

A small taste of spring allows students to be outdoors



Beautiful weather found students outside playing frisbee, soccer and football. They also enjoyed playing on the Inflatables. Ryan Knight, Angie Moser, Ipo Monis, Maureen Annett (left) frolicked in the grass on Wednesday. The sun was hot and people also spent time tanning and reading. Ironically, the Oval is now covered with six inches of snow. Photo by Lysie Cetto.

U.S. Navy uses animals in war

Marine Mammal Program seeks to train dolphins, sea lions and whales to work for the U.S. military

Jeff Mangus
Assistant Editor

While the U.S. Navy has invested years in developing more efficient weapons and platforms, one division has concentrated on integrating animals into warfare.

The Navy's Marine Mammal Program began in 1960 with one Pacific white-sided dolphin and now uses eighty-two marine animals: sixty-five dolphins, fifteen sea lions and two whales. Two bottlenose dolphins are helping the Navy in the Arabian Gulf to sweep for mines and enemy divers.

Interest in the dolphins first materialized through American scientists studying hydrodynamics. They believed that research into the dolphin's shape could provide useful lessons in designing missiles and torpedoes.

But as the Navy's scientists worked with the dolphins, they realized that the animals could have wider applications: above-average intelligence and exceptional sonar abilities meant the dolphins could be trained to perform difficult tasks.

Today, dolphins and sea lions are able to locate mines and divers and mark the location for the Navy.

Dolphins are often selected for these tasks because their biological sonar is more sophisticated than our hardware sonars.

Sea lions are valuable for their sensitive underwater hearing and unmatched low-light vision.

Detractors of the program say the dolphins are abused and can be trained to kill.

Richard O'Barry, who wrote a book titled "To Free A Dolphin" and founded The Dolphin Project, is a critic of the Navy's employment of dolphins. O'Barry's first knowledge of the program came 40 years ago, when the CIA asked him to help train dolphins for missions in the Cold War. He said the agency's project "[was] intended to use dolphins to kill people."

Animal activists have campaigned against the program since the 1960s.

In 1988, however, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy sought to disprove allegations that the animals were mistreated. He invited two reviews by the Marine Mammal Commission.

These reviews concluded that the Navy took better care of the mammals than many other private organizations, and



The U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait visits the newest U.S. citizens at Camp Patriot, Kuwait - Kona and Katrina - a pair of Atlantic bottle-nose dolphins employed by the U.S. Navy for mine-detection in shallow water. Kona and Katrina help to clear waterways leading into Iraq. Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy.

noted that the animals were kept in their natural environment in mesh corrals and allowed to swim untethered during training. Over several decades and thousands of training episodes, only seven dolphins have not returned.

Proponents of the program say there are other uses for the animals besides mine countermeasures. In 1993 a sea lion trained by the Navy was asked to locate a car submerged in a river. Human divers had tried several times without success.

The sea lion found the car on the first dive.

Similarly, rescuers involved with a San Diego Bay boating accident in 1996 were unsure whether they had found all the

passengers, and a Navy dolphin conducted a quick search and verified that all passengers had been rescued.

Navy officials speculate that dolphins may be more important in search and rescue operations in the future.

Tom LaPuzza, who is a spokesman for the Navy's Marine Mammal Program, says the dolphins are best at locating mines in certain areas. "The animals work best in shallow water, where there's lots of noise," he said, noting that they were able to focus through the noise on one specific sound.

The dolphin's overall purpose is obvious, he said.

"They protect people's lives. Basically, that's what they are there for."

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Five student-athletes place at opening meet in NW Missouri State Invitational.

Student Activities Coordinator Lisha Palm: brightening Dana's student activities office

Rene Nicolay
Feature Editor

Lisha Palm is the perky, cheerful Coordinator of Student Activities here at Dana College, in addition to her duties as the Hall Director of Holling and Argo. Rarely seen without a smile and some friendly words, Lisha is more than she appears.

An alumnus of Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, Lisha graduated with a double major in public relations and business management. After graduating, the college asked her to work with student activities as a professional. "It was an amazing year," said Lisha. "It provided many opportunities to grow in so many different areas of my life." It was a temporary position, as there weren't enough funds to keep her on. However, she wasn't worried - Lisha had the feeling that there was a prospect waiting for her. Her intuition was correct. Her boss received a letter from Dana, telling of a position that was open for residence life and activities. She was perfect for the job, and the rest is history!

"I love working with the students," Lisha said. She believes the students are wonderful, and she'd like to serve them.

Her business management major pays off when she manages the wide range of activities.

"I love variety, and this job provides me with so many different projects."

Anyone who talks to Lisha for an extended period of time knows that her faith is very important to her.

"It's the core, the essence of who I am," she said. She's reluctant to call herself religious - to her, religion conjures up

images of ritual and rites, so she goes to a non-denominational church in Omaha. Whenever she's troubled, Lisha has faith that God will guide her through.

Lisha grew up in a "church home." Her grandparents were missionaries, and her father was born in Africa. "They were good missionaries," she assured me. "They never tried to force anything on anyone." Her love for Africa prompted her to visit for 6 months when she was in high school. Lisha still has family there: her father's cousin owns a company which took Hilary Clinton on safari. "They're really well-known," she explained, "because they know the tribal languages so well."

Traveling runs in the family, apparently - Lisha and her family would travel every year, sometimes flying, sometime driving.

Her father, a mechanic who runs his own business, had the freedom to take a month off in the summer. "My family really valued traveling. Instead of new clothes, I'd get to go somewhere new." Once, while driving to Alaska in a station wagon, they were stopped at the border and searched for drugs, because the car was so old and rusty.

Toward the end of Lisha's freshman year of college, her mother got cancer. Her older sister, Melanie, was married by this time with one child, so Lisha and her younger sister, Kristen, took care of her. "My sister and I really had to tag team to take care of my mom," said Lisha. She even



Student Activities Coordinator Lisha Palm attends a recent BAHM night. The women on third floor Holling held a very successful toga party for their BAHM. Photo by Lysie Cetto.

went to Mexico with her mother to seek alternative treatments. Sadly, her mother died that summer.

A year and a half later, Lisha's father re-married, this time, to a doctor with a son named Eric.

Lisha, with her energetic personality,

is not someone easily missed on campus. Through obstacles, she's relied on her faith and her friends, and is happy where she is now. Unique and friendly, she's found her niche at Dana College. But will her traveling spirit urge her move on? Only time will tell.

Fisherman catch monster squid: 'Colossal' find

Bernardo Hinojosa
Staff Writer

New Zealand fisherman had a good day off the coast of Antarctica when they

discovered the first colossal squid.

It was found dead at 6,561 feet below the water.

The squid was a massive 330 pounds and 16 feet long.

Its eyes are as big as dinner plates and it has a beak like a parrot. The squid is

believed to be only a teenager. Scientists speculated that, at full length, it could be 2,000 pounds and 43 feet long.

It is believed to be very aggressive and deadly. "The animal is formidable," said Steve O'Shea, researcher from New Zealand.

But just how formidable is this colossal squid?

O'Shea offers an example: "[It differs from the giant squid] by having enormous hooks arming the tentacles and the arms."

Along with suckers found in all squids, colossal squids have a unique set of 25 teeth-like hooks that are as sharp as razors and can turn 360 degrees.

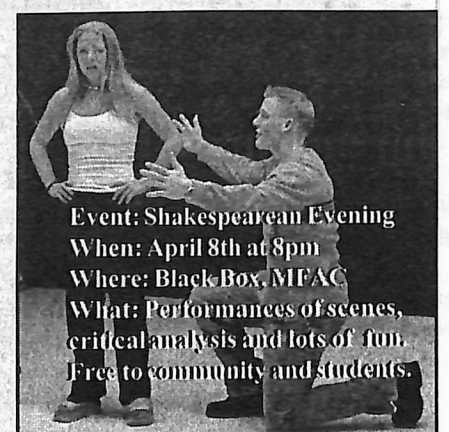
It can definitely hold its own against sperm whales.

Only its beak had ever been found before, in a sperm whale.

"We know so little about the marine environment in general. If animals like this

are turning up, what's going to be at 3,000 meters [10,000 feet] depth? We don't know," said O'Shea.

Biology majors can have something exciting to look forward to. The scientific name for this new species is *Mesonychoteuthishamiltoni*, or the colossal cephalopod.



Event: Shakespearean Evening
When: April 8th at 8pm
Where: Black Box, MFAC
What: Performances of scenes, critical analysis and lots of fun.
Free to community and students.

Editor-in-Chief: Matt Bloomingdale
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Hermes

Dana College

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. on Tuesday.

Is the use of animals in war acceptable?

Chickens, pigeons, dogs, dolphins all help Americans fight our wars. Is it moral to use animals this way?

Staff Editorial
The Lariat (Baylor U.)

(U-WIRE) - After 42 chickens proved unfit for survival in the desert in February, the Marines received a company of pigeons that would travel with the Marines and help detect chemical attacks — the equivalent of a canary in a coal mine, as CNN puts it.

Pigeons were among the first animals trained to participate in warfare, serving as messengers from the front.

Other animals include dogs trained to sniff for explosives and dolphins that have helped the Navy since the 1970s.

Today, in addition to watching the birds for signs of biological warfare, at least two Navy-trained dolphins are in the waters near Umm Qasr, detecting and marking mines.

The dolphins are trained to avoid contact with the mines and simply flag them for divers and minesweepers.

Is it fair to use animals in warfare? After all, they are God's creatures as well, and should humans, as stewards of the planet, use our fellow global denizens as detectors when war is but a series of explosive squabbles between humans?

The pigeons will be released, probably in Baghdad. The dogs and dolphins are trained to play a game in which they are

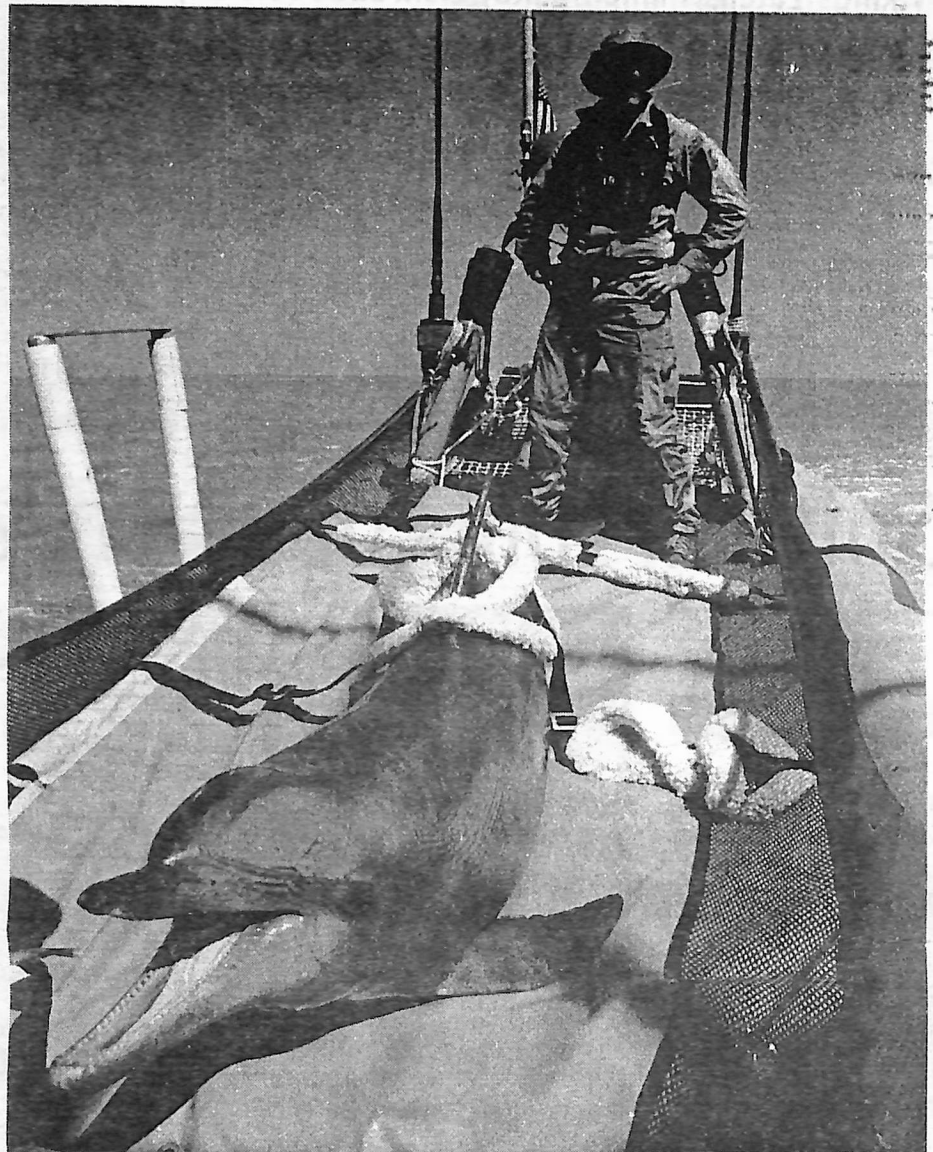
rewarded for repeatedly achieving an objective.

So long as they have a proper living environment and good caretakers who will keep their charges as safe as possible, it is all right to use animals as noncombatants in warfare.

It is not necessarily a situation that rests comfortably on the conscience, but given the choice between using monkeys to detonate mines and putting a soldier's life at risk in a minefield, the monkey would have to go first.

The Moroccan government, by the way, denies ever offering to sell such trained monkeys to the U.S. government, despite what you may have heard from John Stewart on The Daily Show.

Staff Sgt. Justin Roberts escorts K-Dog, a Bottle Nose Dolphin belonging to Commander Task Unit back to the well deck and holding areas aboard the USS Gunston Hall in the Arabian Gulf. His unit is conducting water mine countermeasure operations to clear shipping lanes. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Navy.



The kids are all fat: Texas schools crack down

EDITORIAL: The kids are all fat
Staff Editorial
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) - On Monday, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs held a press conference to voice support for a pair of bills in the Legislature that would allow the state to serve as the collective mommy for Texas' elementary and secondary students.

Sen. Eddie Lucio, D-Brownsville, and Rep. Jaime Capelo, D-Corpus Christi, have filed bills this session that would, among other things, restrict the use of vending machines that serve soft drinks and junk food in schools. This would, presumably, help reduce the average girth of Texas schoolchildren.

There's no denying that school-age kids are, on the whole, getting a bit soft-bellied. According to Texas Department of Health statistics that Combs used in her Monday news conference, 38.7 percent of fourth-graders, 37.1 percent of eighth-graders and 29.4 percent of 11th-graders are overweight or obese. Because of this, they are at risk for developing long-term health problems like Type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and high blood pressure, among other ailments.

That certainly sounds scary. Politicians would have the public believe that one-third of Texas kiddos could end up keeling over from a massive coronary because they spent their formative years stuffing their faces with Ding-Dongs.

But Combs was unable to draw a conclusive link between vending-machine jelly rolls and students' stomach rolls during her press conference. And there's not a whole lot of evidence to suggest there is a link.

Kids drink soft drinks because they like them. Soft drink makers put vending machines in schools because there is a demand for their product. In many schools, vending machines also offer juices and water, but they're not always the most popular product.

By crusading to keep junk food out of schools, Combs, Lucio and Capelo are insinuating that children are incapable of deciding what they want to put into their bodies. Throughout elementary and secondary schools, students are regularly subjected to health classes where they are taught about proper nutrition and the consequences of too much junk food. The point of these classes is to educate children, and if they choose to act counter to what they were taught by lurching on a bag of Doritos and a Dr Pepper, they

deserve whatever consequence befalls them.

There's also the issue of physical activity, or lack thereof. The effects of junk food — regardless of whether the source is school vending machines or one's sack lunch — are compounded when kids spend their afternoons watching cartoons and their weekends playing video games. Legislators can't mandate that fat kids step

outside every once in a while, but they think they should be able to tell schools what food products they can or cannot provide in their halls.

What Combs, Lucio and Capelo are supporting flies in the face of the free market and personal choice. The government has no right to tell a person what they can eat, regardless of their age.

Let them eat cream-filled chocolate cake.

Staley Lectures: Scheiter

Christen Neben
Staff Writer

This week Dana College will be hosting the Staley Lecture series. This year's lecture is from a Christian Scholar and Catholic priest, Dr. Robert Scheiter. Dr. Scheiter's main presentation will take place on Thursday, April 10, at 7 p.m. in the chapel. The title of his lecture will be "Christianity: The Nature, Place and Mission of the church in an Age of Globalization."

This lecture will cover issues of terrorism and the ongoing conflict between the United States and Iraq, as

well as the role of Christian churches in global conflicts.

Dr. Scheiter will preach in the Chapel on Thursday, April 10, at 10:30 a.m., as well as give lectures in the following classes: Christian Thought (Thursday 2-3:20 p.m.), Intro to Religion (Friday, April 11 at 10 p.m.), and Intro to the Bible (Friday, April 11 at 11 p.m.).

Scheiter is a Professor of Theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago as well as a Professor of Theology and Culture in the Netherlands. He is the past president of the American society of Missiology and Catholic theological Society of America.

Contributing author: Pastor Andrea Ng'weshemi.

Dana Track and Field frolics in season opener

Vikings' Latella, Milner, Maltby, Clark and Poole all placed at the Northwest Missouri State Invitational on Saturday

Matt Bloomingdale

Editor-in-Chief

The Viking track and field team opened their 2003 schedule this past Saturday at the Northwest Missouri State invitational. While still brushing the dust off their spikes, the team had a strong showing.

The men's team finished ninth overall, scoring 25 points.

Sophomore Ian Latella finished third

in the 3000 meter steeplechase in 10:00.97, scoring seven points for the Vikings.

"Expectations for the first race [of the season] weren't that high," said Latella. "I was really surprised and excited about my finish."

Other contributors were seniors Ryan Milner, Garry Clark, and Matt Maltby.

Milner finished sixth in the men's 10,000 meter race in a time of 33:18.00.

Garry Clark, overcoming an injury, was able to run a respectable 1:56.43, finishing fifth place in the men's 800 meter race.

Matt Maltby threw the shot put, discus, and hammer, placing in the top 11 in all three including a fifth place finish in the shot put.

Other notables for the men were sophomore Shane Jackman, who ran a PR 36:30.00 in the 10,000 meter and sophomore Chris Humphries finishing ninth in the 200 meter with a time of 22.77.

The women also had a strong performance.

Junior Tiffany Poole finished with second place in the women's shot put,

measuring 40 feet 9.5 inches.

While Poole was the women's only scorer, Dana had many other promising showings, from senior Alicia Widtfelt and sophomore Lindsey Bliemeister.

All-American Stephanie Collins is still out with an injury to her left knee. Her return date is still unknown.

Next week the Vikings will compete at the Jim Duncan Invitational in Des Moines, Iowa.

The NAIA National meet will be held in Olathe, Kansas on May 22-24.

Softball splits doubleheader with Concordia

Marshall Marquardt

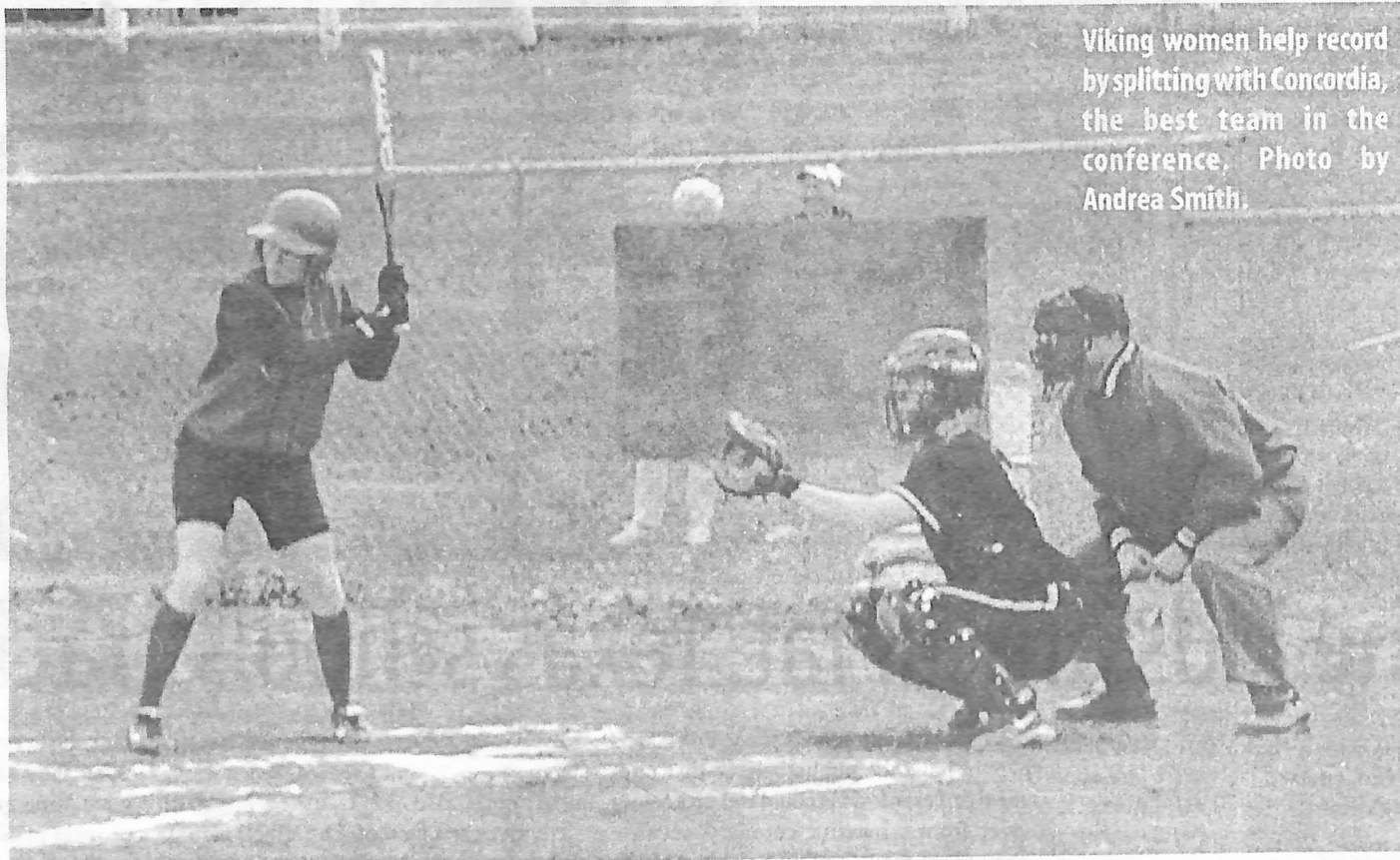
Sports Editor

The Lady Viking Softball players are making strides, going 4-2 in their last six games, bringing their overall record to 12-7.

The Vikings recently faced off against the number one team in their conference, Concordia University, winning their first game, 4-2, but losing their second game 4-1.

Last week, the Vikings also played Mount Marty College and Dakota Wesleyan College.

They won both games against Mount Marty, 4-3 and 3-2, respectively, but split games with Dakota Wesleyan University, losing 3-1 in the first game and winning the second game 7-1.



Viking women help record by splitting with Concordia, the best team in the conference. Photo by Andrea Smith.

Baseball team rolls over N. Wesleyan: 17-5, 13-5

Marshall Marquardt

Sports Editor

The Viking baseball team has been on a roll this past week, winning their last seven games, by a total margin of 62-19.

The Vikings started the streak off by winning their second game against Carleton College, 6-2.

The Vikings then went on a rampage, beating Dordt College 8-0 in the first game and 15-5 in the second game.

The Vikings then hosted Northwestern College on March 29, and won their first game 8-5, and their second game 10-2.

On April 1, the Vikings traveled to Nebraska Wesleyan, where it really got bad. The Vikings won their first game by a

score of 17-5, and then crushed them again in the second game, 13-5.

The Vikings have now bolstered their Region IV ranking to number four instead of being fifth, and now stand at 15-15, with the conference schedule getting under way.

The number one ranked team in Region IV is Bellevue University of Nebraska, who is currently only 16-16. The Vikings were supposed to play Bellevue, but the game was cancelled.

Other teams in the Vikings region are Newman College (Kansas), Bethany College (Kansas), Peru State College (Nebraska), and Sterling College (Kansas). Sterling has the best record in the region at 18-8, but is ranked sixth, as they have not had as stiff of competition as the Vikings and the rest of the field.

Dana's Knight, Marquardt and Dawes keep wrestling: freestyle (with success)

Marshall Marquardt

Sports Editor

Although the Vikings have been off the mat for a month now, finishing 11th in the nation, there are a few wrestlers still competing.

Ryan Knight and Marshall Marquardt competed at the Central College Freestyle tournament this past weekend.

Knight went 3-2, placing fourth, pinning two opponents and winning the third by technical fall, wrestling 165 pounds.

Marquardt went 3-0, taking first in the

weightclass ranging from 185-205.

Marquardt won his first two matches 10-5, and 13-10, respectively, and won his third match by technical fall.

This was the wrestlers second freestyle meet they competed in so far. The first tournament was held last weekend, where Knight, Marquardt, and junior Phil Dawes competed at the Westside Freestyle Wrestling tournament.

All three wrestlers finished the tournament undefeated on the day and took home the gold.

Knight went 3-0, pinning all three opponents in the first period, while Dawes and Marquardt went 2-0, with one pin each.