

# Hermes

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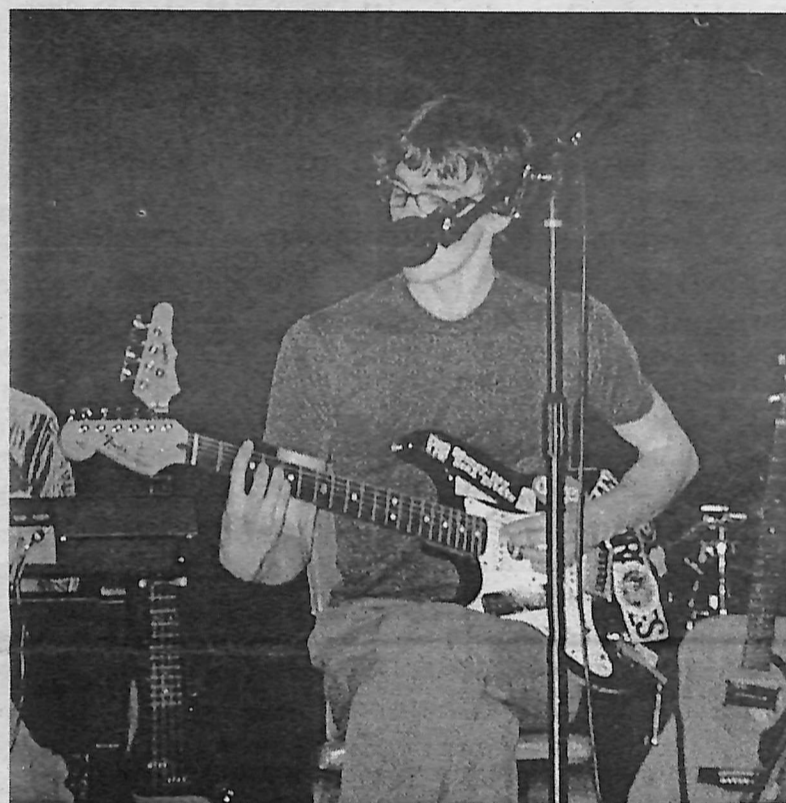
MARCH 16, 2001

## Dana College

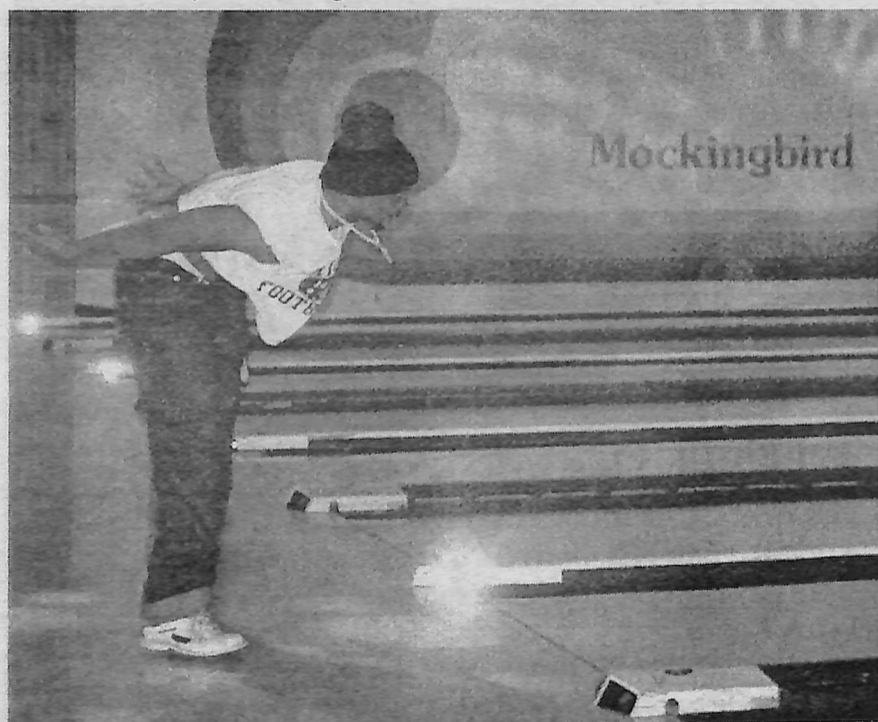
### WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON AROUND CAMPUS...



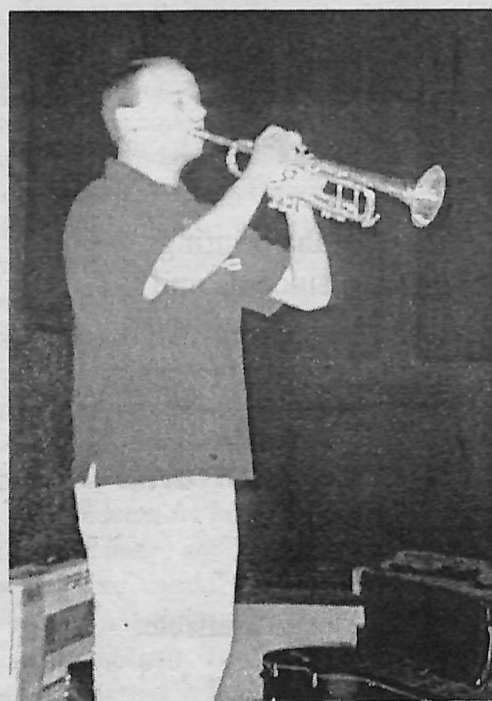
Tuesday sophomore Rachel Ahrens plays the clarinet at band concert  
*Photo taken by Jessie Angus*



Junior Tony Knuppel performs at Innop Coffee House Night last Thursday  
*Photo taken by Natalie Hornig*



Sophomore Mitchell Deering going for a strike at cosmic bowling last Friday  
*photo taken by Natalie Hornig*



Senior Nick Pribyl of Shelterbelt performs at Innop Coffee House Night last Thursday

*photo taken by: Natalie Hornig*

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# FROM THE WIRE

## BIRDS ASTOUND BIOLOGISTS WITH THEIR MEMORY

By Sharon Kolbet  
Daily Nebraskan (U.  
Nebraska)  
03/08/2001

(U-WIRE) LINCOLN, Neb.  
- The definition of the phrase "bird-brained" may need to be revised.

As a University of Nebraska-Lincoln researcher has shown, birds can possess an astounding memory.

Anyone who has ever forgotten where they parked their car could take a few lessons from the Clark's nutcracker.

"The nutcracker has an amazing ability to remember locations," said Alan Kamil, a UNL professor of biology.

The Clark's nutcracker lives in the high altitude regions of Arizona and Colorado. It spends each fall harvesting and burying pine seeds. With a special throat pouch that allows it to carry up to 90 seeds at a time, the nutcracker deposits this future food in numerous locations.

"Each fall, an individual bird will bury as many as 20,000 seeds in five to six thousand locations," Kamil said.

In winter, the birds will return to these sites, finding the hoarded

food even when the area is blanketed with snow. Field studies have shown that the nutcrackers have a very high rate of seed recovery.

"Biologists are trying to understand exactly what it is that allows the bird to remember the sites," he said.

Kamil has been studying birds for nearly 20 years. When on sabbatical in Sydney, Australia, Kamil said he developed his hypothesis.

"Once it occurred to me, it was so obvious," he said.

Kamil has found that the Clark's nutcracker is capable of a very precise search for its stored food because of its ability to find metric relationships between multiple landmarks.

While some species of birds may navigate by magnetic compasses, solar or astral indicators, the nutcracker uses landmarks to find its cached seeds. Though a spatial location can be found by a single landmark, an increase in the number of landmarks used resulted in an increase in successful seed searches.

The use of these multiple landmarks is not mere redundancy.

The nutcracker, like the homing pigeon, has an internal compass that helps them to navigate.

Kamil said his research showed that the multiple landmarks

counteracted the effects of compass error in the nutcracker.

Kamil published his findings last month in the Journal of Experimental Biology and said he has already received feedback from other ornithologists.

In April, he will be traveling to England to speak on his findings.

In the meantime, Kamil and his research group have constructed a new laboratory scenario for the birds in the basement of Manter Hall.

In a 24-sided room, the researchers have put posters on the wall. The posters serve as visual landmarks for the birds when they go to bury their seeds in the lab's sandy floor.

After the birds have become familiar with the room, Kamil plans to shift all of the posters 90 degrees to see what effect the change will have on the nutcracker's seed finding abilities.

Kamil said the research has many implications.

"Other animals use landmarks. This research may help us understand how humans navigate," he said.

"If you have ever asked someone for directions, you have seen how some people use landmarks while others don't."



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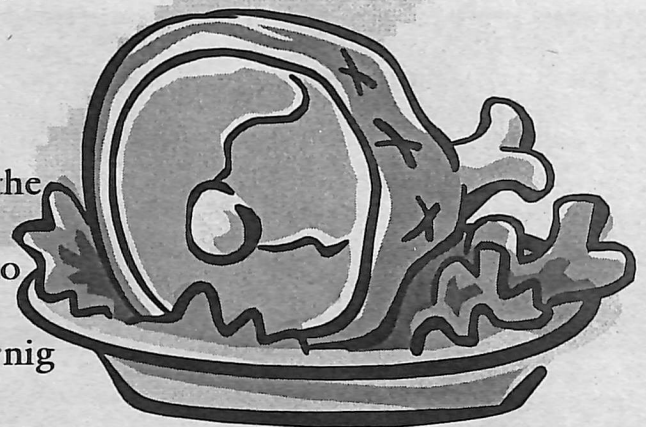
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Natalie Hornig



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### Questions?

Contact Jamie Svatora, Camp Director, [jsvator1@bigred.unl.edu](mailto:jsvator1@bigred.unl.edu) or Robin Labenz, [phgsc@ncfcomm.com](mailto:phgsc@ncfcomm.com).



Girl Scouts

EOE/United Way Agency

# OPINION

## THE OTHER SIDE OF CAMPUS



by Jeremy Stoll  
Hermes Staff

The United States has more automobiles in it than any other country. In fact, we pride ourselves on that very thing. We pollute more. We take up more room. We're busier. However, there is one fundamental thing that we must have in order to keep polluting more than any other nations. That thing is a parking lot. It's a big slab of concrete on which to park our four-wheeled beasts. Now, when there is a lack of parking, there is a lack of security. When there is a lack of security, there can be some really irate people. In fact, there are documented cases. In Topeka, Kansas, at a tractor pull, there was a shortage of grass lots for the spectators to park in. One thing led to another and there began a mob uprising that made a British soccer riot look tame.

Now, at Dana there is a shortage of parking.... Or is there? You see, there are several prospective slabs of concrete on which it would be perfectly sane, (a.k.a. logical) to park our cars. For those of you that live in Holling, Rasmussen, and Argo halls, there is a nice sized parking lot that, for the most part, sits vacant at night. This is directly behind Argo Hall. Why is it empty? Does faculty need to park there at 12 a.m.? Does it serve as a landing strip between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.? The answer is no.

Let's take the case of Sally. Sally lives in Argo. Sally works late, and comes home late, and is forced to park down in the new parking lot, just down the hill from the library. This

means a long trek across campus for Sally. Wait, I almost forgot. There's a deranged psycho-rapist-transient-bingo-player waiting in the bushes next to the parking lot. However, there's no working emergency phone down there. So either Sally knows Kung Fu or Sally is screwed. (Excuse the pun.) This seems less than secure, and as I said before. When there's a lack of security, bad things happen.

What about the drive? Granted, snow-removal would be a pain with a drive full of parked cars. The snow would pile up to the point where it would be more cost effective to just go buy another car, rather than have your old one excavated. However, I've never seen a single solitary snowflake in the month of September, April, or May for that matter. My point is...why not actually wait for that first snowfall to declare drive hours for parking, rather than assuming we're going to have a blizzard in early September? Things to consider...

For centuries authors of every creed, color, and class have attempted to define the American Dream. They've guessed at a million things, including money, success, family, love, and ballpark hotdogs. However, I think what we all really want, deep down inside — is ample parking. A little slab of concrete to park our little car on, and remember why we love America. Take a deep breath...

## THE AGONIES OF LIFE AT DANA



by Sean Crow  
Hermes Staff

The Dana campus looked bright and cheery the first time I ever saw it. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day. The maintenance crews had obviously gone to a lot of trouble in order to make the campus look at the top of its game. Everything was in order and in its place. During my first day on campus, which was a Discover Dana Day, I took note of a few of the smaller things that had been done to spruce up Dana's campus for prospective students. The bright red and white flags were flying proudly that day. We were ushered to the cafeteria where we received, in my opinion, a good quality meal. We got a nice schedule with the events planned for us. And, every faculty member on campus was as nice as they could possibly be. Yes, some of these little things happen everyday, but I get the feeling that once we actually become students, some of these smaller things seem to be forgotten.

So, why do I feel this way about this college? Why do I say that the little things are forgotten once one actually gets here? First of all, the issue of the flags is in order. The Dana College symbol and the college's Danish history is a large part of what this college is and what it was founded under. Maybe those bright red and white flags I saw had nothing to do with my past and my heritage, but it did add a feeling to the college. Personally, I really enjoy seeing the flags up and waving in the breeze. They are obviously hung up on days when prospective students are touring the campus so that they get the feeling that Dana is a unique. Once the students are here though, the flags are not. I am in my third year at Dana, and I can only remember a few times when I saw the flags flying again. I do not claim to be a flag expert so I can't claim with all certainty that the flags are expensive, but I assume that they do cost a good deal of money. If the reasons for not having the flags up more often include the monetary value, of wear and tear on them, then I can fully understand. But, if that isn't the reason, then I do not see why the flags can not be up more for the students to enjoy on a daily basis. I am not the only individual

who has thought about this either. John Brummer, a senior, said that he too wonders why the flags are not flown more. Brummer also feels that the flags add a nice touch to Dana's campus.

There is another issue that has had me thinking in the three years I have been here. I have been wondering why when alumni events occur on campus, the students are redirected into The Dragon's Head to eat their meals. Now, I understand there may be space requirements, but is the cafeteria really that small? Whatever the reason, I still feel that we should be allowed to eat in the same area as the alumni on occasion. I believe it is good for the students to meet, or at least interact with the people who contribute to this college. I think it is also good for the alumni to be able to interact with students on campus. This isn't just a college; it is a college full of individuals. By that, I mean the people here are more important than the institution itself. Interaction is usually always a plus as I see it.

Next, I would also like the ability to know what is going on around campus. The college has been good about informing, except with one major exception, the re-naming of the Dana Classroom Center, now known as the Margre Henningson Durham Center. As a student who pays tuition here, I would have liked to have been informed when a major building that most of us use was re-named. William Mathis, a sophomore, believes that the re-naming is an example of how the college tries to play to the needs of alumni yet ignores the students who actually use the building. I am not sure how many other students feel left out of the picture by the re-naming of the classroom center, but I know I feel that way. As students here, we all have the right to know what is going on around campus.

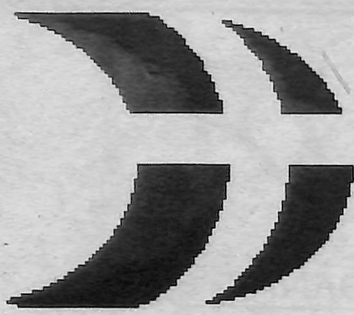
All of these little questions that others and I have do not seem like major problems, and they really aren't, but how do they make you feel? I know that the everyday life sometimes seems a lot different than the flag-waving picture painted by the college on a day such as a Discover Dana Day. The college has wonderful points that could be used to benefit itself and the students who attend the college. We will be alumni within a few years and it would be a shame to have to wait that long before we all see the flags waving again.

## 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 these 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 4:00 p.m.



# DANA SPORTS

## VIKING WRESTLERS FARE WELL IN SUCCESSFUL SEASON

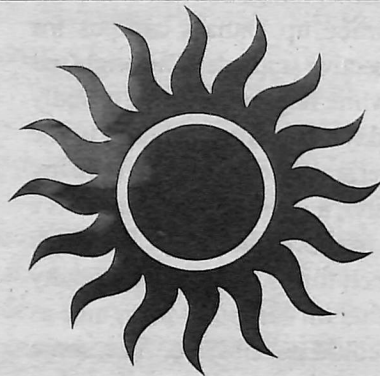
By: Steve Costanzo  
Head Wrestling Coach

The season started off on a positive note as the Viking wrestling team ended up with the 15<sup>th</sup> best recruiting class in the country (NCAA Div. II, III, NJCAA and NAIA). This class did not let the critics down as they amassed the schools first NAIA Central Regional Championship, eleven NAIA National Qualifiers and a 13<sup>th</sup> place performance at the NAIA National Wrestling Championships, which included two All-American wrestlers, and one Academic All-American.

With a strict, demanding and intensive schedule, the Viking wrestlers were challenged to a high level of competition. With the likes of some of the top NCAA Div. I and Div. II schools, the Vikings soared to new heights and levels. "We challenged our men week after week to get them to a higher level of wrestling and it seemed to have paid off for us. I was very proud of their efforts all season and look forward to working with them in the upcoming years," said Costanzo. Dana College will be proud about this year leaving a permanent mark in the wrestling world. No longer will people say they have just some Dana guy to wrestle, but a Dana guy whom they better strap it up against!

### VIKING WRESTLING NATIONAL TEAM PERFORMANCES

- 125- Keith Simmons, So, Sidney, IA, 11-17, National Qualifier
- 125- Walker Whitney, Sr, Sarasota, FL, 20-20, National Qualifier
- 133- Pete Isham, Jr, Bellevue, NE, 28-13, Regional Champ, National Qualifier
- 141- Ben Wilcox, So, Fremont, NE, 11-6, National Qualifier
- 157- Joe Durick, Fr, Underwood, IA, 33-22, National Qualifier, All-American
- 165- Keith Clausen, Fr, Underwood, IA, 28-16, National Qualifier
- 174- Justin Williams, So, Peru, NE, 23-17, National Qualifier
- 184- Riley Tonkin, Sr. Lincoln, NE, 26-20, National Qualifier, Regional Champ, Academic All-American
- 197- Wynn Fangmeier, Fr, Hebron, NE, 29-19, National Qualifier, Regional Champ
- 285- Mark Lander, Fr, Underwood, IA, 26-16, National Qualifier, All-American
- 285- Tom Wissman, So, Falls City, NE, 9-15, National Qualifier



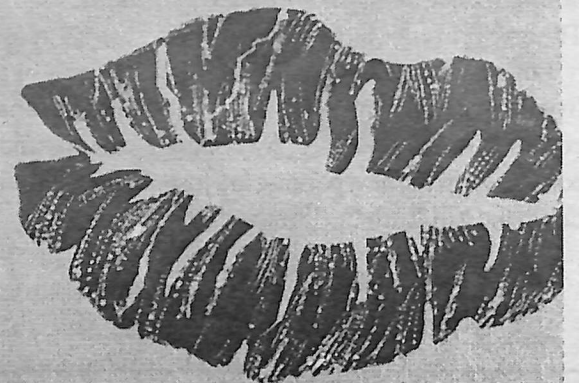
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FUN AND  
SAFE  
SPRING  
BREAK!

-Hermes Staff



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I'LL CROSS MY FINGERS  
I'LL PRETEND IT DIDN'T HAPPEN  
I'LL JUST WAIT



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