

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- What is involved in being a senior resident assistant?
- Dana celebrates Women's History Month
- Looking ahead toward spring baseball

HERMIES

DANA COLLEGE



Vol. 78 No. 16
February 27, 1998



Performing a scene from Neil Simon's Pulitzer Prize winning play "Lost in Yonkers," Matt Haufle, Jake Adolphson, David Bossman, Jenny Lemmerman and Rachel Lochner entertain the crowd. (Photo by Shane Koepke)

Responsibility of recycling at Dana falls on many volunteers

AMY BENEDICT
Editor-in-Chief

Organizations were again asked this semester to pitch in and help on Saturdays with Dana College campus recycling. Faculty and staff were asked to volunteer on Saturdays that students would not be on campus.

"Faculty and staff are the most visible role models that students have," said senior Sonya Weber of Cozad, who is a regular volunteer. "Faculty and staff are as much a part of this campus as the students are, so they should be involved as well."

Dr. Richard Jorgensen, professor of history and recycling advisor, said he feels recycling is a matter that involves everyone. "Since we all help to generate trash on campus, it would be great if all of us, students, staff and faculty alike would help to reduce the amount of it by recycling."

Sara Crawford, a junior from Watertown, S.D., a coordinator of Saturday campus recycling, said she believes that recycling will be more organized this semester. The organizations that volunteer to help with recycling will now have a list of instructions on what to do in each building. Two students will go to each building, empty and sort what is in the bins and put them by the street curb for another group of students in a pickup to collect the sacks of recycled goods.

Recycling organizers will be distributing 30 new bins around campus. Some of these bins will be designated for plastic, a new item to be collected this semester. Other bins will replace cardboard boxes now used as recycling containers.

clinging containers.

Another advancement the organizers and regular recycling volunteers would like to see is more dependable volunteers.

"I think that although there are many different levels of involvement in recycling, everyone has the ability and responsibility to do their part," said senior recycling volunteer Valerie Bensen of Maskell. "With more students and staff working on recycling we will see the system move more quickly and efficiently and will be able to increase the amount of recycling that goes on campus wide."

"Gathering and sorting recyclable items needs to be done every week," said Weber. "This is a big job for the few people that have been involved. The more people to help, the faster and more fun the job is."

"We have almost two pickup truck loads that we take to the Blair Community Recycling Center every week," said Crawford.

Crawford said the biggest help would be if people would sort their paper before putting it in the bins because it would save volunteers time on Saturdays.

Weber said students could help if they placed their recyclable items in the correct containers and did not throw trash in the bins. Removing paper clips and sticky notes, which are not recyclable, and cleaning out pop cans which have tobacco spit in them before placing them in the bins would also be helpful.

Jorgensen suggests if individuals or groups help retrieve recyclable items from wastebaskets and trash cans during the week and get those items

ready for pickup on Saturday morning, the recycling effort would be less inconvenient for all on Saturday.

Weber, Bensen and Jorgensen agreed recycling on the Dana campus is important.

"The Dana community benefits from becoming environmentally responsible," said Bensen. "We benefit from using only what we need and not being wasteful and ultimately we have less trash to carry out."

"We are at a liberal arts school that attempts to develop a student's mind, body and soul. Taking one and one-half to three hours out of a Saturday morning to work together to better our campus and to keep our earth clean enhances this development," said Weber.

"Our campus efforts have kept a lot of items from ending up in the Douglas County Landfill as trash and have helped to generate some additional, modest income for the Washington County Recycling Association and for the Environmental Awareness Organization account on campus," said Jorgensen. "I hope that the recycling efforts on campus have made lots of us, if not all, more aware than before of the benefits and satisfaction of recycling."

Individuals interested in helping with recycling should meet in the Campus Center on Saturdays at 9 a.m. to get organized. Student Senate provides juice and donuts to all who volunteer to help.

According to Bensen there is a possibility that if you have work study available on your financial aid you could be paid for volunteering in the recycling program. For more information contact Bensen.

Student Senate spends money for Spring Fling

LESLIE SCHROETER
Feature Editor

The Student Senate spent the majority of their meeting Wednesday night giving away money.

They voted to match 50 cents for every dollar made during the computer-a-thon coming up this Sunday through Tuesday. Senate members will be calling parents of students to ask for donations to purchase five new computers. Their goal is to raise about \$8,000.

Bob Schmoll, vice president for business affairs, presented the expenditures to date for the recent renovation of the Dragon's Head. The total came to \$8,331.28 and the senate approved \$5,000 to help with the bill.

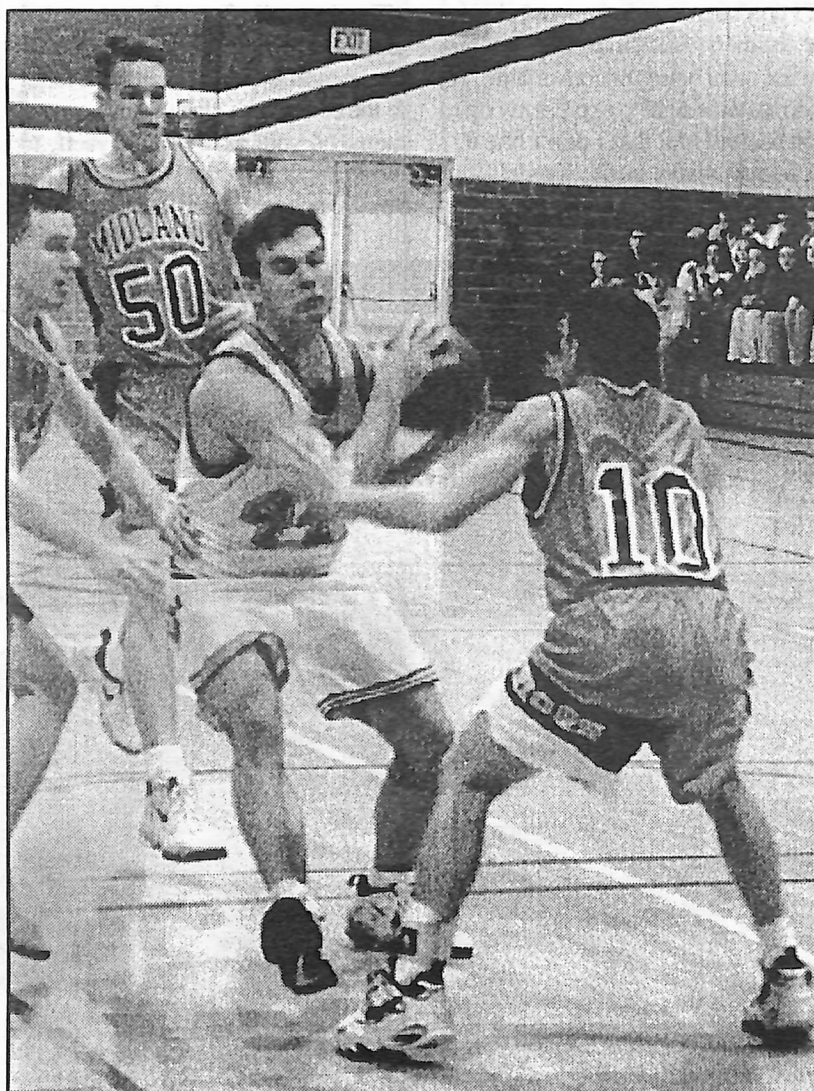
Senior representative Amy Benedict reported on the student services committee meeting with Food Service Director Theresa

Mikes. Benedict said that Marriott has hired a new chef who is cooking with less fat and oil. She said that Mikes is working on new lower fat menus and more vegetarian dishes. Benedict also said that fish will be on the menu every Friday for the Lent season.

Freshman representative John Brummer reported for the student concerns committee about residents of Argo Hall complaining of the smell of cigarette smoke. The policy committee is planning to address the issue in a committee meeting.

A committee consisting of president Rodney Ronk, Rivard, Benedict and treasurer Denecia Siemers was formed to address the problem of cars parked along Nebraska Street causing a hazard to people driving to and from the Dana campus.

Money was also approved for the purchase of honor cords for graduation and typewriter supplies for the library typewriter.



In Dana's NIAC tournament game against Midland, senior Michael Babbitt struggles to keep the ball away from the Warriors. (Photo by Nikki Kinsey)

Does anyone have the right to control language?

JOAN BRINGEWATT
Editorialist

Looking at the history of the world, the destruction of culture is often seen when a civilization was conquered by another. The conquerors burned books and destroyed the culture of the conquered peoples. For instance, Hitler burned books so that he could plug his propaganda in his own and other countries during World War II.

The biggest hardship I believe is that the conquered people are forced to take on a new language and culture. The Native Americans experienced this when America was expanding westward. As a conquered people being taught a new language, they were taught a new culture as well. They were taught what they could and could not do and say.

When people are required to speak in certain ways with certain words, their thoughts are unnecessarily limited. This happens because words and thoughts are closely intertwined. Our thoughts are unduly limited when others tell us how we must speak. This is what offends me about actions to censor my speech by telling me I must use gender neutral speech. I express my thoughts in words that I choose. I don't want my free use of the English language to be censored. I don't want that to happen to others either. If use of language is limited, eventually thoughts become limited. This is why I stand for free speech. If I don't agree with the word choices of another, I have no right to tell him to use other words or censor him. Yet I do have the right to express my opinion and tell him that I don't like it.

I could read a book, watch TV or tour an art gallery and find things that

I can choose to be offended by. What I do in these situations is put down the book, turn off the TV or leave the art gallery. I don't return to them. Then I may express my opinion through a letter or call to the bookstore that sells the book. I could do the same sort of thing in the other scenarios by contacting the TV station and the art gallery. I can also share my opinions with other people. If many people, who feel like I do, do the same kinds of things, we can make a difference without forcing our opinion on others. The author, producer and artist may find out that his book isn't selling, the show or movie isn't being watched or the artwork isn't being seen. Then and only then, they have the choice to change their works or leave them the same.

On the other hand, censoring someone is different. Trying to censor someone would be forcing my opinion on another person and telling him what he can or cannot write, say or produce. I have no right to infringe on rights of speech and expression. I don't write the author of a book to tell him to stop selling it or to change it. I don't call the producer of a TV show or movie and tell him to cancel it or change it. Likewise, I don't tell the artist to remove his painting from the art gallery or change it.

The freedom to express ourselves in our own way, the freedom to think in different ways and the freedom to voice our opinions and ideas must be preserved. I don't want those freedoms to be taken away. I hope that you don't either.

Thanks to all of you who responded to my previous article by talking with me, e-mailing me or writing a letter to the editor. I'm glad that this caused many of you, as well as myself, to think about how the issue of gender neutral speech affects our lives.

In my own words...

by Rodney Ronk

Hello! Another week has come and gone here at Dana College and wouldn't you know it's even starting to feel a little like spring (by the time you read this it will probably be snowing).

First of all, I'd like to take this time to remind everyone that the elections for new student senators are coming up in the next few weeks. I'd also like to encourage as many people as possible to get involved and run. It is important to have a group of capable, hard-working people representing the students of Dana College. Anyone that has an opinion, a willingness to work for others and a few extra hours to spare a month should seriously consider running. I would also like to encourage as

many different types of people to try to get involved with the Student Senate. Whether you are a man, woman, person of color, etc., the only way the student body can be completely represented is to have different types of people run for senate!

A student concern was brought up by senator Elaine Rivard at our last meeting this past Wednesday and it was a very good one. It dealt with whether or not it is a major problem to have cars parked in front of the apartment building on Nebraska Street. Nebraska Street/Hansen Drive is the street that most of us take when we come and go from campus. With the heavy traffic the street has, it may be considered dangerous to some people to have cars parked there. Although this is an issue that

may have to be taken up with the city of Blair, the question the senate has for you today is whether or not you find it somewhat dangerous to drive up and down the hill with cars parked in the street? Please let your Student Senate know how you feel, because with more input from the student body the better sense we can get on this subject!

Finally, the next senate meeting is March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Forum. These meetings are open to the public, so I would encourage everyone to attend who may be interested in the senate. Come check us out and see what we are all about!

Until next week,
Rodney

Students Career Services
is open to serve you
Mondays
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tuesdays - Fridays
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dragon's Head Events
Friday
"Air Force One" 9:30 p.m.
Monday
"Simpson's" Social 5 -6 p.m.
Wednesday
Darts 501 Tournament 7 p.m.

Learning Center Tutors' Schedule: Spring 1998

The Learning Center is located in the library.

It is open Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun.-Thur. 7-11 p.m.

Tutors available on Tue. & Thur. 10-11 a.m., Sun.-Thur. 7-11 p.m.

—Tutors' Schedule available online (from menu, select "Campus Information") and in the Learning Center.

—No appointments are necessary to meet with tutors and no fee is charged! It's free!

—Contact Lori Nielsen (by phone or e-mail) if you'd like a tutor for a class NOT listed on the schedule, for one might be available. Students are also welcome in the Learning Center if they need a quiet place to do homework & study.

BASIC MATH, ALGEBRA
SMWTh 7-9 p.m.
SMTWTh 9-11p.m.
TTh 10-11 a.m.

CALCULUS I
SMWTh 7-9 p.m.
SMTWTh 9-11 p.m.
TTh 10-11 a.m.

PHYSICS II
Mon. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-9 p.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

ACCOUNTING II
Sun. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 10-11 a.m.

CONSUMER CHEM.
Mon. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-11 p.m.
Thur. 10-11 a.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

GENERAL CHEM. II
Mon. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-11 p.m.
Thur. 10-11 a.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

ORGANIC CHEM. II
Mon. 10-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-11 p.m.
Thur. 10-11 a.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

LIFE SCIENCE
Mon. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-11 p.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

BIOL. PRINCIPLES II
Mon. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 7-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-9 p.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

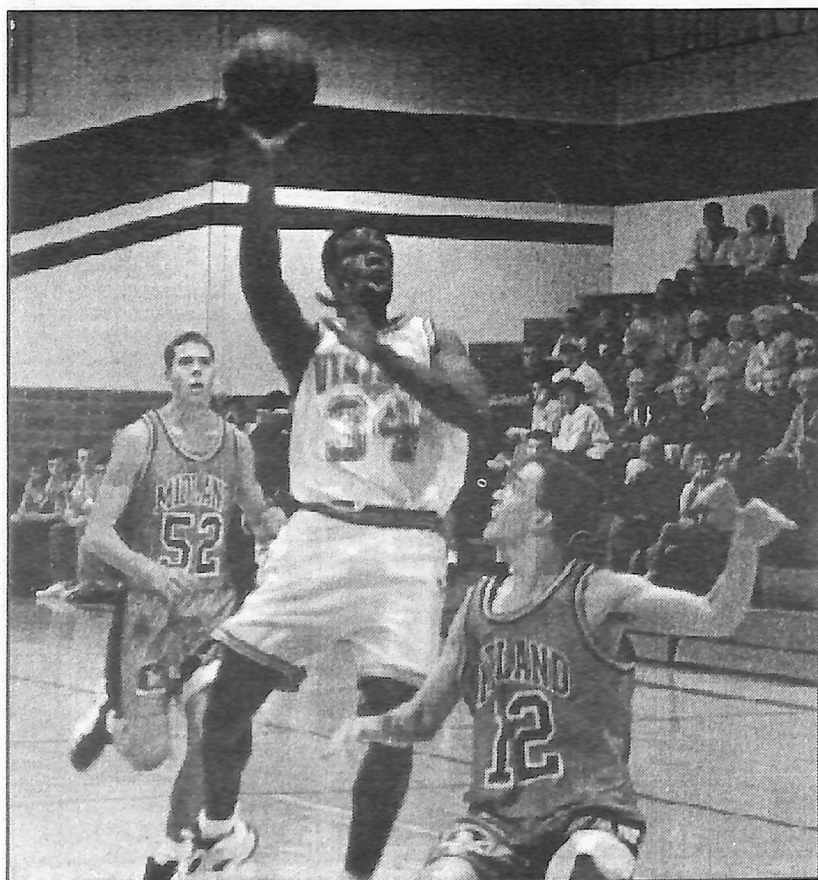
ENGLISH GRAMMAR
Mon. 7-9 p.m.

ELEM. & INTERMED. SPANISH
Tue. 9-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-9 p.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

INTRO TO BIBLE
Sun. 9-11 p.m.
Mon. 7-10 p.m.
Tue. 10-11 a.m.

U.S.HISTORY
Sun. 9-11 p.m.
Tue. 9-11 p.m.
Wed. 7-9 p.m.
Thur. 9-11 p.m.

WRITING ASSISTANCE
Mon. & Wed. 10:30-Noon, 1-3 p.m.
Mon. 7-9 p.m.
TTh 11 -Noon, 1-4 p.m.



A Midland defender cannot stop Vince Grey as he goes airborne for the lay-in during the NIAC tournament game on Tuesday. (Photo by Nikki Kinsey)

Senior resident assistants for 1998-99 announced

JOY PUDENZ
Reporter

Assignments for the 1998-99 senior resident hall assistants were recently announced by the Office of Resident Life. Senior staff positions were given to Michelle Hurt, a junior from Seward, Cheryl Karl, a sophomore from Bellevue, and Deneen Schriver, a junior from Albion.

Hurt, Karl and Schriver were chosen for the senior resident assistant positions by a team consisting of two hall directors and two former senior RAs. Criteria for selection was based on an application and interview process.

According to Kevin Schaudt, dean for student life, senior RAs are a vital part of the resident life staff. According to Schaudt, senior RAs come earlier in the fall and leave later in the spring to learn how to train other RAs, handle difficult situations and prepare for the opening and closing of residence halls.

Hall Director JoAnn Stute said,

"One of the most important jobs a senior RA has is to provide a presence in buildings that hall directors don't live in."

Senior RAs are expected to fulfill other obligations in addition to the duties of RAs.

"Senior RAs must do the duty nights and weekends, programming, floor responsibilities, weekly meetings, confrontations and other duties associated to RAs. Plus, they share in on-call rotations with the hall directors and other senior RAs once a week and one weekend per month. Senior RAs must also be prepared to be looked to as a good resource for other RAs," said Stute.

Being on-call is a very significant responsibility according to Schaudt. Personnel on-call must carry a cellular phone, be accessible on campus at all times and be ready to handle any emergency. "If you are on-call you need to be prepared for anything from a fire alarm to difficult people, situations and confrontations," said Stute.

Elaine Rivard, current Blair Hall senior RA, feels the responsibility associated with her position has both

negative and positive aspects.

"The increased responsibility lends to a feeling of being worthwhile in that you are expected to be ready for the utmost scenarios and help those that are involved. But, being a senior RA, there is a double-edged sword of responsibility in that you are held accountable by not just your floor, but the building and staff within. Should anything go wrong, even if you have no control over it, you immediately are identified as the one who can solve it or didn't solve it," said Rivard.

A senior RA position offers more than responsibility for those with the title.

"The best part of being a senior RA are the relationships you foster with the other RAs, hall directors and staff at Dana College," said Rivard.

Stute feels the main advantage for senior RAs is they each have their own apartment with more space than a regular dorm room. The apartments, located in the Blair, Rasmussen and Argo Halls, have kitchens, living quarters, separate bath and bedrooms. In addition, senior RAs are paid a stipend.

Women's History Month to be celebrated on Dana campus

Dana College alumni will be among the featured speakers as the college observes Women's History Month in March.

A panel of four Dana alumni will discuss their careers in "Breaking the Glass Ceiling," on March 2 at 7 p.m. in the Forum. Panelists will be Sandra (Ohr) Ellis '86, director of administrative services at Mid-America Computer Corporation in Blair; Ann (Harms) George '54, retired director of alumni affairs at Dana College; Carol Hausserman '69, chair of the physical education department; and Shirley McAllister '69, professor emeritus of education and psychology.

"Growing Up Female in the '90's," a video discussion, is planned for March 4 at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Dana Library. The group

will view a 45-minute videotape, "Dear Lisa," which assembles interviews from a variety of women into a commentary on growing up female in our society. The women are of different ages, ethnic groups and occupations. Discussion facilitators will be Dr. Mary McComb, assistant professor of communication at Dana, and students Amber Weber, Tiffany Menard and Traci Ahrendt.

On March 5, the morning worship service will have the theme, "Celebration of Women in the Church's Ministry." Campus Pastor Joanne Richmond will speak. According to Richmond, the service will be about women's gifts and how they have been of benefit to the church throughout time. Hymns sung during worship throughout the month of March will have been composed

by women, either the lyrics, the music or both.

Douglas County Judge Jane Prochaska, a 1973 Dana graduate and a member of the college Board of Regents, will speak on March 23 in "A Chat with the Judge about Gender Issues." Her presentation will be held at 7 p.m. in the Forum.

The month's activities will conclude with a brown bag luncheon, "Women, the Caregivers," in the Presidents' Room on the second floor of the Campus Center on March 24 at noon.

Most women will spend 18 years helping an elderly parent and nearly 90 percent will be caregivers to children, parents or both. The luncheon will be an informal discussion about the effect being a caregiver has on women's lives.



Social Awareness Organization officers Jessica Clark, Becky Dunnell, Shane Koepke and Deneen Schriver meet to plan and discuss upcoming SAO events. (Photo by Nikki Kinsey)

Campus Events

FRIDAY

TBA
7:30 p.m.
9:30 p.m.

Indoor Track, Lincoln
"Lost in Yonkers," Lauritzen Theater
"Air Force One," Linden Room

SATURDAY

TBA
9 a.m.
1 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Indoor Track, Lincoln
Recycling, CC
IMAX Theater, CC
"Lost in Yonkers," Lauritzen Theater

SUNDAY

11 a.m.
2:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

Worship, Chapel
Junior Recital, Chapel
"Lost in Yonkers," Lauritzen Theater

MONDAY

5-6 p.m.
7 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

"Simpson's" Social
"Breaking the Glass Ceiling," Forum
Blair World of Entertainment, MFAC

TUESDAY

10:30 a.m.

Chapel

WEDNESDAY

7 p.m.
10 p.m.

Darts 501 Tournament, Dragon's Head
Chapel

THURSDAY

10 a.m.

Chapel

Now showing on the Dana stage:
Neil Simon's "Lost in Yonkers"
Show time is 7:30 p.m. tonight through Sunday in the Lauritzen Theater in the Madsen Fine Arts Center.

classifieds

Seized cars from \$175. Porsches, Cadillacs, Chevys, BMW's, Corvettes. Also Jeeps, 4WD's. Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext A-15026 for current listings.

Free Cash Grants! College. Scholarships. Business. Medical bills. Never Repay. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext G-15026 for current listings.

HERMES

DANA COLLEGE

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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 1252, Blair NE 68008. Submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday to be printed in the weekly issue.

Lady Vikings end season with loss to Doane

ASHLEY DENNEY
Reporter

The Dana women's basketball team ended their season Wednesday night falling to Doane by a score of 63-69. The game was the last for three seniors: Carrie Knapp, Jennifer Dierks and Susan Weddingfeld.

The Vikings saw little action under

the boards, pulling down only 23 rebounds compared to their opponent's 33. However, on the offensive end the Vikings fared well. Sophomore Kim Wilken made three three-pointers for a total of nine points. Junior Melanie Lubbers made two of four shots for five points and grabbed five rebounds all in the first half.

The Vikings saw improvement in rebounds during the second half. The team ended with a total of 47 rebounds compared to the Tigers' 53.

Wilken was the leading scorer for Dana with 22 points. She scorched the nets by draining six three-pointers for the game. Junior Jodi Bradley and Weddingfeld both scored nine points to tie for second-highest leading scorers. Sophomore Sarah Klein led the team in assists with three. Bradley, Lubbers and Wilken each grabbed a team high seven rebounds.

The Vikings finished with a 6-21 record and seventh in the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference.



In a matchup against Concordia College, Sarah Klein gets vertical as she makes her way to the basket. (Photo by Nikki Kinsey)

Men's basketball team ends season 9-20

JILL DEWALD
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team guaranteed their home court advantage in the first round of the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference tournament with a 88-83 win against Doane College in Crete on Saturday night.

Senior Tony Jackson led the Vikings to victory with 27 points. Senior Vince Grey netted 18 and se-

nior Tyson Bodlak put in 15 for the win.

Doane met Dana point-for-point in the first half. As the teams retired to their separate locker rooms, the scoreboard read 37-39 in Doane's favor.

Dana came out full force in the second half and racked up 51 points. The Viking defense held Doane to a mere 44 points in the second half of play.

After the win, Dana focused on the NIAC tournament and their first round game at Borup Coliseum on

Tuesday night. Fourth-seeded Dana took on rival fifth-seeded Midland Lutheran College. The champion of the tournament automatically advances to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division II Men's Basketball National Championship to be played at Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho, on March 11-17.

Dana fell to the Warriors 75-61. Grey led in scoring with 21 points and senior Michael Babbitt added nine.

Dana ended their season 9-20.

Buttry and Poulter break Dana track records at NIAC Invitational

LAURA HIEBENTHAL
Copy Editor

Twelve Dana runners scored at the Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference Invitational Track and Field Meet on Feb. 20 at the Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln.

Junior Matt Poulter brought home the only first-place finish for Dana, winning the 1,000-meter run in 2 minutes, 34.44 seconds. Poulter's time also set a new school record.

Two Dana women's records also fell at the meet. Junior Mandy Buttry finished fifth in the mile in a school-record time of 5:10.24. She also set a new Dana record in the 1,000-meter

run, finishing in 3:08.08 and sixth place.

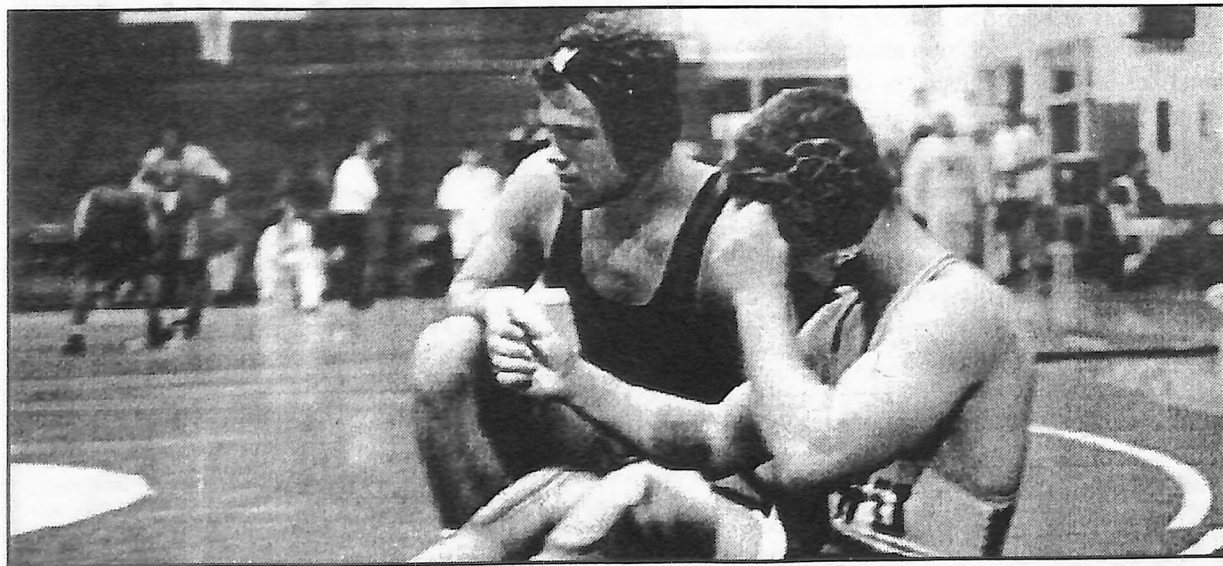
Coach Jay Birmingham said he was extremely pleased with the entire team's performance.

"We do minimal speed work yet more than a dozen Dana runners set new personal bests and 12 people scored," he said.

In the men's 5,000-meter run junior Chad Grosse took third and freshman Aaron Schlote finished eighth. In the women's 5,000 senior Anna Hovde finished eighth. Senior Ryan Jacobsen took sixth in the 600-meter run and junior Evan Bees finished sixth in the 800. Also placing in the 800 was senior Max Grady, who finished eighth. Grady also placed sev-

enth in the mile run. The men's 3,200-meter relay, comprised of junior Neal Smith, sophomore Scott Stanley, Bees and Poulter, took fourth place. In field events, sophomore Amber Weber placed seventh in the high jump.

On Friday and Saturday Dana runners will be competing at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championships in Lincoln. Birmingham said 12 athletes will run at the meet. In individual competition, Grosse and senior Angie Sparacino will run in the 5,000-meter race and Buttry will run in the mile. In relay competition, the 3,200-meter and distance medley relay teams will compete.



Dana's Josh Jaeger earned his ticket to the national wrestling meet by taking third place in the 142-pound bracket at the NAIA area qualifier hosted by Dana last weekend. Seven Viking wrestlers will take the trip to Las Vegas, Nev., on March 6-7 for the national meet. Other placers at the qualifier were Darold Foster and Dax Doran. (Photo by Brooke Thomsen)

Baseball team opens season for spring play

JILL DEWALD
Sports Editor

Play one pitch at a time and show up everyday. We just need to play as hard and as well as possible. After that, the wins and losses will take care of themselves," said coach Paul Davis as he looks to the beginning of the Dana baseball spring season.

Dana will play its first game on Saturday at Peterson Field at 1 p.m. The Vikings will face Dakota State University from Madison, S.D.

The baseball team began official spring training Jan. 26.

"Actually, we never stop training. We are always lifting and always trying to keep in shape," said Davis.

The team has spent the majority of practices throwing and swinging indoors, but this week the team moved outdoors.

"Indoor practices concentrate on specific skills and actions," said Davis. "Obviously outfielders can't throw the long passes or catch fly balls but we can still get a lot accomplished. We just need the inside mentality. We can't control the weather and the things you don't have control over, you just don't worry about."

"I don't know if we are mentally ready to play yet, but we've been working hard and that should pay off," said senior pitcher Larry Dant. "Once we're outside, it doesn't take long for us to get in stride."

Dana will return this spring with a strong pitching staff. The top four returning starters will include junior Corey Johnson, who was named to the all-conference team last year, Dant, junior Craig Wetterberg, junior Tony Eitzmann and junior Sam Breuklander. Joining the lineup are first-year player Aaron Woodard and

junior transfer Ryane Doi.

The men will be challenged with a loss of team speed in comparison to past teams, according to Davis. In past seasons, Dana has stolen over 100 bases.

"We are not as fast overall but we could still be good offensively. We will probably do more bunting to move runners," Davis said.

The defense improved from the fall semester with the addition of transfers, junior Kyle Murata at third base and sophomore Joe Pennucci as catcher.

Also returning for Dana is all-conference player Jacob White, who was last year's leading hitter, batting .400. Davis said others to watch include first-year players Tommy Cox and Brett Krebs.

"With the present lineup a lot of guys will get a chance to contribute. After a month of play, the lineup will begin to solidify," said Davis.

Last year Dana ended the season 6-6 in the conference and 3-2 in the tournament. According to Davis, the conference will be a "dog fight" again. He said, "Several teams have a chance to win. We just need to stay mentally tough and play to our potential." Dana is scheduled for 14 games against six teams rated in the Top 30 in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics pre-season polls, said Davis.

Pennucci said, "Our goal is to play out every inning and success should follow."

"We need to play well and play consistently, then we can compete with anyone," said Eitzmann. "The key will be to be on a roll when it counts, which is when it's time for the conference tourney."

The conference tournament is April 30 to May 4. The winner advances to the regional tournament held in Sioux Falls, S.D., on May 6.