

Navigate your future



KEVIN LEE/The Daily Herald

Steer your course: Above, motivational speaker Doug Nielsen, second from left, uses the ship's wheel as a prop for directing one's life with volunteers (from left) John Talcott, Melissa Finch and Royanne Boyer, who are all from the Department of Workforce Management. Below, Doug Nielsen (left) and Tim Border use a unique blend of comedy and music in their seminars.

Take control, say motivational speakers

By ANNE GOLDEN
The Daily Herald

PROVO — They'll do anything to get your attention.

Tim Border and Doug Nielsen are a whole new breed of motivational speakers.

Recently they came to the retreat for The Department of Workforce Services Regional Council, held in Provo, and wowed them with their tricks.

The team of Nielsen and Border do magic tricks, everything from little flashes of flame to levitation.

They'll dress up as "kick-the-dog" losers.

Then they'll take out their guitars and sing some inspiring tunes.

All in the attempt to get their audience to realize that now is the time to take control of their lives and have a vision.

And to get the message out that there are harmful illusions in the workplace and in our lives that can hold us back from

achieving greatness.

"We believe that the illusions in today's world take people away from happiness," Nielsen said.

Some of those illusions come from drugs or alcohol or anything that takes people away from what's real.

And what are some other illusions?

"A feeling of unfulfilled entitlement," Nielsen said. "The feeling that my life is miserable because of someone else."

In other words, to be happy, you have to "own" your life.

"The magic is when people learn to stand on their own two feet," Nielsen said.

And that goes for your mood too. Nielsen and Border talked about "the dog kickers" of life.

They donned funny spectacles, strange teeth and Nielsen became "Doug the Dog Kicker."

The dog kicker phenomenon happens when a boss yells at his employee. The employee goes home and yells at his wife, who yells at her kid, who then goes out

and kicks the dog.

"I go throughout my day, lookin' for people to kick," Nielsen said in his persona as Doug the dog kicker.

The message here is that we own even our emotions.

"I'm not a rat in a cage," Nielsen said. "I have choices. I can tap into the human spirit of greatness."

And, by the way, are you a P.O.W.? Or, in other words, a Prisoner Of Work?

"I was a P.O.W., a prisoner of work," admitted Nielsen. "I was a hostage."

Nielsen would get chewed out, at work and then would carry the image of his bosses home with him and their grievances.

When he would go out to dinner with his wife, the image of his bosses would go with him. When he went to a movie, the image of his bosses would be at his side.

"Do you think they had any idea of the impact they were having on my life?" Nielsen asked. "Probably not. I was allowing them to control me."

He realized he needed to take his life back.

Then, ten years ago, Nielsen and Border created their company, Self Management Systems, based in Layton, Utah.

They teach the VIP phenomenon, which includes "vision, insight and personal accountability." The message they tell everyone, "from CEO's to substitutes" is that when you feel out of control, or when you let someone else control your life, take a few minutes, breathe deeply, and take control of your life back.

"You'll feel happiness instantly," Nielsen said. And we should be happy for our challenges.

"Your challenges are tailor made to teach you," Nielsen said.

At one point, Nielsen and Border brought out the helm of a ship and talked about taking control of the illusions that hold us back.

And these illusions could include low self-esteem or self-doubt.

The message here is that you have to fight those illusions every day, moment to moment.

"Tell those thoughts to get lost," Border said.

These thoughts struck a chord with the regional council. One of the council's missions is to help people get off of welfare and into the working world. They help unemployed people find jobs and help people upgrade their jobs.

"I feel so uplifted and ready to go out and be successful," said Cammy Thrasher, an accountant for the Department of Work Force Services.

Jim Evans, the Chairman of the regional council, liked what he heard and felt it was pretty universal.

"It's sound management principles," Evans said. "These will apply in both our personal lives and in business."

And that's what the team of Nielsen and Border is all about.

In their closing song, they sang about the vision we each should have for our lives.

"The future is the dream inside of you,

Whatever you dream your future will be, your dream will come true."

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