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Voter turnout up, still room for improvement

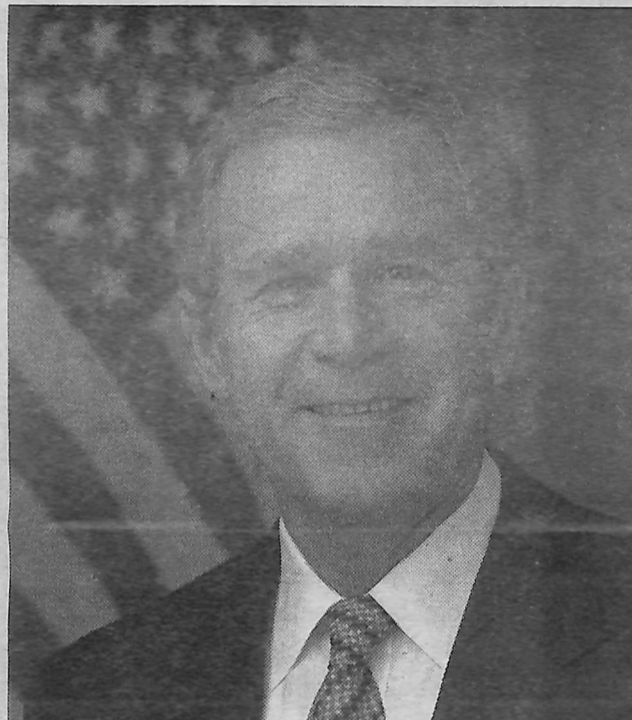
Kathy Wells
Editor

The election turnout on Tuesday seems to be the real winner. At least six states -- Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, and the District of Columbia reportedly saw record turnouts.

Curtis Gans, director of the nonpartisan Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, estimates the total turnout will reach nearly 120 million people, once absentee and provisional ballots are figured into the equation.

That represents just under 60 percent of eligible voters, the highest percentage for turnout since 1968. If the estimates hold up after the real numbers are in, it'll mean about 15 million more of us voted this year than in the last presidential race. That's more additional votes than the combined populations of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska and Hawaii according to the Tri-City Herald.

Long lines were common in much of the country. In Ohio, some polling places were reporting seven-



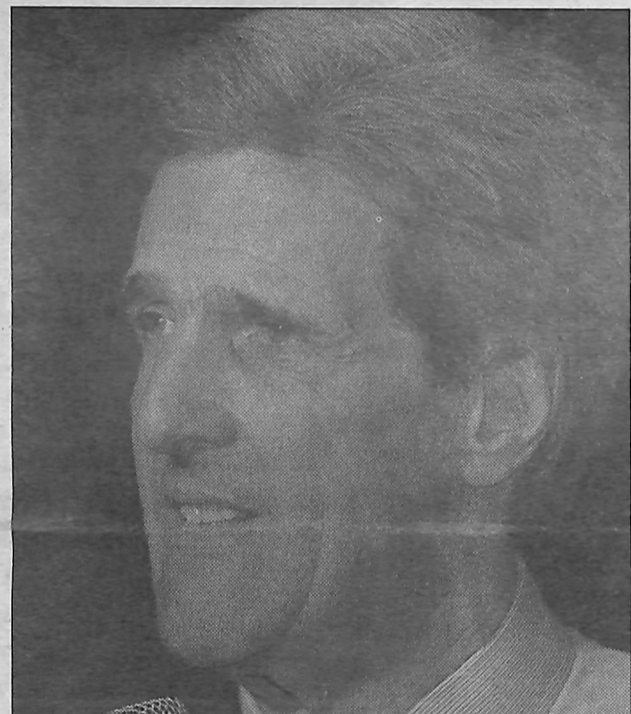
hour waits.

We're still a long way from other countries like Finland, where the average turnout is 90 percent. But more Americans voted Tuesday than in any other election.

This year, Democrats and Republicans were out trying to find new voters and make sure they showed up at the polls. Both sides spent much of their time and money pushing people to get out and vote. They were even more focused on

battleground states such as Florida. The targeted groups were the youth, Hispanic, and African-American voters.

The youth vote didn't quite reach the mark that had been hoped by Mtv and other similar organizations trying to encourage people to get out there and vote. Voters under 24 still made up the same percentage of voters as it did four years ago. The same is true if you expand the group to under 30.



The youth stayed with the voting increase trend. An estimated 9 percent of voters Tuesday were 18 to 24, the age group makes up about 13 percent of the voting-age population. The hours-long lines to vote at many college campuses speak louder than the statistics.

This goes to show that we are not quite where we want to be but on the road to get more people to the voting polls. We can now only wait four more years.

Lensch breaks NCAA and NAIA records

Kathy Wells
Editor

Dana's quarterback Tom Lensch has entered the college football history pages after Saturday's games against Hastings. Lensch recorded a record number

101 passing attempts, a quarterback in the NCAA or NAIA in a single game has never achieved this. Lensch's achievement has also landed him some national attention as well. Clips from the game were seen on ESPN and Fox Sports Network's Best Damn Sports Show Period. Locally it can be seen on

channel 6's Sunday Night Sports Extra.

Lensch has a season total 2,772 yards breaking the college record for passing yards in a single season. Aside from holding school records, he also holds the GPAC records for passing attempts, completions, and yards. He also

has the record for total plays in a game for the NAIA. He also leads the NAIA's individual total offense with an average of 317.9 yards per game. He has all this despite being sacked 36 times for a loss of 235 yards. Lensch is this week's Dana College Athlete of the Week and Champion of Character.

Features

Upcoming Events

Open Swim
Tuesdays and
Thursdays at 7:00
P.M.

H.O.P.E.
Movie Night
Linden Room
Nov. 10 at 9 P.M.

H.O.P.E.
Spade
Tournament
Dragon's Head
Nov. 11 at 8 P.M.

H.O.P.E. Meetings
DC 114 Every
Sunday at 7 P.M.

Criminal Justice
Speaker Panel
Forum
Nov. 11 at 3 P.M.

Zapped Lazer Tag
Borup Gym
Nov. 16
3-9 P.M.



Saw, Plenty of Suspense

Becky Hultgren
Staff Writer

Saw is a suspense/horror lasting 1hr 40 minutes long. In this suspense Cary Elwes, whose character is Dr. Lawrence Gordon wakes to find himself chained to a rusty pipe in an abandoned chamber. Chained to the opposite side of the room is another captive, Adam, who is played by Leigh Whannell. Between the two prisoners is a man lying in a pool of blood, holding a gun in his hand. Neither man knows why they were abducted and put in the same room. Dr. Gordon is left a message by the abductor to kill Adam within 8 hours or they will both die and Dr. Gordon's wife and daughter will die too.

The two men put their heads together to try to figure out why they are there. After comparing their

situation to other situations heard in the news the men realize they are the next victims of a psychopathic genius know only as "Jigsaw." The men try to solve different puzzles that have been left by the abductor in either their pockets or their wallets before the 8 hours are up.



This movie takes many turns that the viewer would not expect. Make sure to pay attention at all times, for it is possible to get lost throughout this suspenseful/horror movie. It is rated R for strong grisly violence and language. The ending is the catcher of the whole movie. The viewer will be shocked when they see the end result.

For movie listings and times go to Omaha.com and click on Movie Listings.

SIDENOTE: Main character, Cary Elwes, was Robin Hood, in Robin Hood Men in Tights.

What do you do on a normal Friday Night?

"Watch movies or go to the movies."
Jenn Lindsteadt
Freshman



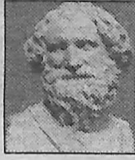
"Go out with friends."
Cheyenne Jansdatter
Sophomore

"Hang out with my friends in Omaha."
Nate Clay
Junior



"Go to the casino."
Steve Monigold
Senior

Opinion



The Pundit

"We had walked in darkness"
Tom Jackson



Well, after a tumultuous Tuesday night and worried Wednesday morning, we have finally heard the news. In the biggest voter turnout since 1968, George W. Bush has been reelected to the office of President of the United States. I get the impression that I'm in the minority on campus, in that I am severely displeased by his reelection. Thankfully my home state of Illinois had the sense enough to put all its electoral votes toward Senator Kerry. But the elections didn't turn out all bad. Sure, Congress and the House of Representatives have a large Republican majority. Sure, we have four more years of a President who's decimated our economy. We still have four years to descend even further down the global ladder of respect. Plus, our troops are still dying overseas. Where's the good part, you ask?

Well, there are two good parts, in my opinion. First off, voters in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah all approved

anti-same-sex marriage amendments. As someone dramatically opposed to same-sex marriage, that makes me happy. I'm not exactly sure how everything will pan out after that though, in that married homosexuals from other states may move to states where same-sex marriage isn't allowed. There are all sorts of weird questions relating to this. Are they still married if they move to a non-same-sex state? What about taxes? I'm sure there will be future debates about this, as it was mentioned earlier on TV today that, those advocates of homosexual marriage are not simply going to go away. And who could expect them to? I'm an advocate of the Democratic Party, and I'm not going to go away simply because a Republican got elected.

And the other good part? Well, we can all feel pretty intelligent for the next four years. Why is that, you may ask? Because our re-elected President has yet to adequately master the English language. If you're ever bored and need a good laugh, I invite you to visit <http://www.dubyaspeak.com>.

It is a wonderful website that can look forward to another four years of free humorous content. My personal favorite quote comes from a signing ceremony for a \$417 billion dollar defense spending bill on August 5th '04, "*Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we.*" Honestly, reading that makes me feel very intelligent. This man is the President. I am a lowly college student, and yet I know how to form complete thoughts. Hurray!

After the dust settles, the point still

remains, regardless if you align yourself with the successful Republican Party or empathize with the disgruntled Democrats, that we are all Americans. This is a great privilege and I agree with what John Kerry said we are required to do in light of that gift. On Wednesday, during his concession speech he said, "*With that gift also comes obligation. We are required now to work together for the good of our country. In the days ahead, we must find common cause. We must join in common effort without remorse or recrimination, without anger or rancor. America is in need of unity and longing for a larger*

measure of compassion." It is that positive resolve and determination that will unite our country, one that faces a great divide in public opinion. We all carry some emotional weight from this election, but it is how we utilize that weight that will move us to changes for the better. We should not let the momentum from this election be lost. If you're stirred up about something, act for positive change in the world around you. Assist those rallying for causes you believe in. Utilize your potential for the betterment of others.

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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.



Here is your chance to show your holiday spirit!
Get a group of friends or organization involved.
Sign up to decorate a tree for **CASH & PRIZES!**

Each participant will receive a prize.

Christmas Tree Decorating Contest

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1st Place | \$125 Cash |
| 2nd Place | \$50 Pizza Party |
| 3rd Place | \$25 Dairy Queen Certificates |



Trees will be displayed during
Sighs & Sounds Weekend,
November 2nd—5th

More details and sign up in Student Activities Office!

Sports

Fall sports on the downward slope

Kevin Lorkovic
Staff Writer

With the fall coming to an end, Fall Sports are also. Football, men's and women's soccer, cross country, and volleyball have all had memorable, as well as record breaking, seasons.

Starting with Football, though the team is 1-8, they have set a new NCAA record this year. Quarterback Tom Lensch made Dana and national football history when he made 101 passing attempts in Saturday's game against Hastings. No quarterback in the NCAA or NAIA has attempted more passes in a single game.

The football team still has two games this season so keep supporting them by going to them.

Men's soccer has also had a memorable season. The team

finished 11-8-1, setting a new school record for single season wins.

The Vikings will only graduate five seniors from this year's squad:

Scotty Bash, Ryan Grudle, Jake Gradoville, Eric Johnson, and Aaron McGoldrick.

The women's soccer team thought their season was over after

losing in the conference tournament to Doane. Their season is still going though after a winning a bid to the regional tournament. Their record stands at 8-9-2, and are only looking to improve.

The cross country team still has the Regional meet this weekend. Both Men's top runner Ian Latella and Women's top runner Dru McMillan were named First Team All-Conference this week after both finished 13th at the GPAC Conference Meet.

Finally, the women's volleyball team is 8-22 this season with only the GPAC and Regional Tournaments left. The team's 8 wins is twice as many as they had last year.

With Fall Sports wrapping up, each team needs your support now more than ever. Go and support every team every chance you can.



Upcoming Sporting Events

Football

Nov. 6 Vs. Northwestern in Orange City, IA @ 1:00 P.M.

Men's Basketball

Nov. 5 Vs. William Penn in Oskaloosa, IA @ 7:30 P.M.

Women's Basketball

Nov. 6 Vs. St. Mary College in Leavenworth, KS @ 1:00 P.M.

Nov. 9 Vs. Peru State College in Blair @ 7:30 P.M.

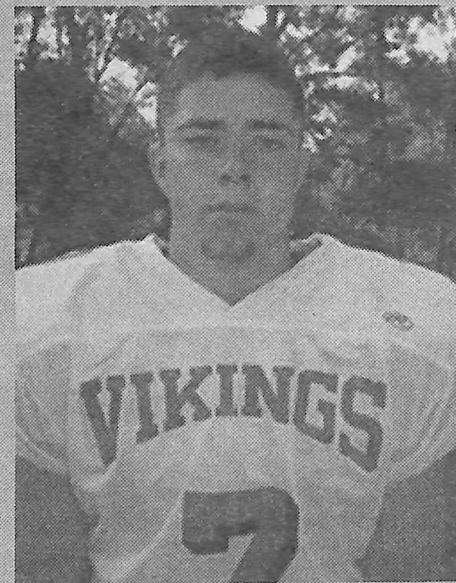
Wrestling

Nov. 6 SDSU Open (JV) in Brookings, SD @ 9 A.M.

Cross County

Nov. 6 Regionals in Lincoln

Viking Sports Information Department's Champion of Character and athlete of the week



Tom Lensch
Football