

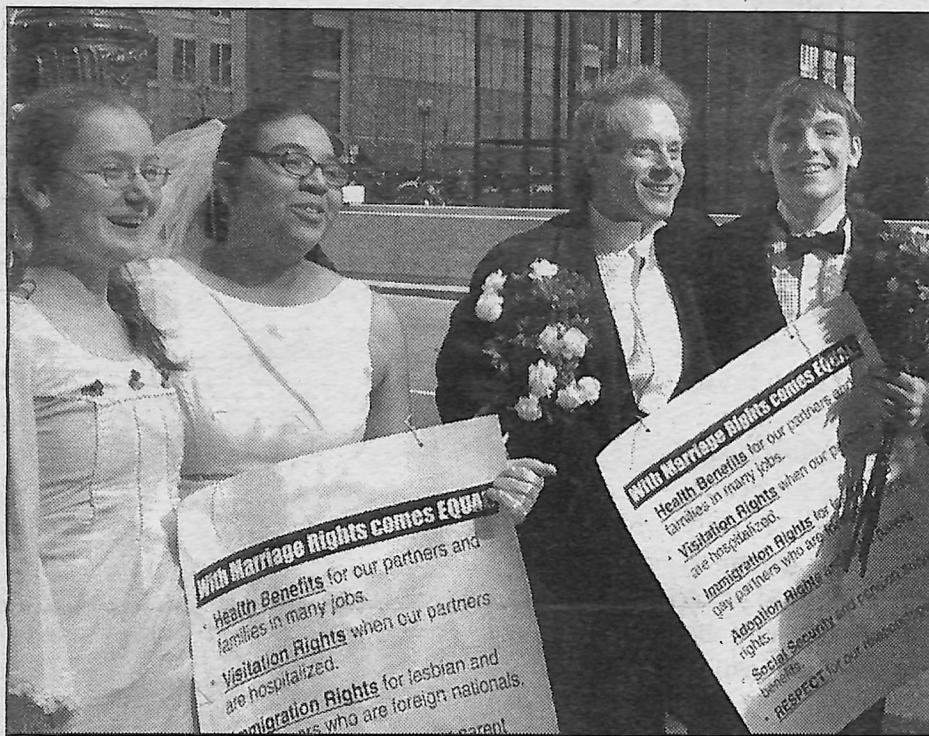
San Francisco defends gay marriage

Kathy Wells
Co-Editor

With the upcoming elections, there have been several issues facing our nation. One such issue has been San Francisco opening its arms for same-sex unions after Mayor Gavin Newsom approved them. This has been a politically hot topic for many people across the country.

The rush began Feb. 12 at the San Francisco City Hall. Couples waited for hours to apply for licenses in a line that snaked through City Hall's ground floor and around the block. Officials brought in extra sheriff's deputies for security and more clerks to process licenses but were still overwhelmed. City Hall remained open throughout the weekend and were even open on President's Day. The demand has been so great that the officials have had to turn people away because they were unable to fill all the requests. There has also been added security to accommodate the growing number of people in line.

In San Francisco there have been about 2700 marriages



Same sex partners take to the street to support their cause.
Photo courtesy www.cabn.org

performed since the city opened its doors to the marriages. Now the city attorney, Dave Herrera, is taking this one step further and planning on suing the State of California for banning same-sex marriages on constitutional grounds. City officials want the judge to determine if restricting same-sex couples from marrying violates the equal protection and due process clauses

of the California Constitution. The city plans on continuing to issue the licenses until it is forced to stop.

Since San Francisco has begun to issue such licenses, Chicago mayor Richard Daley, has said he has no problem with Cook county issuing licenses for same-sex marriages. The Daley and Cook County Clerk, David Orr, are currently looking into this issue. The San Francisco mayor

has also received support from the mayors of Plattsburgh, N.Y., Salt Lake City, and New York City., although, the mayor in NYC has no plans of offering licenses for same-sex couples.

Despite the support S.F. has been receiving, there has been some opposition. President Bush has spoken out on several occasions about same-sex marriages. He has said he is troubled by what is going on in San Francisco and still plans to protect marriage as a union between a man and woman. He has even said he would go as far as supporting a constitutional amendment banning such marriages. Even First Lady Laura Bush has spoken out about the marriages between gays and lesbians as being "shocking." Conservative groups have even begun trying to challenge the decision in courts to prevent this from being legal.

Nebraska has had three attempts to ban same-sex marriages and currently there are no domestic partnership benefits offered. This topic has a wide range of answers and not every one can agree on just one. There are strong feelings about this issue on both sides, and the controversy will only continue to grow as this election year rages on.

Actress turned author to visit campus

Kathy Wells
Co-Editor

Next Friday, Dana has yet another special guest coming to campus. Harley Jean Kozak will be visiting and every one has a chance to meet her at 3 p.m. in DC room 116. She is an accomplished actress and just recently published her first book. Her book, *Dating Dead*

Men, is a Mystery Guild editor's pick for February, and is on several book-of-the-month club lists.

Her screen credits include: the television version of *The Amy Fisher Story* (1993), *Necessary Roughness* (1991), and *Arachnophobia* (1990). Some more



of her television appearances include: *Once and Again*, *Chicago Hope*, *Highway to Heaven*, *Love Boat: The Next Wave*, *The Outer Limits*, and *L.A. Law*. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in going into a field that involves either television or writing a chance to meet with someone with experience.

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Campus Activities Reminder

H.O.P.E will sponsor a Soul Food night in the cafeteria Tuesday, Feb. 24

The Danish Performance Team is putting on a show Thursday, February 26 @ 7:30 P.M. Be sure to pick up your tickets from college relations.

Comedian Willie Myles will be performing in the Dragon's Head Feb. 20 at 7 P.M.

Winterfest dance is to be held on March 5.

Don't forget to watch DVTV every Wednesday night at 9 P.M.

Kids say the darndest things

Jorge Christmas
Staff Writer

The famous quote from the beloved children's movie Peter Pan, "we never, never, never want to grow up," holds true for most people. The colossal imagination is one trait children possess that draws envy from adults. People claim they are a kid at heart, but picture what a scientist or writer could do if only they had retained the mind from their childhood. A well-educated adult with the same extensive imagination a child possesses could bring many positive changes to the world. I believe we do not give enough credit to the capabilities of the young mind.

The innovative ideas children come up with seem silly. I work at a daycare and get to experience much of this imagination first hand. When a young boy turns into a tin man simply by placing a funnel on his head, it struck me as something clever I never could have envisioned on my own. How could a three year old kid uniquely interpret a common kitchen utensil as a tin man costume? If only our thought process was as simple, my article this week wouldn't be so painstaking.

Another witty interpretation I witnessed this week was one of the kids rolling up a piece of paper. I didn't think anything of it until I asked why he was rolling it up. He said,

"I'm a pirate and this is my telescope."

I asked him, "I have a pencil in my hand does that make me a famous author?"

He responded with the simple answer, "If you want to be." I sat pondering

his reply for quite some time.

Is a writer great simply

because he believes he is good

at what he does and doesn't

restrict himself? I find I do

better in class if I enjoy it and

believe it's one of my strengths.

Even when it's harder

than another class I tend to do better in the class in which I maintain interest.

My friend's sister, who is two and a half, was eating with her family one day. They were having a tender roast for dinner, and the young girl proclaims, "This meat gum is sure good." She derived meat gum from chewy meat which is an interesting connection. It may seem silly, but these metaphors are sometimes exactly what a writer is looking for.

When I was young, my cats had just received their shots before my dad

broke his leg. I asked my mom, "Are you taking dad to the 'better'inarian?" (veterinarian) The idea of a better-inarian making someone better is one idea most people wouldn't think of, but I did as a child.

Looking at animals and humans in the same light is a repetitive notion with kids.

A young girl was getting her nails clipped under a tree. She asks her mom, "Does this mean I can't climb trees?"



"What would make you say that?" inquired her mother.

"The cats can't climb trees anymore to get away from dogs because you clipped their nails," she responded.

Children are full of surprises. I've been around quite a few children throughout my life. Not always will you benefit from the child's naïve mind. Sometimes, kids can embarrass you or even affect your job.

My niece heard her mother raving about her boss after a long day at the office. The next time the little girl

sees this person, she said, "my mommy said you walk like you had a corn cob stuck where the sun don't shine." Although she doesn't understand this comment or how it could affect her mother, she says it loud and proud to this woman's boss. The young girl isn't afraid of society's opinions. Her mother responds with a surprised look on her face, "Kids say the darndest. I have no idea where she came up with that—she must have seen it on television or something!"

Adults look at things through a different light. Children have a free attitude towards society. They don't pay much attention to what others say about them, or how what they say will affect others. Adults hold back their innovative ideas because they are afraid of the labels society may place on them.

The mature image diminishes the imagination we once contained. The realization Santa and the Easter Bunny don't exist lessens the extent of the imagination. Kids with imaginary friends at some point are ridiculed in school. At some point, society forces maturity upon us and doesn't except the creative ideas like that of a child. Do our unique thoughts disappear as we mature, or are they pushed back so far in our subconscious we don't even consider them?— Jorge Christmas is a pseudonym for the individual members of a Dana

Opinion

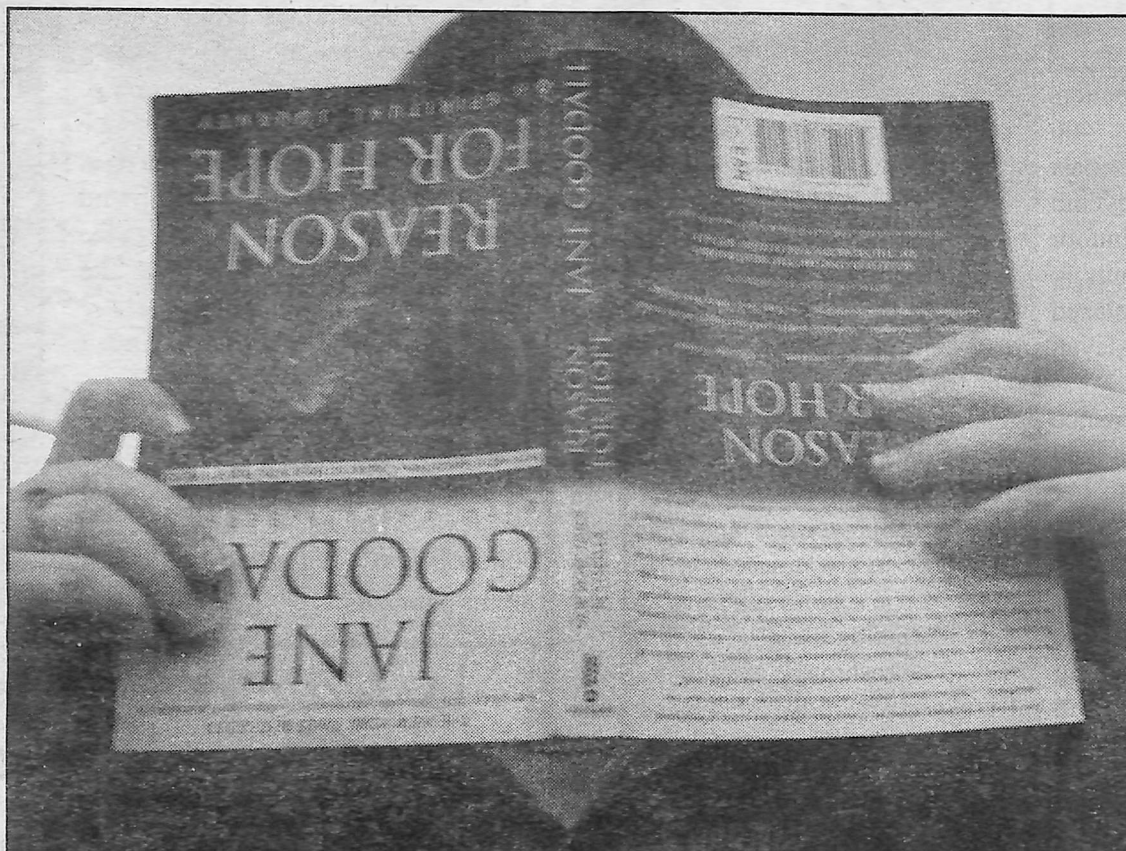
LARP: Turn it or burn it

Rene Nicolay
Co-Editor

Every semester, students grope for their alarm clocks on Thursday mornings and blearily shuffle towards designated meeting spots to, once again, discuss a book they may or may not have actually read. This is the Liberal Arts Reading Program, otherwise known as LARP – and for English majors across the campus, just one more book to read.

What's the point of LARP? Some will tell you that, Dana being a liberal arts college, this unique program broadens horizons, challenges "out-of-the-box" thinking, and exposes students to various fields of interest. A noble goal indeed. But what of the students who experience this already? What about those of us who read mind-broadening books on a daily basis?

Am I complaining? Of course. You're an intelligent audience, and I'm not one to pull the wool over anyone's eyes for no reason. I have no inclination



*One student shows their feelings about the graduation required LARP.
Photo by Chris Johnson*

in the slightest to pretend my opinion stems from anything other than sleep deprived frustration. I'm sure students have complained about LARP since its formation roughly forty seven years ago, whether it's because of certain book selections, the hour the meetings take place, or just because some

students despise reading as much as I hate math.

I'm certainly not advocating the rejecting of a time honored tradition. I mean, if TIME magazine thought the program important enough to devote a full complimentary page, who am I to criticize its existence? Those who don't

read just because they "don't have the time" *should* go to LARP, so they have a reason to read. If more people read books instead of watching reality television, I'd be a very happy camper.

One thing I don't need, though, is an added book to read in my list. In any given week this

semester, I need to read the added total of two small novels. Considering that only a couple of my classes are challenging, I can only imagine the stress more ambitious English majors must be feeling as they gaze sadly at the latest LARP book. Thankfully, I read quicker than most, but that doesn't stop the annoyance from welling every time I set my alarm on Wednesday night. I know I'm not the only English major who feels this way.

"I think LARP is detrimental to my studies. They make us read sub par books, and it distracts us from better books," said Junior Matt Bloomingdale. "Graduating English majors more than fulfill LARP's goals on their own time, as well as in the classroom."

Junior Ginger Kreuger agreed. "One of the purposes of LARP is to get students to read, and we do that already. My god, my eyes! I can't read anymore," she added, laughing.

I love to read. I make time to read for leisure, and my tastes are usually eclectic. One month I might be reading a biography, the next, horror fiction. I do not need the added pressure of yet another book to read, another reluctant meeting to witness, and another half-hearted discussion to experience. LARP, in my opinion, should not be mandatory for English majors.

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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 the Hermes are not necessarily those of the editors, college or the college community.

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

Got something on your mind? Tell us about it. We are always accepting letters to the editor. Send e-mails to hermes@dana.edu.

Do you have a writer inside that you are waiting to unleash? If so, we are still looking for writers. Contact either Kathy Wells or Rene Nicolay for more information.

Sports

Vikings qualify seventh runner for nationals

Matt Bloomingdale
Staff Writer

Junior Melissa Respeliers set a Dana College women's 400 meter indoor record this past weekend, becoming the seventh Viking to qualify for the 2004 Indoor National Championships. Running a mark of 57.40, Respeliers placed 13th at the Nebraska Wesleyan Prairie Wolf Invitational.

While the performance was no surprise to teammates and coaches, it was quite a shock to her parents.

"This was an extra sweet moment for Mel," said Head Track Coach Allen Friesen as he told the Dana Review. "She has been keeping the fact she was running track from her parents to surprise them. What a

way to surprise them by qualifying for Nationals."

"It was tough," said Respeliers. "I hit the wall on the backstretch but I just kept thinking 'nationals, nationals, nationals.'"

Several other members are literally seconds away from making the trip to nationals. Senior Ian Latella ran a 9:06.20, leaving the race one second shy of the 9:05.00 national mark.

The men's 4x400 team, consisting of Senior Garry Clark, Junior Chris Humphries, Sophomore Cameron Schweitzer, and Freshman Shaun Ervin also missed the national mark by one second running a time of 3:27.09 (national mark 3:26.00)

Freshman standout John Kaup needs to drop only five seconds from his 4:30.27 mile time to join the

others at the national meet.

The Vikings bring quite a bit of momentum into this weekend's Great Plains Athletic Conference Championship meet at Doane College. "This couldn't happen at a better time in the season," said Friesen. "With the GPAC Conference Championships this Saturday, the team is starting to peak right where Coach (Bob) Spangler and [I] want them to."

After this Saturday, the Vikings will have one last chance to qualify for nationals at Nebraska Wesleyan before heading off to Johnson City, Tennessee on March 4th for nationals.

Campus Wide Blood Drive

This year's blood drive will be held on March 2nd in the Old Gym in Borup from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sign up with Amanda Reddish and Hannah Heckart. You must be 17, over 110 pounds, and be sure to bring your drivers license. If you have questions, call 7533.

Up Coming Sporting Events

Track

Feb 21 GPAC Indoor Championships, Crete, NE 9:00 A.M.

Women's Basketball

Feb 20 Doane College, Crete, NE 5:30 P.M.

Men's Basketball

Feb 20 Doane College, Crete, NE 7:30 P.M.

Baseball

Feb 21 Benedictine College, Atchison, KS 1:00 P.M.

Feb 22 Benedictine College, Atchison, KS 1:00 P.M.


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Dodge Center, 4610 Dodge St., Omaha, 554-1040
Ames Center, 5404 Ames Ave., Omaha, 455-2121
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