

Hermes

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Dana College

Dana's "Baby" Draws Large Crowds

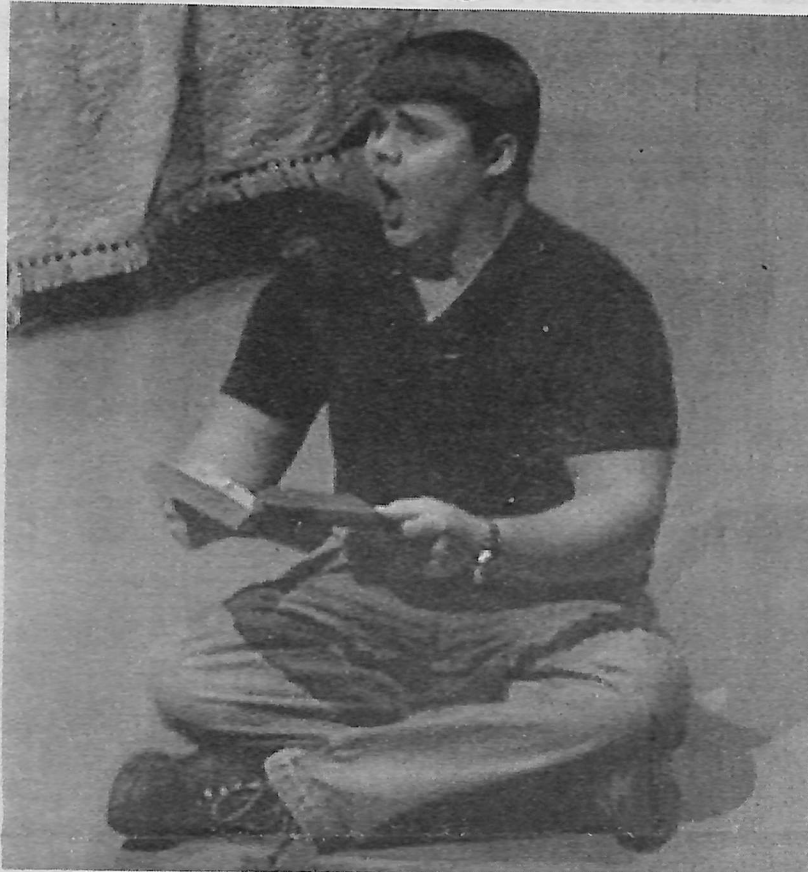
Babies are nothing new to the masses, and apparently still rather popular...

Jeff Mangus
Staff Writer

Despite being three hours long, and nearly achieving epic status, Dana College Theater's production of "Baby" left chuckles in the throats and guts of those who attended. The musical played five consecutive times, from Wednesday, March 6 through Sunday, March 10 down in MFAC's Lauritzen Theater.

The play alternated between bouts of serious character building and some rather frank body humor, including two especially crazy scenes. One was a visual depiction of sperm traveling. Lizzie (sophomore Mara Bartlett) pushed Danny (freshman Eric Grant-Leanna) around on a rolling chair as he pointed the way and they both sang about the journey. The other scene was sung to the angelic background of "normal" music, but the words were a little different: Pam (senior Allison Botkin), accompanied with others, described the period of birthing in no uncertain terms. "How I farted and swore!" she sang delicately, adding to the general bizarreness and irony of the scene.

There seemed to be a general consensus that the play was just too long. One intermission, after roughly 90 minutes of musical, saw most of the



Senior Mark Sucraw, acting with all his might and passion. Photo by Kjaer Kirkegaard.

audience members standing outside in the lobby of MFAC wondering what on earth could happen in the second part that hadn't already occurred. Many also scrambled for the water fountain after so much extreme exposure to babies.

But, as they found out, things *did* occur which changed the face of the play. In the midst of another long swirl of music and choreographed dance, the audience witnessed disappointment and joy, ended finally by an unusual glowing

birth. All the actors gathered around "Lizzie" and stared in disbelief at the angelic light emanating from the bed, which was carefully screened from the audience.

Dana College Theater's next production is fabled to be "The Glass Menagerie," which should take place sometime later this spring. Dr. Paul Schneider will again direct and assemble the play, which is rumored to be an excellent piece of work.

St. Patrick's Day (Or Weekend) Approaches

Toni Hoffmeier
Staff Writer

The hero most often associated with Ireland isn't even Irish. In fact, he is British.

St. Patrick, whose real name is thought to be Maewyn Succat, was born in 385 A.D. in Scotland, where his wealthy Roman parents were governing the British colonies. Little else is known about his life in the colonies except that he was captured by Irish pirates at the age of 16 and forced into slavery.

St. Patrick escaped slavery six years later, when God started talking to him. The visions and voices were explaining to him how to find a getaway ship. After fleeing, St. Patrick was reunited with his family and then went to France, where he became a Roman Catholic priest, and took on the name Patrick.

Around the age of 60, St. Patrick's dreams told him that his ministry was to go back to Ireland and spread the word of Christianity. St. Patrick went back to Ireland and started using the shamrock, more commonly known as a three-leaf clover, as a metaphor of the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

While he was spreading Christianity, he was arrested many times, but managed to escape without harm. St. Patrick established more than 300 churches and baptized over 120,000 converts.

St. Patrick became a bishop of
ST. PATRICK Cont'd On Page 3

CAMPUS BRIEFS

The Dana College Concert Band will be presenting its Winter Concert on Thursday, March 21, at 7:30 p.m. The band will play in Borup Coliseum under the direction of Professor William Hall.

Mezzo soprano and professor Jeanmarie Nielsen will be a guest artist for the concert and will sing three movements from *Five Folk Songs for Soprano and Band* by Bernard Gilmore.

Other featured songs are *Liturgical Music for Band* by Marin Mailmans, *Irish Tune from County Derry* by Percy Grainger, *El Capitan* by John Philip Sousa, and *Fanfare and Allegro* by Clifton William.

Jared Spear's *Bayport Sketch* will be performed by the Dana College Percussion Ensemble.

Admission to the concert is free.

Dead Mom Walking: Yates as Medea?

By Bill Cleeland
Daily Illinois (U. Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Telephone operator Dorene Stubblefield received an unusual call last year. On the morning of June 20, a woman phoned her Houston 911 center requesting the police be sent to her house. When Stubblefield asked why, the caller became cryptic and avoided answering the question directly.

Stubblefield: "Are you there alone? Is your husband there with you?"

Woman: "I just need them to come."

Stubblefield: "Are you sure you are alone?"

Woman: "No, my kids are here."

Stubblefield: "How old are your kids?"

Woman: "They are 7, 5, 3, 2 and 6 months."

Stubblefield thanked the woman for providing the information and dispatched a patrol car to her address. It was a strange conversation, even by 911 standards. Many callers are excited or

flustered when they dial for assistance. This woman's voice was flat, lacking emotion — especially for someone so insistent authorities be sent.

When police arrived at 942 Beachcomber Lane minutes later, a "zombie-like" woman answered the door. Her clothes were drenched with water, her hair soaked. "I just killed my kids," Andrea Yates told the officers. They went inside to find all five of her children dead, drowned by their mother in the family's bathtub. Killer moms aren't exactly a recent phenomenon. In ancient Greek mythology, Medea slayed her children to get revenge on her husband, Jason, for cheating on her. But until recently, it seemed to be a rare, unthinkable occurrence.

The 1994 case of Susan Smith changed that, bringing national publicity to the problem of mother-child homicides. Smith claimed an African-American male had stolen her car and kidnapped her two boys. For days, the story gained national

attention as the weepy mother begged the carjacker to return her children alive. Then cracks appeared in Smith's story before it finally came out she had strapped her two sons into their safety seats and allowed her car to roll into a lake, drowning them.

As with Medea, twisted love was at the root of the incident. Smith had hoped the deaths of her children would make her ex-boyfriend fall in love with her out of pity. Since then, other media reports involving murderous mothers have popped up, some even more gruesome than the Smith case. Stories emerged of mothers shooting their children, stabbing their children. Remember that old urban legend about the psycho mom who microwaved her baby to death? Well, it's not an urban legend anymore. It

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FEATURES

The Quietness of Numbers: Dana's Dr. Mark Sand

Todd Maxwell
Staff Writer

Dr. Mark Sand may not have traveled the world. He may not have become an industrial mathematician or professional athlete.

Instead, his idea of a good day is one spent quietly teaching students.

"The life of a math teacher is pretty much how people picture it," says Sand. "It's not full of exciting events, but I like my life."

It is true that one would not be surprised to learn that Sand is an associate professor of mathematics at Dana. He has the simple, trim appearance and demeanor of a mathematician: intelligent, confident, serene.

He stands before his college physics class explaining the movement of particles within magnetic fields with sketches on the marker-board and much gesturing. Sand demonstrates the "right hand rule," which helps determine particle movement and force by contorting the fingers over a sketch of the magnetic field. His class, clearly amused, mimics his hand movements.

"You can see all the engineers sitting around all day doing this," he jokes to the students as he twists his arm in front of his body. Sand is obviously enjoying himself.

While Sand continues his demonstration, the class next door draws to a noisy close. He squeezes in a few bits of important information before his own class jostles out of the classroom.

Afterward, he ambles into his office to prepare for his next class. His office is neatly arranged, as one might expect, the only sign of disorder being a very tidy mess on his desk. A large painting of a white bloom hangs on the wall, along with a collection of postcards from places Sand admits he has never

been. He points out a few. Some are from his relatives; others are from a friend in Lebanon. Most feature landmarks and scenery. A picture of Disneyland sticks out. One postcard sent by a former student features Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The shelves in his office are,

early age that he was skilled at math and wanted to teach. He had good teachers that encouraged him through high school and college.

Originally, he thought he would teach in a high school. He received his BA from Drake University in 1980. That same year he married his wife, Rose, who

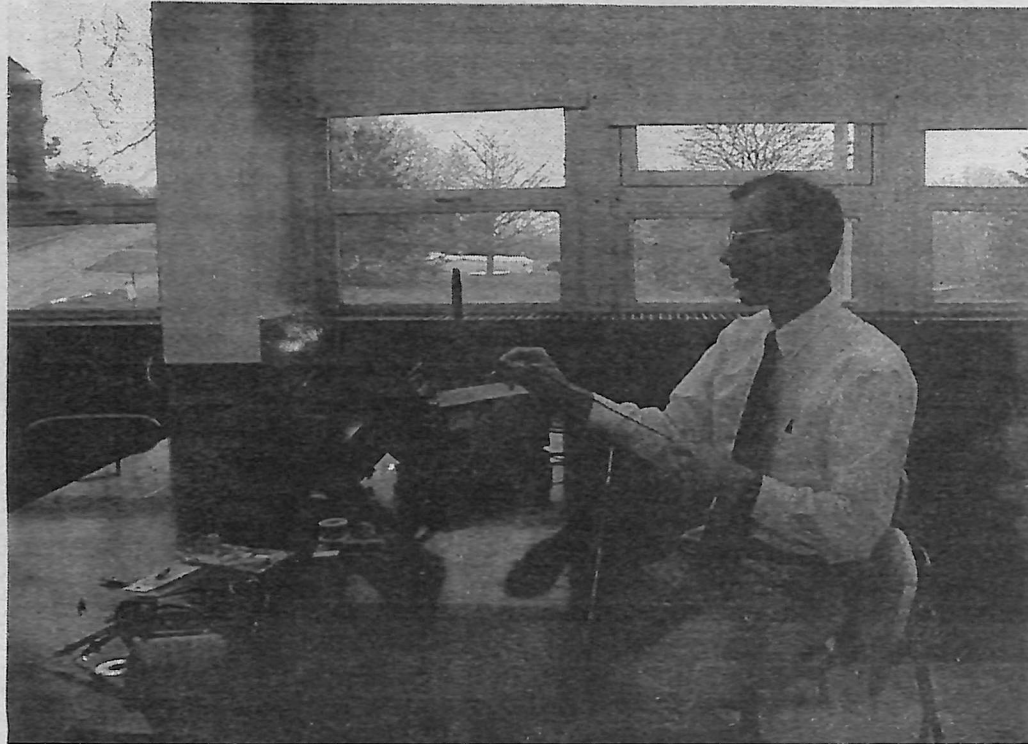
become an applied mathematician in industry, and Sand confessed that he toyed with the idea at times. But he knew that his place was in teaching.

"I met a lot of people who knew a lot about math but were lousy teachers," said Sand. He remembered the disappointment he felt in one of his seminar courses when he realized how badly some people were teaching. Sand is driven by a desire to keep the knowledge he has received going. He wants the next generation to have the same learning opportunities that he had and the opportunity to take that learning further.

At home, Sand is the father of three children. Jeremy is in third grade, Amy in eighth, and Collin in third. And while they admire their father, Sand grins, "They go out of the way to say they don't like math."

Sand likes to exercise and is an avid runner. He also enjoys hiking and basketball and spending time with his family. Fitting of his calm nature, Sand says he enjoys the outdoors and the chance to take time to see and listen to the world as he passes through it. So, what excites this peaceful, easy-going man?

"Seeing people succeed excites me, my students and my children," says Sand, "I get a lot of pleasure from that."



Dr. Mark Sand, monkeying with mystifying electronical apparati, all several decades old. Photo by Lynsie Cetto.

of course, filled with books on math and physics and books about the history of science, one of personal interests. He says he has even considered writing on the subject himself. "I may never write one," he says. Then he adds, "but you never know." For now, his first desire is to teach.

"I'm one of those strange people who knew all along what I wanted to be," says Sand. He knew from an

now also works in Dana's college relations as a graphic artist. After two years of teaching high school, Sand decided to pursue his graduate degree and become a college professor. He received his master's degree from the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis in 1989 and his doctorate from the same institution in 1991.

Some of his professors and contemporaries tried to convince him to

YATES Cont'd From Page 1

happened in Virginia in 1999.

Then, just as society was becoming desensitized to killer mothers, along came Andrea Yates. A woman who didn't just kill one child, or two, or three, but five. A woman whose oldest son actually saw her drown his younger sister and tried to escape before dear ol' mom dragged him back to the bathtub and drowned him, too. Prosecutors say Yates knew what she was doing and have charged her with two counts of capital murder.

Yates and her defense

attorneys claim she's not guilty by reason of insanity. If convicted, she could face lethal injection or life imprisonment. If found innocent, she would be committed to a state mental hospital.

It's understandable why many people believe lethal injection is the only proper punishment. If there ever was a case in which the death penalty is justified, this would seem to be it. After all, if you don't execute a woman who murdered five of her own children, who are you going to execute?

But it's not that simple. Even prosecutors admit Yates was a mentally sick woman at the time of the murders. For years she suffered from a severe case of postpartum psychosis, a condition which afflicts one in every 500 women who give birth.

In Yates' case, the illness manifested itself for two years before the murders. Voices in her head would tell her to "Get a knife!" and harm members of her family.

On other occasions, she'd perform self-mutilation, such as

scratching bald patches on her scalp and slashing her legs and arms with her fingernails. Twice she tried to kill herself.

Clearly Yates was a messed-up woman when she drowned her children. Whether that means she should be spared the death penalty is for a jury to decide. But given the vicious nature of the crimes, at the very least she should never see freedom again.

Mental illness should not be an automatic "get out of jail free card."

Especially when five innocent lives are lost.

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JACK KENT COOK SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Dana College students are invited to apply to the Scholarship Program. Scholarships will be awarded to students in the summer of 2002 for use during the 2002-03 academic year. Students must be nominated by Dana College. To be eligible for a scholarship:

1. Be enrolled at an accredited school (Dana).
2. Have achieved sophomore or junior standing.
3. Have superior grades, rigorous courses, and participate in challenging extracurricular activities, especially those demonstrating leadership potential.

Interested candidates should contact Dr. Sybille Bartels in the Dean's Office in P.M. as soon as possible.

Ideas?

Send us letters to the editor! Our delightful Dana e-mail address is the following:

hermes@acad2.dana.edu, or you can just enjoyably call us at (402) 426-7328.

Let us know what you think!

The Hermes Staff

OPINION

The Joys of (Broken) Dorm Life

When I found out at the beginning of the year that the Argo dryers would take three times to dry one load of clothes, I was angry, but I got over it. When my room became a sauna during the winter, I moaned about it, but I got used to it.

However, how many times can I turn the other cheek when some aspect of Argo Hall breaks, malfunctions, or just generally annoys the residents?

You can talk to any girl that lives in Argo, and they'll give you at least one example of "quality" Argo life. Granted, the resident assistants do everything they can to make us more comfortable, but their reach only stretches so far. True, Argo has the biggest rooms, and the best lounge. Yet, is the sheer size of the rooms worth it?

Ask the army of box elder bugs that are gradually taking over our dorms.

Perhaps we should just tough it out. We don't need a remote control for our TV, and freezing cold showers build character! The melody of someone yelling "Flushing!" so you don't get scalded while you're in the shower makes

the start of a great day. Let's not forget the mice that built a complex tunneling system through the dry wall of our rooms.

Sure, the technological magic of our "no-touch" paper towel dispensers won't work unless we touch them, but that's okay. I don't know about you, but I enjoy it when the Argo vending machines steal my money. Oh well, at least the washing machines don't break down (anymore)!

Dana College is a fairly old campus, so the fact that Argo, one of the oldest buildings, has maintenance problems doesn't surprise me.

However, if the problems aren't fixed, Argo will become like Elkhorn: a sad, crumbling behemoth of history, rapidly on its way to decay. There are memories in those walls and halls that will linger long after a pipe bursts and the building burns down.

It would be nice if those rosy, happy memories weren't tainted by anger when we're awakened in the middle of the night by clanging pipes.

- Rene Nicolay



Contestants in the Money Tree Game Show had to push a ball of yarn around a cone and back again with their nose. Senior Toni Ahrendt, in the back, is confused. Photo by Kjaer Kirkegaard.

ST. PATRICK Cont'd From Page 1

Ireland and he is also credited with driving all snakes from Ireland and drowning them in the sea, as the serpents were symbols of Paganism.

The feast of St. Patrick is celebrated on March 17, which is the date of his death. He lived in poverty for most of his life and in death he died in Saul, where he built his first church. St. Patrick was known for his fearlessness, even towards death.

But where do the color green, leprechauns and four leaf clovers come into the celebration of St. Patrick?

The color green is associated with the rolling green hills of Ireland.

Even though blue is most commonly associated with St. Patrick, the color green has come to commemorate St. Patrick's day as Ireland also recognizes it as a national holiday.

Leprechauns are Irish fairies that are thought to possess hidden pots of gold. If a hunter finds a leprechaun, the leprechaun must tell the hunter where their gold is hidden. If the Leprechaun tricks the hunter, he can vanish with the gold. The leprechaun is very unfriendly and lives alone.

Three leaf clovers are lucky, as they are symbols of God, but finding a four leaf clover is double the luck.

CD Review: Nickelback

Nickelback
Silver Side Up
Roadrunner Records
September 11, 2001

Nickelback first caught public attention with "The State" in July 2000 at a time that was perfect for their sound. They hit the charts at the same time as bands such as 3 Doors Down, Staind and Creed.

"Silver Side Up" hit the charts with its first radio release, "How You Remind Me," followed by "Woke Up This Morning." The album opens on "Never Again," an angry outcry against domestic violence that is brutally blunt and honest.

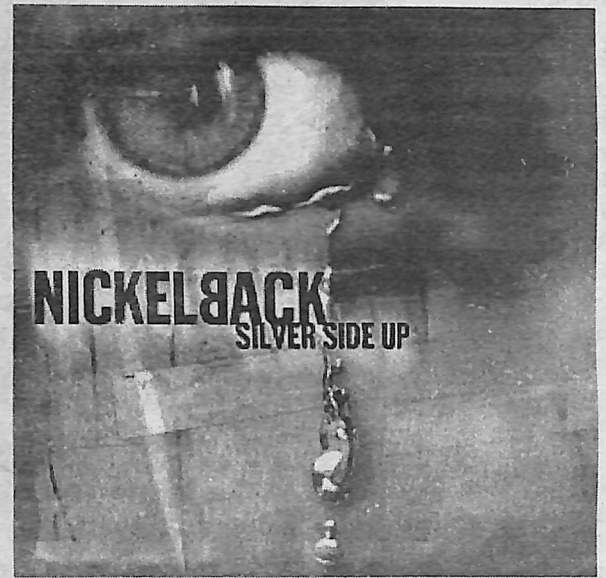
With a backing of melodic hard rock, Nickelback vents frustration and resentment across ten tracks of pure angst.

Singer Chad Kroeger wails, screams and moans over small-town

woe, mixed-up relationships, damaged hope and lost dreams.

Unfortunately, the disc winds down after those songs, slipping into recycle riffs that, if you don't pay attention, leave you wondering if you're listening to a new track or if you're still on the last one.

The band does not seem to have progressed much since their last



release and, in essence, "Silver Side Up" does little to outmatch its predecessor album.

- Todd Maxwell

Staley Lecture Series Hosts Thomsen

Toni Hoffmeier
Staff Writer

On September 11, Islamic extremists bombed the United States.

Before the attacks, many people had no idea what the Islamic faith was about. Conclusions that the faith was geared towards violence are misconceptions, but many people continue to believe those ideas as they are not educated about the Islamic faith.

Through the Staley Lecture Series, you can learn about the Islamic faith and culture as Dr. Mark Thomsen, a Dana alumnus, has been invited to speak. The theme for this year's lecture series is "Understanding Our Muslim Neighbor and the Mission of the Church

in the Quest of Global Justice."

Dr. Thomsen graduated with a BA from Dana College and got a bachelor of divinity from Trinity Theological Seminary in Blair, Nebraska. Thomsen was then awarded a master of theology degree in New Testament Theology from Princeton Theological Seminary. He received his doctor of philosophy degree from Northwestern University and Garrett Theological Seminary.

Dr. Thomsen has taught at Dana College, Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and then became the director of the Division of World Mission and Church Cooperation of the American Lutheran church and executive director for the Division for Global Mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

HERMES DANA COLLEGE

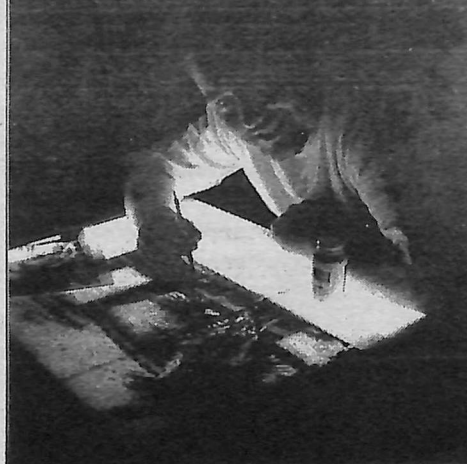
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Hermes welcomes letters to the editor expressing all original points of view. Hermes reserves the right to edit all letters according to space availability. All letters must include the author's name and address. Under certain circumstances Hermes 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 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Artist's Profile



Erik Hoffman

[Graphic Design]

Left: "End of the Trail." His motives?

To rekindle family memories of Phoenix. This acrylic wash of a southwestern home is Erik's first college painting. Inspirational Quote: "It's kind of like a wet toenail after a shower: soft and easy to cut."

Photo by Kjaer Kirkegaard.

SPORTS

Viking Softball Team Begins Season At Tournament: 3-0

Marshall Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Viking women's softball team has started its season out with a home run, going 3-0 this past weekend against two Kansas teams and one from Iowa in the Kansas Wesleyan Tournament.

The Viking women defeated all three teams in five innings. The Lady Vikes beat Graceland College 10-7 in their first game of the weekend. The Vikings were up 9-0, but committed eight errors in one inning and allowed Graceland to make a comeback that fell short.

In their next game, the Vikings defeated Tabor College 8-0, followed by a 13-1 crushing of Bethany College.

The Vikings played solid defense in their last two games, but the real story behind their victories was their pitching staff.

The trio of junior Jennifer Holmes and freshmen Kelly Heller and Cynthia Ruch was outstanding. All three are currently 1-0, with Holmes adding a save to her resume as well. Holmes has currently not allowed an earned run and only allowed two hits in 6 2/3 innings.

The Vikings are averaging 10.3

runs and 14 hits per game. Junior Erica Duncan has been an offensive hammer, hitting three triples, two doubles, and two singles in the last three games. She has scored seven runs and had four runs batted in.

The Vikings have no seniors on the team and only four juniors, but they do have depth.

First-year coach Tom Armstrong has managed to play 13-14

different players out of the team's 17 who are healthy every game.

"I think that [Armstrong] is great. He knows what he is doing and we all get along really well with him. He is a good coach," said freshman Mackenzie Bliven, a member of the team.

Sophomore Jamie Sanders added, "He is really personable and fun. He is going to take our team a long way."

Armstrong is practical but

confident. It's not easy stepping into a spot rather unexpectedly, he said. "Since this is my first year and I am new to the conference, I can't really say how well we are going to fare," Armstrong said.

He added that he is very optimistic about the team's chances. "But," he said, "the GPAC coaches put us eighth out of the eleven teams in the conference, so we'll see how it goes. It looks good so far."



A tenacious group of girls showing the world that softball players really do have the best smiles.

Computerthon Is \$1800 From Goal

During the days of February 24 through February 28, 2002, members of the Student Senate volunteered their time calling parents of current Dana students in this year's Computerthon.

It's an annual tradition aimed at raising funds for a restricted campus technology project.

Our goal is to raise \$13,000 in contributions to purchase ten new

computers, part of a larger summer project to upgrade all student-accessible computers on the Dana campus. We have to date raised \$11,200, and we are confident that we will meet our goal.

I would like to extend a special thanks to the Student Senate for their generous commitment of \$5,000 in matching funds. Thank you also to the many members of Student Senate who volunteered their time calling and thank you to Ducey Heffelfinger and the Student Senate Technology Committee for their advice and direction.

We also appreciate the generous support we have received to date from parents and friends.

- Thomas Hansen,
Dana's Director
of Development

Interim Coach Armstrong Successful

Marshall Marquardt
Staff Writer

The Viking softball team has a new coach, and it looks like their team's going to have a very successful season despite a GPAC preseason coaches' poll which had them eighth of eleven teams.

Newly hired coach Tom Armstrong has led the Lady Vikes to a perfect 3-0 record and an average of 10.3 runs per game.

Armstrong is also an assistant football coach. He coaches the offensive line and teaches physical education at Dana, where he is finishing his first year.

When Armstrong found out the softball position was available, he applied and became the interim head coach.

"I didn't expect to be the softball coach when I came to Dana," he said. "I was hired as a football coach, but the way things worked out, I acquired the softball job and it is working out great."

Armstrong had attended Humboldt State University in northern California, where he played baseball and football.

He graduated with a degree in kinesiology. Armstrong also previously coached softball for two years at Mayville State.

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Sanctity of Human Life

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- Parenting Classes and Maternal Provisions
- Chastity and Abstinence Education
- Post Abortion Support / Bible Studies

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Sports Dana's Upcoming Battles

Baseball: 3/16 Midland Lutheran at 1:00 p.m. here in Blair. Later 3/17 Concordia at 1:00 p.m. here in Blair, and 3/19 Concordia at 5:00 p.m. in Seward, NE.

Softball: 3/16 St. Mary's at 12:00 p.m. here in Blair. Later 3/17 Wayne State at 12:00 p.m. in Wayne, NE. 3/20 Peru State at 4:00 p.m. here in Blair, and 3/21 York at 4:00 p.m. here in Blair.