitt then called her sister, Maureen Miese, who at that time worked for Dana. Miese arranged for Ronk to meet with professors and tour the campus that Monday. In just one day, Ronk applied, was accepted, and registered for classes at Dana College.

On Tuesday, Ronk went to visit his twin brother, Richard, at South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., before once again leaving for college. On Wednesday, Ronk bought his books and has been at Dana ever since. "Trying to adjust the first couple of weeks was rough, but I have stayed and met lots of great people along the way," said Ronk.

Senior Dave Henneman was one of those people. "I met Ronk my junior year (Ronk was a sophomore at this time). He lived across the hall and seemed to be an all around good guy. I got to know him and liked him instantly. I admire all the hard work he does," said Henneman. "He's the football equipment manager, works at Walmart, and is a resident assistant."

In the spring semester of 1996, it was Henneman that developed the idea to have Ronk run for president as a write-in candidate. Henneman



Rodney Ronk

recalls, "We told him about the plan after we had the posters made. He stayed pretty quiet about the whole thing. He didn't say whether he cared or not, he just said he would wait and see what happened."

Henneman continued, "He might make the best president we've had in years. He knows everyone and isn't into just one clique. He's not just secluded to one group of friends." Henneman sheepishly added, "I don't want to sound cheesy, but he is friends with the whole campus."

Ronk believes he was never as outgoing in high school as he is now. As junior Michael Babbitt casually strolled by, Ronk called out to him. "Hey Mike! I was different in high school, wasn't I?" Babbitt quickly agreed, "Oh, definitely." Ronk replied with a look of sincerity in his bright blue eyes, "Ask anyone back home and they would have never imagined me still in school, let alone the future student body president." Babbitt added, "He cares more about things now. When we were little, I only thought he cared about baseball and having fun."

Ronk also has a campus radio show that he and Henneman put on every Thursday night from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

"It started out as a class, but through it I think I have become more well known. I am now that goofy guy on the radio." He added, "We did different things every week. One night, I was running over to Blair Hall in just shoes and my shorts in -60F weather. I called back to the show by the blue security phone and for fun, stuck my tongue to the pole. I'm not sure exactly why, but it was just the tip of my tongue so it didn't hurt too bad," commented Ronk. "Some of the things we have done are stupid, but they're fun," he added.

Ronk has managed to have fun no matter where he is. Roisin Bell, Senior Resident Assistant in Blair Hall, remembers most vividly the time Ronk got the best of his fellow co-worker. During the training of new RA's, present staff members must stage situations which may occur in real life. "Rodney played the best drunk I have ever seen. He was being loud and obnoxious and even pretended to stumble down the hallway to help dump out the imaginary beer."

Bell adds, "He's also very easy to work with. He's so understanding to changes in schedules. I think he will be a very interactive leader. He will make sound decisions after listening to the input of others. He will be more of a guide than anything."

Senate member Heidi Torgerson also agreed with Bell's comment. "My first impression of Ronk was seeing a sign at the beginning of the year that said Rodney Ronk's mom was coming to talk about how to do laundry and I thought what type of name is 'Ronk'." Torgerson added, "Honestly, I think he will be a very open minded and effective yet laid back leader next year."

"Everything I have I owe to other people. To my friends, my mom, Richard, and especially my grandma," said Ronk.



Paul Stark plays a solo on the alto saxophone. The Dana/Midland Jazz Band performed Tuesday night in the Trinity Chapel. (photo by Janet Reisdorff)

Campus Events

April 18-24, 1997

FRIDAY

- TBA Softball NAIC Round Robin, Lincoln
- 12:10 p.m. "Olympic Hopefuls," Faculty Colloquia by Jay Birmingham, Chapel
- 7:30 p.m. Lazer Light Show, Campus Center

SATURDAY

- TBA Discover Dana Day
- Noon Softball NAIC Round Robin, Lincoln
- 9-11 p.m. Baseball vs Wesleyan, Peterson Field

SUNDAY

- 11 a.m. Worship, Trinity Chapel
- 1 p.m. Baseball at Nebraska Wesleyan

MONDAY

- 8 p.m. Poetry Cafe, Pioneer Memorial Chapel

TUESDAY

- 10:30 a.m. Chapel services, chapel
- 7 p.m. Fitness for Life, Linden Room
- 7:30 p.m. Talent Show, DHA

WEDNESDAY

- 5:30 p.m. Softball at Northwestern
- 6 p.m. Business Club meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Japanese Night, Dragon's Head
- 7 p.m. Sizzling Summer Shape-Up, Forum
- 7:30 p.m. "Guys and Dolls," Lauritzen Theater

THURSDAY

- 10:30 a.m. Worship, Trinity Chapel
- 5 p.m. Baseball at Bellevue
- 7:30 p.m. "Guys and Dolls," Lauritzen Theater

Finals

Continued from page 1

However, if you are one of those students who hasn't done the work that you should have during the semester, this may be an especially trying time for you. Choose the most important things to study first and work from there. This is the time for you

to prioritize and make choices about what will and won't get done. Set a certain time to study each day and stick to it.

"Study as much as you can each day, but still save a little bit of time to have fun," suggests Plowman.

Hermes

"Question of the Week"

"What summer activity are you most looking forward to participating in?"

Send your answer to Box 514 or acad2/Hermes by 5 p.m. Wednesday for FREE meals at the Toll House

Last week's winner:
Joy Pudenz

C O U P O N

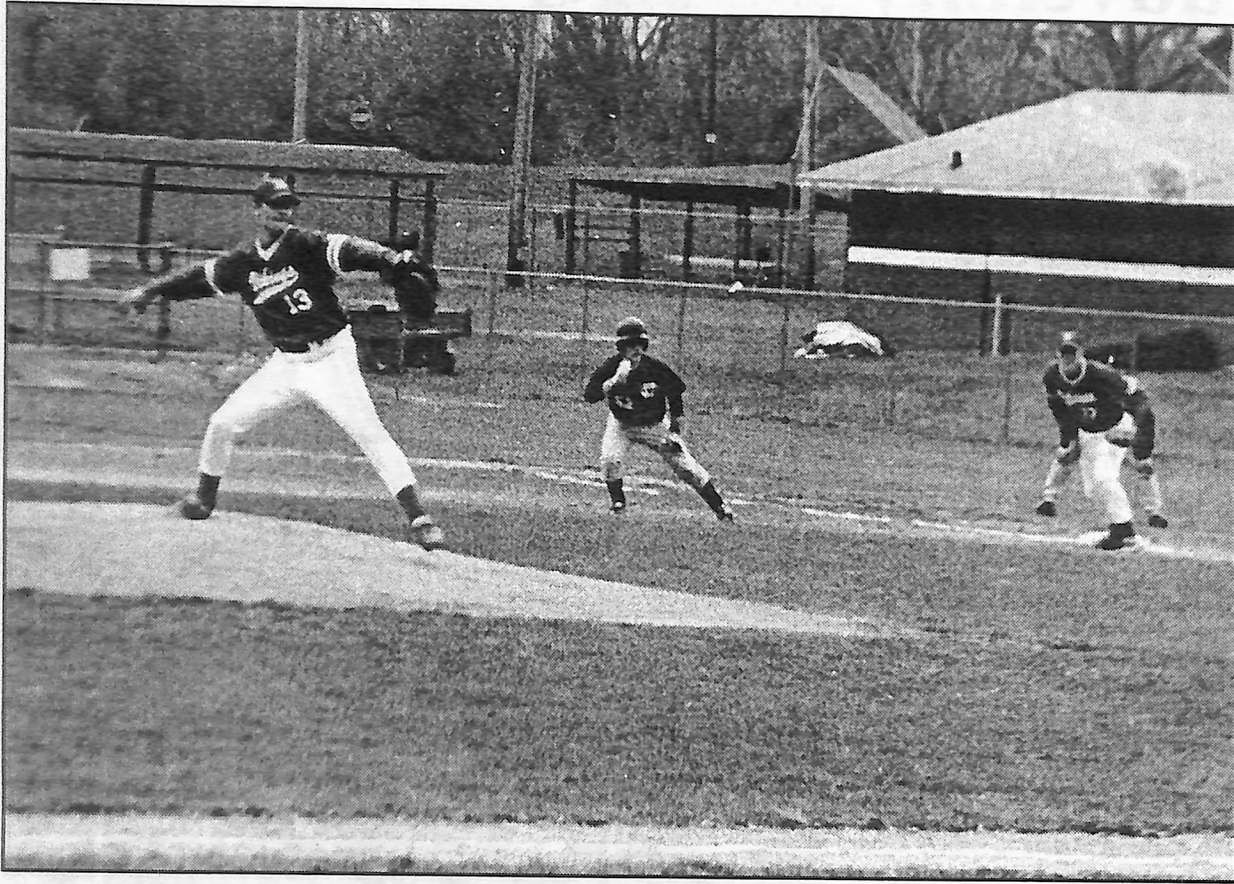
Buy one footlong sub and get one of equal or lesser value FREE!*

*with purchase of a medium drink

The Place

SUBWAY

Where Fresh is the Taste.™
Good at Blair location only.



Freshman Craig Wetterberg delivers the pitch against Doane Tuesday afternoon. (photo by Shawn Isaacs)

Vikings look to improve record this weekend

JAMES PETERSON
Reporter

Who would have guessed an April snow would cause such havoc to the '97 baseball season?

After having an unwanted week off due to a heavy snow that dropped as much as a foot of the white stuff in some places across the Midwest, the Dana baseball team took the field against Doane in a doubleheader on Tuesday afternoon. Many people thought the games would not be played due to the snow that still stood on the field as late as Monday, but due to a great effort by the team to clear the snow off, the field was in good shape. In the first game, Dana fell behind early, trailing by a score of 10-1 by the end of the fourth inning. They did manage to close the gap to 10-4, but they would not get any closer.

In the second game, the Vikings switched the roles, taking a 10 run lead into the top of the fourth. But Doane rallied back, scoring seven runs in the inning to close within

two. The game was eventually suspended due to darkness, with Dana up to bat in the bottom half of the fourth with a runner on first and no outs. The game will be completed on Monday when Dana travels to Crete to play another doubleheader against the Tigers.

On Wednesday, the Vikings went to Northwestern, Iowa to play Northwestern. A major lack of offensive output cost the Vikings in the first game, when Dana had only one run on just two hits. In the second game, Dana's offense came alive in a contest where both teams decided that the way to win this game was at the plate. Dana held a 12-10 lead going into the bottom of the seventh, but Northwestern erased that lead in their half of the inning. Giving it one more go for the victory, Dana scored in the eighth to go up 13-12; the Red Raiders scored two in the bottom of the inning for the 14-13 victory.

Dana is now 11-15 overall and 4-5 in the NIAC. Next up for the Vikings will be a four game set against Nebraska Wesleyan, with two of those games being played at Paul Peterson field Saturday at noon.

Birmingham credits athletes and former coach for his success

GREG KELLOGG
Reporter

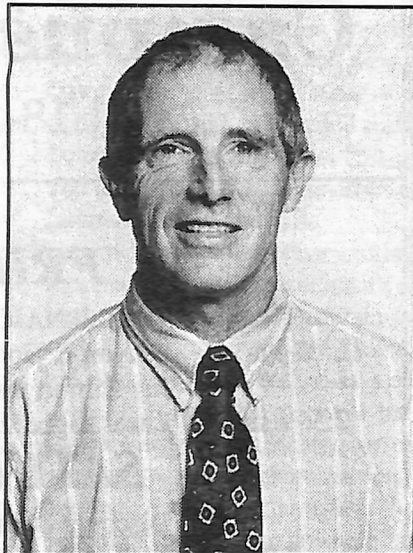
The starting line of Jay Birmingham's running career began at age 14. From that point in time, running has been a major part of Dana's track and cross country coach's life. Birmingham grew up competing in track during high school and college. He began his cross country running while in college and has competed in marathons and ultra-distance running (30-100's of miles) since then.

Before coming to Dana, Birmingham coached high school track in Florida and Ohio. During his early coaching years, he met a coach who turned out to be one of Birmingham's role models. As he picked up a book written by Joe Vigil, Birmingham explained that Vigil taught him a lot about coaching, predominantly by example.

"He taught me how to balance a year long training program for my team, how to develop runners instead of recruiting highly talented ones, and how to focus largely on large competitions such as nationals."

One philosophy that Birmingham has, which stems from Vigil, is that recruiting is over-emphasized, while development is under-emphasized. Birmingham said, "I believe that in order to be successful, an athlete needs to train 12 months of the year. This is especially true for track athletes, since being in good shape is important."

If you had to choose one word



Jay Birmingham

to describe Birmingham, it would likely be modes. He is a man who prefers to focus on his team, rather than himself, calls himself an avid student of exercise science, and also loves teaching. He enjoys nature, likes camping, mountain hiking and planet watching. He believes that he is always learning and improving in his coaching techniques and modifies them each year. "If a coach does the same things year after year, the program will stagnate."

"As a coach, I enjoyed the challenge of starting the Dana program from scratch and finishing third in the nation in a matter of just three years."

When it comes to training, Birmingham believes that informing the athlete of why he/she is doing the specific training activity and making them aware of its purpose helps to motivate the person because they can see the reasoning behind it. Birmingham also stressed that he places an emphasis on progression and motivation, rather than winning.

"I do not give pep talks to my athletes, nor do I attempt to boost the athletes' man/womanhood. I believe that people have to want to work hard, and that they will feed off of each other's success and positive atmosphere." Birmingham loves what he does so much, he said that he hopes he can coach until he is forced to quit. He enjoys sharing what he has learned throughout his life. At this point, he said that he is not looking forward to retiring because he can't imagine living without athletics. Personally, Birmingham is working to finish a novel, which he expects to complete this year, and said that he is still striving to achieve his goal of running a "good" marathon, one in three hours flat.

As far as recruiting, he has a simple philosophy. He believes in what he calls pin-point recruiting, or only sending out fliers to 20-30 potential recruits. He looks for athletes who are "somewhat successful" runners and prefers athletes who are also good students. Birmingham likes to stay away from the gifted athletes that several other schools want, simply because they will go to larger schools. He looks for a positive attitude, a desire to improve, and a desire to want to be part of the team. Birmingham said that these areas are more important to him than pure talent.

"Winning the Coach of the Year honor has made me realize that coaching honors are 100 percent in the hands of your athletes. Any honor that is earned for anything other than muscular effort is only there for the media."

Lady Vikings sweep doubleheader Tuesday

EMILY KEMPCKE
Copy Editor

The Dana softball team improved its Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference (NIAC) record to 4-0 with a doubleheader sweep of Nebraska Wesleyan on Tuesday night in Lincoln.

Jen Schneider pitched a four-hit shutout in the second game and the Vikings rallied from a 3-2 deficit to win the opener. Dana tied the first game in the sixth inning and then won it with two runs in the seventh.

Sophomore Tara Furstenau was the winning pitcher.

The Vikings are now 7-11 overall and will play in the NIAC Round Robin this weekend.

In other softball news, Furstenau was recently named "Regional Softball Pitcher of the Week". Furstenau, a right-hander from Strasburg, Colo., pitched every inning of a doubleheader sweep over Hastings. She yielded just six hits and three walks in her 12 innings of work. Furstenau struck out 10 batters in the doubleheader and added a triple and three runs scored at the plate.

"Guys and Dolls"

Opening on the Dana College stage:
Wednesday, April 23,
Performances will continue through Sunday, April 27 and all will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Lauritzen Theatre in the Madsen Fine Arts Center.
Admission is free.