

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

Looking At The Leftbehinds

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate

Wendy Videlock lives in western Colorado, where a person can stop to study what an owl has left behind without being run over by a taxi.

The Owl

Beneath her nest,
a shrew's head,
a finch's beak
and the bones
of a quail attest

the owl devours
the hour,
and disregards
the rest.

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FORUM

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Curd attacked what he considered modern socialism in the U.S. "We need to be opportunity equal, not result equal," he said. Election to office can often mean stopping bad legislation, Curd said.

"Sometimes the best action by government is nothing and staying out of the way," he said, calling for people to chart their own futures.

During her opening remarks, Noem spoke of her experiences in agriculture, small business and the state Legislature. She currently serves as assistant majority leader in the South Dakota House.

Noem said she learned at an early age about what she sees as the negative impact of too much government regulation. She spoke of her frustrations in farming and business.

If elected to the U.S. House, Noem said she would take a different path than Herseeth Sandlin.

"There is a big difference between going to Congress and voting, and going to Congress and leading," Noem said.

The current health care reform will raise taxes and cut programs at the very time it adds more people to the rolls, Noem said. In addition, the federal stimulus bills have raised the deficit without creating jobs and improving the economy, she said.

Herseeth Sandlin could have killed legislation by convincing four members of her Blue Dog Democrat coalition to change their votes, Noem said.

In terms of legislative service, Noem touted her introduction of

firearms legislation. She said she was a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and "a defender of Second Amendment rights."

Noem also pointed to her work with wind energy development, which she said lifted past restrictions on the industry and should stimulate South Dakota's economy. She noted the potential for a wind farm coming to the state, covering five counties and creating 3,000 jobs.

Noem said she would not be a career politician. Congress has gotten out of touch with everyday Americans, she said.

"(Congress) is the people's house, not Nancy Pelosi's house," she said.

In his opening remarks, Nelson pointed to his political experience. He has served 23 years in public service, the last seven as secretary of state. He said he has won two statewide races in the election and re-election to his current office.

"I believe that I have earned the trust of South Dakota," he said. "You don't have to guess what you are getting. You can look at the track record."

Nelson said he also remains part of the family farm operation, raising cattle near White Lake.

During his campaign travels, Nelson said he has heard strong sentiment from voters to unseat incumbents in Congress.

Herseeth Sandlin's voting record contradicts her claim to be a fiscal conservative, Nelson said. He pointed to the congresswoman's votes for an \$800 billion spending bill and raising the debt limit by \$1.9 trillion.

Herseeth Sandlin has also cast contradicting votes or taken conflicting stances on the cap-and-trade bill and health care reform, Nelson said.

FLIGHT

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Scientists have instruments that can both detect the presence of the ash and measure its concentration — information that can be relayed to pilots.

The airlines said test flights in recent days by airlines including KLM, Lufthansa and British Airways suggested planes can fly safely despite the ash. None of the flights reported problems or damage.

Scientists and pilots urged caution.

"Mixing commercial and safety decisions risks lives," said Philip von Schoppenthau, secretary-general of the European Cockpit Association, a union representing 38,200 pilots from 36 European nations.

"Our members have many firsthand experiences of the extremely abrasive and clogging effects of such clouds," he said.

Millions of travelers have been stuck since the volcano under Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull glacier began erupting April 14 for the sec-

Stalled-Car Situation Leaves Reader In The Dark

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

Dear Tom and Ray:

A scary thing happened to me yesterday on the highway. I was driving a 1999 Nissan Altima that I bought last year. It has about 90,000 miles. Yesterday I was in the far-left lane on the highway, coasting along at about 60 mph, when I came around a curve and noticed a huge backup in front of me. It was very sunny, so I didn't see the stopped cars until I was very close to them. I slammed on my brakes very hard and stopped just short of the car in front of me. I also skidded a bit. After catching my breath and almost having a heart attack, the cars in front of me started moving again — but I was completely locked up! My brake pedal was frozen, the gas pedal wouldn't do anything and my steering wheel wouldn't budge! All of my dashboard lights were on, including the Check Engine light. At this point, there were cars piling up behind me. With my hazards on, I called 911 (because I was blocking traffic and couldn't move). In the first minute of the call, I decided to try turning the car off and then on again, which did the trick, thankfully. Trust me, the rest of the drive home was a shaky and slow one, but I was glad I was not hurt. Do you know why my car would freeze up



CLICK & CLACK

like this? Suggestions I've heard are that my car thought it was in an accident so it froze up, or that there is a mechanism in my car that would cause it to freeze when the brakes are really slammed on. Any information would be helpful. Thanks. — Sarah

TOM: I'd like to come up with some exotic explanation, Sarah — something about your Highway Speed Reduction Traffic Backup Kill Switch or the like. But all that happened is that your car stalled.

RAY: Right. The key fact is that you skidded a little bit, which means your wheels locked up.

TOM: If you're bopping along on the highway and your wheels are turning at 60 mph, and then suddenly the wheels are going zero mph, the transmission doesn't have time to disengage, and it causes the engine to stall.

RAY: It's as if you were driving a car with a manual transmission and suddenly stopped it without pushing in the clutch pedal.

TOM: Stalling explains every one of your symptoms, Sarah: All the dashboard lights come on when you stall. You lose your power steering and power brakes, and the gas pedal does nothing.

RAY: And how do you fix it? You put the transmission in park or in neutral, turn it off and turn it back on again. Voilà!

TOM: So your car is fine. And now you'll know what to do if this ever happens again. It sounds like all you need is a better pair of sunglasses.

Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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HERSETH

From Page 1

the 2008 crisis, Herseeth Sandlin said.

Returning to South Dakota in the weeks since health care reform was passed, Herseeth Sandlin said she has received diverse responses to her decision to vote against it. The *Rapid City Journal* reported last week that there were "uneasy moments" during a Democratic dinner in Rapid City when the issue of health care was raised. Some Democrats are not happy with her decision to oppose it. However, Herseeth Sandlin contrasted that experience with one in Yankton Monday when a constituent went out of the way to thank her for the "nay" vote.

As her November re-election bid approaches, Herseeth Sandlin said she looks forward to meeting with people disaffected by her stance and explaining why she could not support the bill. Many of the people unhappy with her vote were focused on its expansion of insurance coverage, an element of the bill she did support.

"Health care reform is not just about expanding coverage," Herseeth Sandlin said. "It is also about containing costs and reforming the delivery system. As we saw the bill unfold, those of us who put a lot of ideas on the table about cost containment and delivery system reform saw a select few integrated. Those that were integrated were gradually weakened as the bill progressed. My concern is, we just enacted something that might not be sustainable. The status

greater access.

Curd criticized what he called "job killing" federal mandates for health reform. He would seek to strip the funding to make implementation of the current reforms more difficult.

Curd also called for putting more emphasis on the doctor-patient relationship with less government oversight and regulation.

"We don't need a bureaucrat in Washington D.C. telling us what is best for patients in South Dakota," he said.

In other areas: • When asked which U.S. House committees they would seek, Nelson listed Agriculture and Banking; Noem listed Agriculture and Natural Resources; and Curd listed Ways and Means along with Armed Services.

All three candidates said they are pro-life and oppose gay marriage.

• When asked about Iran's nuclear capabilities, the candidates took slightly different approaches.

Curd said he agrees with President Obama's stand that a nuclear Iran is unacceptable. Curd favors increasing pressure on Iran with the help of the international community.

Noem favors sending a strong message to Iran about the consequences if it uses nuclear weapons.

Nelson said he sees Israel as the front line in the battle, with Iranian leaders vowing "to wipe Israel off the map."

"I see the (Obama) administration backing away from the support of Israel in several different ways," Nelson said. "We need to make sure we maintain a close relationship with Israel."

By 2052, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security will consume all of the federal taxes, leaving nothing for national defense and other needs, Nelson said.

The current federal spending harms economic prosperity and makes it difficult for the average American to get ahead, Nelson said.

Looking ahead to the general election, Nelson said he represents the best chance to defeat Herseeth Sandlin. He pointed to a poll that initially showed him trailing the congresswoman by seven percentage points, then narrowing the gap to two points a month later.

"I am in a position, in this election, to take this (House) seat back for the Republican Party," he said.

In the next portion of the forum, the candidates were asked about health reform.

Nelson said he wanted to deal with pieces of the reform bill, especially the fiscal aspect. "We need to begin taking this bill apart," he said.

Nelson called for cutting costs and increasing access, along with more competition in the insurance industry. He also called for malpractice reform and weeding out fraud and abuse.

Noem said she would seek to repeal the bill, or at least strip its funding. She acknowledged the need for some reforms with more of a free-market emphasis.

Those reforms include allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines, ending defensive medicine that drives up costs, and offering lower premiums for healthier lifestyles.

Curd called for a three-pronged approach to health reform consisting of lower costs, higher quality and

ond time in a month, spewing a vast cloud of ash that has drifted over most of northern Europe and is now spreading west toward North America.

In Iceland, meteorologists said the volcano's eruptions were weakening and the ash was no longer rising to a height where it would endanger large commercial aircraft. British Transport Secretary Andrew Adonis confirmed there was been a "dramatic reduction in volcanic activity."

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