

Personal gifts, positive change

By Travis Gulbrandson

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"For those to whom much is given, much is required."

This quote from Thomas Jefferson was among the messages political science professor Michal Roche shared with the attendees of the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State.

In his presentation on Thursday, Roche said he hoped each of the girls would use their gifts to have a positive impact on the world around them.

"Think of all that you have been given in terms of your innate gifts and the opportunities to which you have had access, like this week here at Girls State," he said. "You are an elite group, and you will have power in your lives, whether in the public or private sector."

In citing Jefferson, Roche said that quote had another meaning.

"It's not just about whether you will acquire power," he said. "You will acquire power. I'm confident of that. It's also about why you wanted it in the first place, and what you'll use it for in your lives."

For some people, power is used for negative personal reasons, but Roche added that "some use it to serve, some use it to care, some use it to inspire, some use it to lead."

He then shared another quote, this time from George Bernard Shaw: "This is the true joy of life. The being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one, being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy."

Roche said he has encountered both types - clods and forces of nature - in his life.

In terms of the former, Roche recalled a trip to India, where he went to study Gandhi for seven weeks in 1987.

Part of the program involved living like an average citizen of India.



Political science professor Michael Roche gives advice to the students at the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State.

(David Lias/Vermillion Plain Talk)

"It's going to be a rugged seven weeks," Roche said.

The trip to more than 30 hours, and when they arrived in Bombay it was the middle of monsoon season.

"Finally we get to the hill that leads us up to the Gandhi Freedom Center," he said. "It's raining like crazy, and we're walking up the street, and we realize that we're walking through sewage because there are open (sewers) on each side of the street."

Although the idea of the Gandhi Freedom Center "sounded glorious," Roche said, in reality it was no different than the rest of the slum in which it was located.

"When we get in there, everything we have is soaked and the people who are hosting us there say that there are no beds," he said. "It's a concrete floor, and they have a few provisions that people could use. A few blankets, a couple pillows."

One woman in the group barked, "I need that pillow."

"She had a story about her neck, so she grabbed the pillow," Roche said. "We all settled down on our concrete floor, sleeping not much. We're wet, we're tired, we're anticipating the next seven weeks."

"In the morning she didn't look so good. That pillow that she had been sleeping on had fleas all over it, and her face had swelled up the size of a pumpkin. That's what a feverish, selfish little clod acts like, and looks like sometimes, too."

Roche said he can recall encountering a single real "force of nature" in his life - Mother Teresa, whom he saw give a speech at a football stadium in Amherst, MA.

"She was speaking in simple, powerful terms, and (halfway through the speech) I noticed something happening to me that hasn't happened to me since when listening to a speaker," Roche said. "I started crying. There were tears running down my cheeks."

"I looked around. I noticed so many people had the same reaction, and I can feel goosebumps rising on my arms right now just recalling it," he said.

How could one person have such enormous power and presence, Roche asked.

"She was not born with it," he said. "She earned it. That's a force of nature."

Roche said she earned it by finding her gifts, turning those gifts over to something larger than herself and living a life of integrity in both large and small things.

"I'm convinced that if you (do these things), that each one of you here has a chance to become forces of nature in your own right," Roche said. "We need you to be your best. You can do it."

Dell Rapids prevails over Post 1 Tuesday

By Caleb Miller

Vermillion Post 1 and Dell Rapids put their offenses on display in a matchup Tuesday at Prentis Park as the teams combined for 23 runs on 27 hits in the nine inning affair. Dell Rapids prevailed 14-9, dropping Vermillion's season record to 3-3.

Post 1 used four pitchers in an attempt to counter the potent Dell Rapids attack, but the Vermillion hurlers were done in by two-out hits as the visitors scored 13 of their 14 runs with two outs in the inning.

Dell Rapids jumped to an early lead on four consecutive hits in the second inning off Post 1 starter Chayse Meierkort. Dell Rapids plated four runs before Nile Morecraft relieved Meierkort. Each team pushed across a run in the third, and Dell Rapids scored another on a two-out single in the top of the fifth to push the lead to 6-1.

But Vermillion came roaring back with a six-run fifth inning. The first three batters reached to load the bases as walks to Collin Bertram and Jayce Huska sandwiched a single by Tanner Settles. Meierkort then lined to center for the first out, allowing Bertram to tag and score. After a strikeout by Tanner Anderson, Vermillion sparked its own two-out rally using RBI singles by Colin Olson and Joe Mazour and three Dell Rapids errors to take

their first lead of the game.

The Post 1 lead was short-lived as Dells evened the score with a run in the sixth off Mazour, Vermillion's third pitcher of the night. The powerful Dell Rapids bats followed it up with three more runs in the seventh to retake the lead 10-7.

Vermillion attempted to rally again in the home half of the eighth when Meierkort grounded into a fielder's choice to score Bertram. After Meierkort reached second on a stolen base, Anderson delivered an RBI single to cut the lead to one. But the run was too little, too late for the home squad, and Dell Rapids closed the door in the ninth with four runs off Olson, Vermillion's fourth pitcher of the night.

A strong night from top of the Post 1 lineup powered their attack with the top three batters (Bertram, Settles, Huska) combining for 4 hits and 5 runs.

The game was a return to regular season play for Post 1 who hosted the Lewis and Clark Wood Bat Classic over the weekend. After dropping the first game 8-2 to Sioux Falls West, the Vermillion squad came out on the winning side of two 3-2 contests against Brookings and Sturgis before falling to South Sioux City 4-0, ending the weekend just short of a semifinal berth with a tournament record of 2-2.

CLAY COUNTY SHERIFF'S PRESS BRIEFING

Clay County Sheriff's Press Briefing

05/26/13 12:21 - A deputy received a report of a 911 hang-up phone call from a residence where, due to previous similar calls, it was known that the number was disconnected. The deputy contacted the resident and confirmed no assistance was needed.

05/26/13 13:54 - A rural resident reported his garden had been damaged by weed spray. A deputy investigated and found that a neighbor had sprayed a field and the spray had drifted to the garden. There was no malicious intent and the matter was not criminal but there may be civil liability.

05/26/13 17:46 - A deputy mediated a dispute in Wakonda regarding property owned by an inmate in the Yankton County Jail. There was a dispute between a girlfriend and family members over who should have his possessions. The deputy got clarification from the inmate.

05/26/13 20:28 - A complaint was received of cars parked on a bridge south of Centerville. A deputy responded and located one car there and a man fishing from the bridge. The driver was asked to move his car from the road.

05/27/13 20:36 - A deputy responded to a report of a car driving off road on public land south of Vermillion. Upon arrival, the car was no longer in the area.

05/28/13 15:45 - A report was received of vehicles on private property and littering occurring. The landowner had a license plate number so the owners were contacted. The vehicle owner stated his wife had permission to be there and had not littered. This information was passed along to the property owner.

05/28/13 19:47 - A deputy encountered two vehicles on the highway and a group fishing from a bridge. The drivers were asked to move their vehicles from the road.

05/28/13 21:29 - A deputy investigated a car/deer collision that happened on Highway 50 east of Vermillion.

05/29/13 08:02 - A deputy served an eviction order and found the tenant gone but personal property left behind. The locks were changed and a message was left for the tenant to contact the sheriff's office to pick up the remaining personal property.

05/29/13 10:51 - A deputy transported an inmate to a doctor visit and then returned him to the jail.

05/29/13 12:53 - A deputy transported an inmate to a dentist and then returned him to the jail.

05/29/13 14:22 - A rural Meckling resident reported damage to turn signal lenses on a vehicle. She did not notice the damage previously and felt it happened while parked at her residence. A deputy investigated.

05/29/13 17:37 - A rural resident reported a vehicle parked on a bridge on a county

gravel road south of Centerville. The occupant was fishing. A deputy responded but the vehicle was gone.

05/30/13 17:18 - A report was received of a vehicle stalled on Highway 50 causing a traffic hazard. A deputy responded and learned a tow truck had already been called. The deputy provided traffic control until the vehicle could be moved.

05/30/13 21:46 - A Wakonda resident reported a driving complaint. A deputy was in the area but no violation was observed. The suspect vehicle was stopped and the driver was informed of the complaint. This satisfied the complainant who did not wish to pursue the issue any further.

05/31/13 06:13 - A deputy responded to a rural residence after a report that a man was threatening his father with a meat cleaver. The suspect was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault.

05/31/13 08:50 - A rural resident reported someone had spun circles in his recently

planted cornfield damaging the crop. The matter is under investigation.

05/31/13 11:09 - A deputy responded to a Wakonda residence to check on the welfare of a man who his neighbors were concerned about. The man was not located. Deputies will follow up when the man is located.

05/31/13 12:52 - A deputy responded to a medical emergency at a rural residence and assisted the patient until an ambulance arrived.

05/31/13 14:04 - A deputy responded to a medical emergency north of Vermillion. An ambulance also responded and took over care of the patient.

05/31/13 14:13 - A deputy transported a patient from the Sanford Emergency Room to the Human Services Center in Yankton for a mental health committal.

05/31/13 14:38 - A deputy transported an inmate to the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls to begin his prison sentence.

05/31/13 17:29 - A deputy encountered a motorist changing a tire on Highway 50. The deputy assisted with traffic control until the vehicle could continue.

05/31/13 18:50 - A caller reported her car was out of gas and parked along a gravel road

just north of Highway 50 and a vehicle struck it causing damage. The suspect left the scene without reporting the damage. The incident is under investigation.

05/31/13 19:27 - A deputy transported a patient from Sanford Emergency Room to the Human Services Center in Yankton for an involuntary mental illness committal.

Total Records: 25



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