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HERMIES

DANA COLLEGE



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Senate calls parents for pledges to improve campus computers

CHRISTINA NUTTER
Reporter

This past week Student Senate raised nearly \$7,000 in donations for the computer services' budget.

Student Senate members spent Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings calling Dana parents to ask for donations. "We call parents every year," said Ruth Henneman, assistant director of development and Student Senate advisor. The past 10 years the donations have been used to purchase

books. But this year the money will be used to buy new computer hardware and software. One old computer in each dormitory will be replaced and network services will be improved. "We decided to change this year because there is an urgent need for up-to-date computers on campus," said Henneman.

Senate members volunteer time to do the calling every year. They get free pop and pizza before calling and get to call their own parents at the end of the evening. There is also a prize for the student who gets the most pledges. Sara Crawford, senate vice president, made \$580 in pledges

Monday evening. "I enjoy talking to the parents," she said. "It's more personal than telemarketing." Students call parents, explain what they are doing and ask for a pledge. They also chat with the parents about their children or other students on campus. "They're really friendly," said Crawford.

The \$7,000 total is composed of \$6,500 already pledged, plus an estimated \$500 still being sent in. This year Student Senate will add to that amount by donating fifty cents to every dollar pledged. A total of approximately \$9,750 to \$10,500 will be donated to computer services.

Donating your bone marrow may be the only chance someone has to live

AMY BENEDICT
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday during the Red Cross Bloodmobile, five faculty and staff members had an extra vial of blood drawn in order to become listed on the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) registry.

Bone marrow is found in the cavities of the body's bones. It is a substance that is similar to blood and produces the body's blood elements like red blood cells (which carry oxygen and other materials to all tissues of the body), white blood cells (which fight infection) and platelets (which make the blood clot). When patients need transplants it is because their

marrow stops producing correct amounts of various blood cells. There are more than 60 potentially fatal diseases that are treated with marrow transplants.

Anyone may be a volunteer donor if he or she is between the ages of 18 and 60, in good health and can pass a donor health screening evaluation form. The health screen evaluation is similar to the screening done before donating blood.

After giving blood, it is tested to determine its human leukocyte antigen (HLA) type. The results are added to NMDP's main computer which is searched internationally on behalf of patients who need marrow transplants. If someone in need of marrow matches a donor's HLA type, he or she will be contacted and more

blood testing will be done to see if the donor's and recipient's HLA types precisely match. If they do, a donor receives a complete physical examination and counseling about marrow donation. Then ultimately the collection of marrow takes place. At each step, the donor is given additional information and the opportunity to continue or refuse being a marrow donor.

When bone marrow is collected, donors will enter the hospital on the day of the marrow donation and stay either for a few hours or for an overnight stay. The donor receives general or regional (spinal or epidural) anesthesia for the procedure. The liquid marrow is removed from the rear of the pelvic bone using a special

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Cast your votes for Student Senate officers

DEREK OTTE
Reporter

Though the year is not yet over, the Student Senate is getting ready for next year with elections of its executive staff and class representatives.

Executive staff elections will be held today from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary. Applications were due on Wednesday and an open forum was held on Thursday. The open forum was held to give students a chance to ask the candidates questions and to let the candidates define what they want to do as senators.

On March 25 applications are due for class representatives. An open forum will be held on March 26 with elections on the next day. Four representatives will be chosen from each class. The requirements for applicant eligibility are:

1) applicants must have at least a 2.5 cumulative grade point average; 2) applicants must not be on disciplinary probation; 3) applicants must be full-time students.

Duties of class representatives are to be contacts with students and faculty, to find issues the students would like to see addressed, to divide student dues among the various activities that go on throughout the year and to sit on boards and meet with different committees.

The Student Senate meets twice a month on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. The next meeting is on Wednesday. Senate meetings are open for students to attend and offer any questions or suggestions.

Executive staff candidates are:
President: Matt Kern and Kevin Brennan.

Vice president: Robert Wheeler, Jesse Otto and Rachel Hospodka.

Treasurer: Nicole Kinsey and Deena Knapp.

Secretary: Rebecca Plowman.

What are correct gender references for disciplines?

LAURA HIEBENTHAL
Copy Editor

Imagine you are working on a paper and write a sentence that needs a singular pronoun. Should you use *his*? Or maybe *his or her*? What about using *their* even though it's plural? What kind of language are you supposed to use?

This question about proper gender references was posed to faculty in four departments on campus. Faculty members were asked how gender references are handled in their particular fields and whether or not there is a professional standard to follow.

Dr. Christine Schnieders, assistant professor of special education, said that the use of gender references is an issue that appears in education.

"It comes up," she said. "The history of teachers is that we are all women." She said that still today parts of education are associated with certain genders. For example, bad behavior tends to be linked with boys.

To avoid exclusionary gender references in her classes, Schnieders

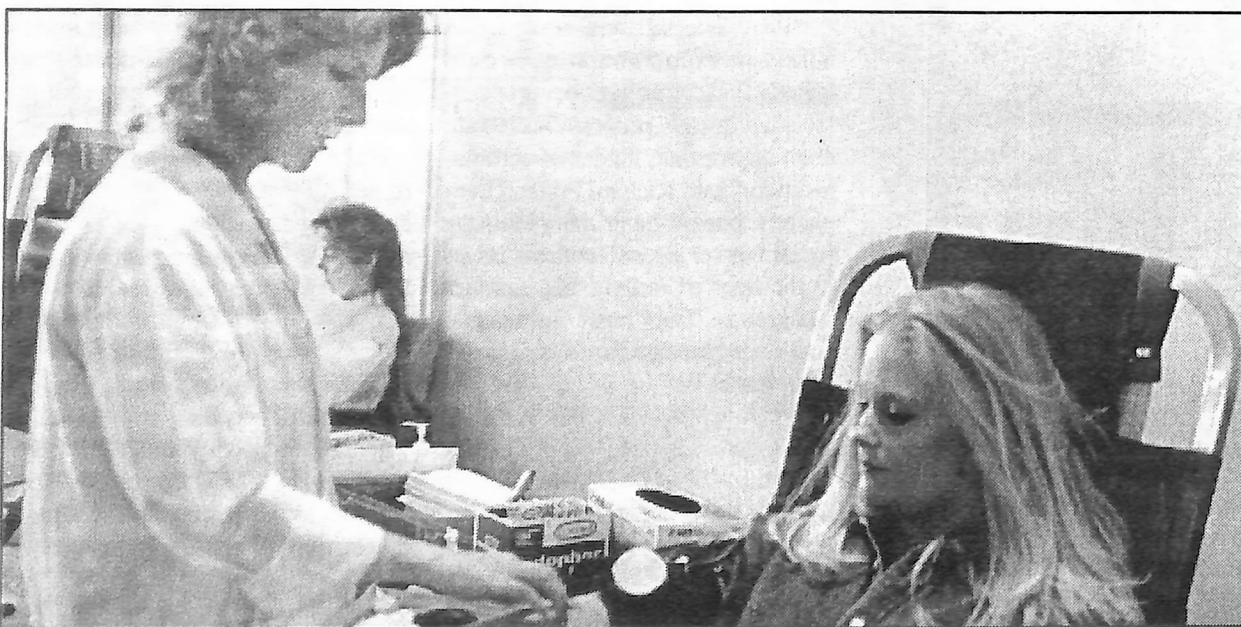
said that she uses a made-up character to discuss special education situations. The character's name is KIT, which stands for Kid In Trouble. Since KIT does not have a gender, any gender-specific references are unnecessary.

Schnieders said that most textbooks she has seen use gender-specific pronouns, but also have a statement at the beginning of the book explaining their use. She said most of the books vary the pronouns throughout the text.

For formal writing, Schnieders said the majority of people in education and psychology follow the rules listed in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association as the standard.

The manual says, "Sexist bias can occur when pronouns are used carelessly. The use of *man* as a generic noun or as an ending for an occupational title can be ambiguous and may imply incorrectly that all persons in the group are male. Be clear about whether you mean one sex or both sexes." The manual gives alterna-

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Tara Zellmer eyes her arm as the Red Cross nurse looks for a vein during the Bloodmobile on Tuesday in Argo Hall. Dana just missed their goal of 88 donations with 79 pints collected. Out of 114 people who signed up to donate blood, 83 showed up to give with only a few turned away for medical reasons. (Photo by Amy Benedict)

In my own words...

by Rodney Ronk

Hello everybody! Surprisingly another week has come and gone here at Dana College and with spring break coming up soon, I'm sure the time doesn't pass fast enough for some of us. Doesn't it seem like the week goes slower this time of year than any other? It must be because we all have spring fever!

First, I'd like to wish good luck to everyone that is running this week for a student senate executive position. I was happy to see such a good list of candidates and I'm sure the people that get elected will do a great job.

Thanks to those of you who gave me your opinion on last week's topic of whether or not it is a safety prob-

lem for cars to park in the street in front of the apartments on Nebraska Street. It turns out this has been an issue with the people of Dana College for quite some time now, so I hope a resolution to the problem will come about soon. I will definitely keep you all updated!

Next, although I know my time is running short, I am still very much interested in talking with and hearing from any students that may have ideas for the Student Senate. It has always been important to me to know what the students think on certain issues we have discussed in the past year. I am sure that this trend will continue with whoever is elected

president.

As always I can be reached at 7537, but as some of you have found out it is usually more reliable to e-mail me at RRONK. I will try to be of service in anyway possible and if we can't get the job done I will be sure to pass any information on to the new president.

Finally, the next meeting of the Student Senate is Wednesday, March 11 at 7 p.m. in the Forum. The meeting is open to the public, so I hope anyone interested will attend because your presence is welcome!

Until next week,
Rodney

Higher education challenges student's belief structure with cultural myths, facts

VALERIE BENSEN
Editorialist

Merrily I was going along my way through higher education when--thump--I hit a bump in the road, something called a cultural myth. It labeled my belief structure a myth and told me to go on creating and changing my myth as I live life. Everyone does this, the sociologists say, in order to understand the world and to put our experiences into some kind of context. I thought my belief structure includes a belief in fact and I wondered what came first, a myth or a fact? I mean do we base our sup-

posed "facts" on cultural myths or do we draw our myths from facts?

Scientists say a fact can be proven through observation and experimentation. Religion says you must have faith in that which is not seen. It does not say "create your own myth," but it does say seek and you will find. Both of these view points were once the basis of cultural world views at different times; Christian era was before the scientific era that started a few hundred years ago. Now it is said we have become disillusioned with both science and religion and are in a post-modern era, in need of new values and beliefs. Or perhaps our cultural myth is becoming a world

view with no values or beliefs. One where everything is equal because nothing has value and nothing new is ventured because it would have no importance anyway. Everything gets tolerated because there is no right or wrong. Is this the place where culture needs to go? If everything is a myth, then what does it matter what our culture believes in anyway? Facts are necessary to absolutes and myth ultimately supports no absolutes. My belief structure stands on fact and if it doesn't, it will be negated by one that does. Maybe someday in the future I'll find purpose in becoming a post-modernist, but right now I'll stay out of that boat.

Letter to the Editor

I am voicing my opinion on the issue of the elimination of Foundations for Lifelong Learning. Am I the only one that sees value in this course? I feel that there are many skills that can be learned in Foundations. Everyone can gain from communication and organization skills, just two of the reasons why I feel this class is important. Isn't this the reason why Dana is a "liberal arts" college? Aren't we here to become well-rounded people? Communication is the basis for everything! If this class is taken away, where will that initial introduction be gained by the freshmen? Not in four single semesters of LARP. This needs to be developed slowly through Foundations, LARP and finally Senior Seminar. All of these classes combined are very useful. Dana is a liberal arts college and we need to keep this class in the curriculum.
Mark Witt

Gender language Continued from page 1

tives to using the generic *he*, such as recasting the sentence or using plural nouns or pronouns. It also suggests the use of words like *humanity* and *chairperson* instead of *mankind* and *chairman*.

"It is important to be educated about the rules of the profession," said Schnieders. She said that when students know the rules and follow them they will stand apart because it demonstrates that they are educated.

"I think it's important that we instructors set an example. We should learn to write as a model using the correct form," said Schnieders.

Jan and Richard Potter, associate professors of social work, agree that gender inclusive language is the standard for their field.

"Because social work is a profession founded upon principles of equality, equity and acceptance of diversity, it would be expected that any correspondence, reports or other communication would use gender neutral language," said Richard Potter.

Jan Potter said that it takes some practice to use the proper language, but after awhile it comes naturally. She said that in her own writing she tries to think about how what she writes will affect people, and not only on a gender level, but others as well.

Richard Potter said that if he were to use gender exclusive language, he would be marginalizing himself and a smaller audience would listen to him.

"Professionals violating these norms of communication would quickly find themselves being socialized by fellow professionals into more appropriate modes of communication," said Richard Potter. "Language is one of the primary tools the social worker uses to address issues in the lives of individuals, families and groups. They must, for this reason, understand the implications of their words."

When dealing with this problem, Jan Potter suggested being creative with it.

"Let's get creative; we're just trying to figure out how to talk to each other. We could lighten up and enjoy our efforts to communicate more effectively," she said.

"The world is really changing and if you insist on usage that is no longer

acceptable you will find it more difficult to communicate well," said Richard Potter.

Dr. Susan Hoffman, assistant professor of biology, said that while there might not be a written professional standard concerning gender references in science, usage should be gender inclusive.

She explained that science papers do not read that *he* or *she* did the experiment but that *it was done*.

"It's about science, not about the person," said Hoffman. She feels that if language offends someone, it should not be a problem to change it.

Though she has not really encountered gender references as a problem in her classes, she said she watches what she uses in her personal language.

"I always write in gender neutral language," she said. She added that if she ever slips and uses exclusive speech, she likes to be corrected. She thinks that gender inclusive language is becoming more accepted now and hopes that eventually people will look back and be surprised that it was ever a problem.

Dr. Kathleen McSharry, assistant professor of English, said that inclusive language is the standard for the field of English.

In her classes she teaches students about the debate between using inclusive language or the universal *he*.

"We talk about the reasons why people argue for each," she said. "We discuss ways people try to be inclusive." She said they also discuss the stylistic problems that can occur in writing when using each type.

While McSharry leaves the choice to her students, she explains that in students' professional lives they will have to deal with this issue and that the accepted language is inclusive.

College English, a publication of the National Council of Teachers of English, is a major journal in the English field, according to McSharry. The editorial policy of College English reads, "The editor reserves the right to edit essays so that their usage conforms with the Guidelines for Nonsexist Use of Language in NCTE Publications." McSharry said that these guidelines could be considered the professional standard for the field of English.

COMIC NOIR

gee-whiz!

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Campus Events

FRIDAY

7 p.m. Pictionary Tournament, Dragon's Head

SATURDAY

TBA NIAC Indoor Track Championships, Crete
 TBA National Wrestling Meet, Las Vegas, Nev.
 9 a.m. Recycling, CC
 7:30 p.m. Laser Light Show, CC

SUNDAY

TBA National Wrestling Meet, Las Vegas, Nev.
 11 a.m. Worship, Chapel

MONDAY

3:30 p.m. Origami Demonstration, Dragon's Head
 9 p.m. Spring Break Beach Party, Dragon's Head

TUESDAY

9:30 a.m. "Women of the World," Dragon's Head
 10:30 a.m. Chapel

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m. International Food Festival, Omaha Village
 9-10 p.m. Midterm Happy Hour, Dragon's Head
 10 p.m. Chapel

THURSDAY

10 a.m. Chapel
 11 a.m. Job Fair, CC
 3:30 p.m. Speaker Bing Howell, Forum

Dana students head south of the border to study, sightsee, have fun

JENNIFER BURGER
 Graphics Editor

Seven Dana students are headed south of the border this summer for an experience they hope will improve their Spanish skills and be fun too. The group is headed to Argentina for 45 days of lectures, classes and sight-seeing.

"My goal is for the students to come back speaking the language," said Professor Diana Brown, sponsor of the trip. "They will be leaving with a strong base which will help them because this will be an immersion experience. My plan is that they will come back fluent in Spanish."

"This will be a good opportunity to learn the language and an experience I'll never forget," said junior Laurie Grasso, a third-year Spanish student.

"Since I'm a Spanish major I think an immersion experience like this is good for me," said Janelle Kahl, also a third-year Spanish student. "I hope to become more fluent. This is also practical application of what I've

been learning in Spanish class."

The first stop will be Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina. They will stay three days and two nights in what Brown calls "a very cosmopolitan and European city." They will attend lectures at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires during the day and sightsee at night.

"I'm nervous about being in a classroom where only Spanish is spoken," said Kahl. "I don't know if I will understand what's going on. It will be strange to be graded on what I learn in these classes."

Most of the trip will be spent in La Plata, Argentina. The students will be enrolled in college classes at the University of La Plata, a state school. They will also be attending lectures at the Catholic University of La Plata. In addition to these classes, they are earning a grade from Dana for a three-credit hour class just by going on the trip.

"Some of these students will be able to earn anywhere from 6 to 12 credit hours this summer by taking these classes," said Brown.

The next stop will be the city of

Tandil, Argentina. There the group will again visit the local university.

The group plans to make time for fun too. The balance of the trip will be spent at the Mar del Plata, a resort area.

The group plans to make time to tour museums of art and anthropology. They will also go to an observatory and look at the stars of the Southern Hemisphere. They will visit the opera house in Buenos Aires, which Brown said is in the top four in the world. They hope to see a performance in the famous opera house. There is also a side trip planned to a ranch so the students can get a feel for the agricultural side of Argentina.

Brown says the trip will be a strong humanities experience. "All the different classes they will be taking at the colleges combined are most of the elements of the humanities. They will be studying music, history, literature, anthropology and art," said Brown. "This is a great opportunity for them to learn about different cultures and see what a European-influenced country is like while improving their Spanish skills."

Lack of student interest may cancel trip to Greece and Italy

JON BURLESON
 Reporter

A lack of participation has put a shade of doubt on the planned excursion to Greece and Italy, said Dr. Robert Moussetis of the business department.

Only five students have signed up for the trip and at least nine are needed. Moussetis said that 10 or 12 would be best but he stressed he does not want to become a "travel agent."

"This is the point in life when a person should do this, before more pressing responsibilities inhibit you,"

he said. "Unfortunately, most undergraduates are effectively bankrupt."

It may be that the expense of the 19-day exploratory vacation is the daunting factor. The cost of the trip is \$3,500. This covers seven days in Italy, visiting Milan, Pompeii and Rome. Then it would be off to Greece for 12 days to explore the "birthplace of Western civilization." On the itinerary are Olympia, Athens, the island of Myconos and other ancient sites.

"We will be concentrating on areas of historical significance, but we will also be going a step beyond the tourist areas and experiencing the

cultures," said Moussetis. "This is to show that people aren't 'weird' or 'bad,' just different."

Moussetis said his primary goal is to expose students to other cultures and lands. In this way he said he hopes to instill an appreciation for their own hometowns and to give them a new perspective on how they view the world outside their boundaries.

"If you want to grow outside of school I have three words for you," he said. "Travel, travel, travel. The more you travel the more opportunities you will have in life and the more successful you will be."

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HERMES

DANA COLLEGE

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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.



Enjoying cookies and juice, Sara Molt, Sarah Voorhees, Lisa Ritchison and Sieg Krueger chat with a Red Cross volunteer after giving blood on Tuesday. (Photo by Amy Benedict)

Eight distance runners prepare for national marathon in May

JILL DEWALD
Sports Editor

Imagine a pain "both physical and psychological. Energy stores are depleted. You suffer from dizziness, loss of will and aching muscles and joints," said head cross country and track coach Jay Birmingham.

Marathon runners push their bodies, exhaust their muscles and strain their minds to complete a 26 mile, 385 yard course.

Dana will send eight individuals to tackle such a feat Saturday, May 23 at the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics National Championships in Tulsa, Okla.

Seniors Ben Sandy, Angie Sparacino and Anna Hovde will represent the Vikings. Juniors Matt Poulter, Evan Bees, Bob Spangler, Chad Grosse and Mandy Buttry will complete the team at the national meet. Others are still able to qualify according to Birmingham.

To qualify for the 26 mile run, men must complete a half marathon, 13 miles, in one hour and 15 minutes. Women must finish a half marathon in 1:32. A marathon time of 2:40 for men and 3:30 for women automatically qualifies one for nationals.

Sparacino said, "I hope to qualify

for the Olympic trials, which will be held in the year 2000. I am only seven minutes short. I need to finish in 2:50 and right now my time is 2:57."

"It takes dedication, but you just force yourself to go out and do it," said. "Mental preparation is also important. I keep reminding myself I can be a two-time national champion."

Sparacino became the Dana's first national champion by winning the 1997 NAIA marathon.

Training is key to the Dana team. "I don't know any other team in the area that goes out and trains as hard and is as dedicated to the sport," said Bees, who will be running his first marathon ever at Tulsa.

Birmingham said, "Our approach at Dana is normal track training with weekly mileage ranging from 50 to 80 miles and long weekend runs ranging from 15 to 24 miles. It requires a desire to do the extraordinary. Daily preparation, attention to good diet, adequate rest and strong self-motivation are integral traits needed to prepare yourself for a marathon."

Goals run high for the Vikings as they prepare for the national meet.

"First, I just want to lower my time and be an All-American. If things

go well, I would like to earn a chance to represent Canada in the Olympics," said Poulter from Winnipeg, Canada. "I also want to live up to my own expectations and those of my family and friends."

Bees commented, "I'm excited to have this opportunity; it's my best chance to earn an All-American title. It will take endurance, belief in myself to actually go through with it, and patience--patience to watch and see what the other runners are doing, to take my time and know when to make my move."

"It's just the idea of tackling a personal challenge and in the end I am always thinking about qualifying for the Olympics," said Sparacino.

According to Sparacino, a group will be traveling to Tulsa for spring break to evaluate the course, run it and prepare mentally for the race.

"Before every race you are supposed to picture everything in your mind and feel for what to expect," Sparacino said.

Birmingham said, "I believe it is self expression; the marathon requires one's absolute best--physical, mental, emotion and spiritual. I want the individuals on the team to learn what is required to improve themselves through a good lifestyle. After that the exceptional become the attainable."

Buttry leads team at NAIA indoor meet

LAURA HIEBENTHAL
Copy Editor

Junior Mandy Buttry earned All-American honors with a fourth place finish in the mile run at last weekend's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Indoor Track Championships in Lincoln.

Buttry ran the mile in a new school record time of 5 minutes, 5.13 seconds. She broke her own school record in the event by over five seconds. The previous record was 5:10.24, which she set one week earlier.

"She ran a beautifully-paced race and roared from seventh to fourth over the final 200 meters," said coach Jay Birmingham.

With the fourth place finish Buttry became Dana's first-ever scorer at the NAIA indoor championships. She is now a two-time All-American, having earned the honor first with a sixth place finish in the NAIA marathon last May.

Also competing at the indoor championships was the men's distance medley relay team. The

team, comprised of Matt Poulter, Ryan Jacobsen, Evan Bees and Max Grady, took 13th place out of 32 teams and recorded a season's best time of 10:21.7.

The men's 4x800 meter relay team, with members Justin Christensen, Neal Smith, Scott Stanley and Grady, set a new school record with a time of 7:53.64. The team finished 16th out of 30 teams.

Competing in the women's 5,000-meter run, Angie Sparacino took eighth place in her heat with a time of 19:02.68 but did not advance to the finals.

Up next for the track team is this weekend's Nebraska-Iowa Athletic Conference championships at Doane. Twenty-five athletes will compete.

"The team expects to rise in the conference rankings by scoring more points than in 1997," said Birmingham of the NIAC championships.

The following weekend 10 Dana runners will travel to Fremont to compete in the Midland half-marathon with hopes of qualifying for the NAIA championship which will be held in Tulsa, Okla., in May.

Bone Marrow

Continued from page 1

needle and syringe. The process lasts approximately one hour. Due to the anesthesia, the collection process is painless. Some discomfort in the lower back following the donation is common. The amount of marrow taken depends on the weight of the recipient. When marrow is taken from the donor, it does not affect the white cell or platelet count and is completely restored in four to six weeks.

The medical costs involved in the preliminary tests, hospital stay and marrow transplant are paid by the recipient or the recipient's insurance. There is no cost to the donor.

For more information or to become a possible donor on the national registry, contact the Omaha Red Cross.

Jamess Peterson, a sophomore from Winberg, S.D., had an autologous bone marrow transplant when he was 12 years old to treat Hodgkin's disease. Hodgkin's disease is a type of lymphoma which is a cancer that develops in the lymph system, part of the body's immune system. An autologous transplant is when marrow is taken from the patient's bones before very high doses of chemotherapy which completely wipes out the patient's immune system. The marrow is then frozen. After the chemotherapy process is finished, the marrow is thawed and given back to the patient through a needle into a vein to replace the marrow that was destroyed.

According to Peterson, one of the

risks of getting high amounts of chemotherapy and radiation when he was younger was that the disease could come back in a different form. That is what has happened in his case. He has been diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML). CML is a disease in which too many white blood cells are made in the bone marrow and although the cells are numerous most cells do not mature and are abnormal. The overflow of white blood cells destroys the much needed platelets and red blood cells the marrow is producing.

Peterson is again looking for a bone marrow transplant, this time an allogeneic transplant, where the marrow given is taken from another person.

"CML can usually be treated with chemotherapy but since I have already had so much chemo the best chance to give me the longest life span is a marrow transplant," said Peterson.

He explained that to be matched with a possible donor, there are six possible combinations that need to be compatible in the HLA type. The match needs to be as close to six as possible. Usually the best matches come from twins. Peterson has a twin but he is fraternal and only matches three out of six types.

Currently, the NMDP registry has six possible matches that may be compatible with Peterson's HLA type. Further testing will be done on these possible donors to see if they

will be able and agree to donate their marrow.

Peterson believes people should register for the National Marrow Donor Program but not because he needs a donation. "It is not important that people do this for me but just that they do it," said Peterson. "I want people to register to give themselves satisfaction and peace of mind that if they have the opportunity to save a life they will. I think that it would be a tremendous gift to be able to save someone's life."

If you decide to register and are asked to donate marrow, Peterson, who has gone through the procedure, guarantees it is painless since you are put under anesthesia. "It would probably hurt if you could feel it but you can't," said Peterson. "When you wake up you have a little bit of discomfort but no pain." He also added that just because a person is on the register does not mean they have to be a donor. You may never match another person or you may decide later not to commit. "It is such a small, simple procedure to get on this list it's crazy to me not to."

Peterson said he will find out next week if there are any other options that will work for him beside a bone marrow transplant. Either way, he will still go on with life as usual. "I have to maintain a high-hearted approach to it for my friends, but when you shake it all down it comes to life or death."

New softball coach anxiously awaits start of season

JENNIFER BURGER
Graphics Editor

Recent warm weather has put the Dana women's softball team in the mood to play. "We're ready to get out there and play the game we love and have some fun," said head coach Kris Graulich.

Graulich is in her first year as head softball coach for the Dana women and is expecting a good year for the team.

"I think Coach Graulich is doing well. I know the returners are having an easy transition to her coaching style," said freshman softball player Sarah Graham.

"Our team has three main strengths," said Graulich. "We have depth, which means we have a lot of talented people who can play about any position. Our hitting is strong also. We're a very offense-oriented team. We have girls who are long ball hitters. We have some specialty hitters who can play the short game. We also have girls who are consistent at getting on base. We will definitely keep our opponents guessing."

"Coach Graulich is a one-on-one

coach. She is also very big on working on the fundamentals," said Graham.

"I think her strongest point is being able to make all aspects of the game fun. She is very good at varying practices so we don't get into ruts," said sophomore softball player Rachel Carter.

"The third strength of our team is our attitude," said Graulich. "This team has a lot of respect for each other. They're a tight group and that motivates them. They're a hard-working group. They're ready to win."

"The only thing this team needs is some game experience under our belt. We are fundamentally sound and that will help us win games," said Graulich.

The season-opener is scheduled for Tuesday at home. The women will play the team from the College of Saint Mary in Omaha. On Wednesday the team travels to Maryville, Mo., to play the team from Northwest Missouri State University.

"We're going to go into both of those games as well-rounded as possible. Once we see how we do there we can adjust our style and concentrate on our weaknesses," said Graulich.