



UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH DAKOTA

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Vermillion

# PLAIN TALK

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## An endless task

Clearing sidewalks in Vermillion has been an endless task in 2011, as the region is hit with one snowstorm after the other. Spring has not kept the snow away; a member of USD Department of Facilities Management uses a Bobcat to clear away snow that accumulated on campus walkways Friday. More snow hit Vermillion Monday, but the National Weather Service is predicting a pleasant Easter Sunday, with sunny skies and highs in the 60s.

(Photo by David Lias)



Staff from USD's Department of Facilities Management carefully use cloths, a toothbrush and cleaning agents Thursday afternoon to remove paint sprayed on the statue of William O. "Doc" Farber. The University Police Department made two arrests Thursday during their investigation of widespread vandalism on campus.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Two arrested for campus vandalism

By David Lias

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Two University of South Dakota students were arrested last Thursday after allegedly damaging several university properties with orange spray paint in a vandalism spree, including the statue of William O. "Doc" Farber.

The University Police Department investigated the damage and arrested USD students Paul Nolan of Deadwood and Aaron Krause of Mitchell for second degree intentional damage to property.

The life-sized bronze statue has been part of the university campus since 2002, honoring the leadership and accomplishments of "Doc" Farber, a legendary faculty member who served as chairman of the USD Political Science Department for nearly four decades. Farber died in 2007 at the age of 96.

The statue originally was

placed between Slagle Hall and Old Main. It was moved to its current location in front of Dakota Hall late last year.

Early Thursday afternoon staff from USD's Department of Facilities Management carefully used cloths, a toothbrush and cleaning agents to remove paint sprayed on the statue. Workers had been busy that day removing paint from trees, buildings and other property on campus, but examples of the vandals' work waiting to be removed were visible on sidewalks and a vehicle in a campus parking lot.

University Student Services will conduct an investigation as part of the regular process that's undertaken following the arrest of a university student, said Phil Carter of the University Relations Department at USD.

Intentional damage to property in the second degree is a class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by a fine up to \$1,000 and/or one year in the county jail.

## 'Racism is still with us, and it's still strong' Freedom Riders' legacy goes on

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Would you sign a waiver absolving an organization personal responsibility for any injuries you sustain or legal problems you encounter as a result of your participation in a cause in which you believe?

That is what participants of the Freedom Rides did before embarking on their historic crusade to end discrimination on Interstate bus lines in the Jim Crow South in 1961.

To commemorate their journeys and their continuing relevance, South Dakota Public Broadcasting hosted a special

screening of half of the upcoming American Experience documentary, "Freedom Riders," at the Al Neuharth Media Center on the campus of the University of South Dakota last week.

"Racism is still with us, and it's still strong. It's taken on new complexities," Clair O'Connor, who participated in the Freedom Rides, said via telephone following the screening.

O'Connor, a resident of Eden Prairie, MN, said the Southern Poverty Law Center continues to identify new hate groups each year.

Hate is something people need to deal with on a local and national level, she said.

"We have to confront it and fight it and change people's minds," she said. "It's easy to rest on our laurels and remember what we did, but it never changes."

The Freedom Riders consisted of groups of people of all ages, genders and ethnicities who traveled on segregated Interstate busses in the South, sitting where they pleased, often meeting with violence and arrest along the way.

Recruited and trained by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), the Freedom Riders began their campaign on May 4, 1961.

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## Local volunteers key to fair, 4-H future

By Travis Gulbrandson

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In January, Gov. Dennis Daugaard's budget outlined a 10 percent reduction in the FY12 state general fund for all activities -- including an elimination of \$820,000 -- for the South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service.

State legislators approved the budget in March, which means SDSU Extension has made some reductions of its own.

As a result, Extension workers are being laid off and offices are being consolidated.

On Monday night, residents and Extension representatives gathered at the Clay County Extension Office in Vermillion to find out just how they may be affected by the cuts.

According to Extension educator Will Kennedy, Clay County may have to partner with another county to hire a 4-H advisor, of which there will be at least 34 across the state.

"Going forward, I've been questioned about who would we team up with," Kennedy said. "Union County has enough that the state will pay for a 20-hour-a-

week employee for them with no benefits. So they don't need us. What they might want is someone full-time split between the two counties if that works."

The advisors will be state employees who work in the county, supplemented by the county commissions, Kennedy said. They would work for a fixed paycheck, even if they exceed 40 hours per week.

"If we split with two counties, SDSU would pay \$16,750, plus benefits ... and then each county would pay \$8,375," he said.

Other advisory capacities will be transferred to the regional Extension centers, of which there will be eight, as well as three more federally-approved centers located on the reservations.

Regional centers are set to open Oct. 22 and will be located in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Watertown, Mitchell, Pierre, Rapid City and Faith.

"I do not know why there's not one in Yankton," Kennedy said. "My jaw dropped when I saw that. I just don't know. I was also told that this is a starting point. It could change depending on

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## LOOKING GRAND



A full house was on hand in the Vermillion High School Auditorium Saturday, April 16, to witness the grand march that marked the beginning of the VHS prom. Following the grand march, a dance was held in the high school commons, and the festivities wrapped up with an after prom party. Ellen Brown is escorted across the stage in the VHS auditorium by Austin Krier.

(Photo by David Lias)