

American Life In Poetry

Run-In With An Ex

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

What might have been? I'd guess we've all asked that at one time or another. Here's a fine what-might-have-been poem by Andrea Hollander, who lives in Portland, Oregon.

EX

Long after I married you, I found myself in his city and heard him call my name. Each of us amazed, we headed to the café we used to haunt in our days together. We sat by a window across the paneled room from the table that had witnessed hours of our clipped voices and sharp silences. Instead of coffee, my old habit in those days, I ordered hot chocolate, your drink, dark and dense the way you take it, without the swirl of frothy cream I like. He told me of his troubled marriage, his two difficult daughters, their spiteful mother, how she'd tricked him and turned into someone he didn't really know. I listened and listened, glad all over again to be rid of him, and sipped the thick, brown sweetness slowly as I could, licking my lips, making it last.

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April Is Proclaimed Safe Digging Month

PIERRE — With warm weather around the corner, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and the South Dakota One Call Board remind those planning to do any excavation work that state law requires a call to 811 at least two working days before beginning any digging project in order to give professional locators time to mark the appropriate underground utility lines. Such projects include, but are not limited to, installing a fence, planting trees or shrubbery or preparing a new garden area.

This spring, Gov. Dennis Daugaard is proclaiming April as safe digging month and commemorating the South Dakota One Call program for providing 20 years of valuable service by facilitating the location of underground utilities to South Dakota residents.

811 is a free service that connects excavators and homeowners to South Dakota One Call Center personnel who quickly notify all affected utility companies of the upcoming excavation plans. Excavators must contact the One Call center 48 hours before digging, excluding weekends and legal holidays. Utility companies will dispatch their crews to mark the underground lines at the respective dig site. Excavators should carefully

plan their digging projects to ensure adequate time for notification to South Dakota One Call is part of their schedule.

Last year, the South Dakota One Call program received 136,814 locate requests and sent out 807,176 locate tickets to utility companies across the state — a slight uptick from 2012, indicating more South Dakotans are using the program.

"It's essential that homeowners and professional excavators take time to locate and mark all underground utility lines," PUC Chairman Gary Hanson said. "Damaged lines can lead to service interruptions and may have detrimental effects on the environment."

The depth of each utility line varies, so the risk of striking a line or pipe exists even a few inches below the ground. To keep the integrity of the utilities intact, it's important to call 811 even for small projects.

"Our main goal is to protect the public and the working professionals from potential injury," Erin Hayes, South Dakota One Call Board chairman and director of corporate construction for Midcontinent Communications, said. "Following the One Call process is simple: Call before you dig, be mindful of the marks and dig with care."

To learn more about 811 and safe digging practices, visit www.onecall.sd.gov/.

Thursday – Dollar Doubles

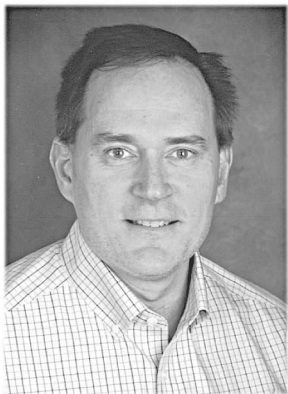
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Not All GPS Systems Created Equal

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Do the different car companies offer GPS units that give different styles of navigation? I have a 2013 Nissan Rogue and have used the factory-installed GPS, but I find that it gives strange directions. When I first got the car, I used the GPS to navigate me to already-familiar destinations so that I could get used to following its spoken directions. I found that often the GPS would direct me a bad way (like going at right angles to a destination instead of a 45-degree angle). Once, it directed me to a familiar destination that should take about an hour, but the GPS directions indicated that it would take an hour and a half! I've tried changing the route selection to "economy," "shortest" and "quickest," to no avail. I never had this problem with my brand-name portable GPS. Do I have to choose my next car based on the accuracy of the GPS unit? Please help, as this is driving me (pun intended) crazy. Thank you very much. — Susie

TOM: Different manufacturers absolutely use different GPS systems, and some are much better than others. The maps themselves, the software they use to operate and the user interfaces all are different.

RAY: Traditionally, the built-in GPS systems were the best. They're well-integrated into the car, they override the sound system when necessary, and they're usually displayed on a large screen, or even in a heads-up display projected through the windshield.

TOM: The biggest disadvantage of the factory-installed systems is that they've been very expensive. Crazy expensive: You often had to pay \$2,000 to get a navigation system, along with whatever other less-appealing items were packaged with it.

RAY: And when the maps needed to be updated (every couple of years), you could be hit up for another \$200-\$300 just for an updated CD-ROM that you had to install yourself, sometimes



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

with difficulty.

TOM: So lots of people opted instead to buy portable, stand-alone GPS units that could be attached to the windshield with a suction-cup-based mount. These are made by companies like TomTom, Garmin and Magellan.

RAY: These portable units cost as little as \$100, and they vary in quality, too. But a good one with a larger screen, like the highly rated Garmin 3490 or 3450, can be had for a few hundred dollars.

TOM: So a few carmakers, especially on some of their less-expensive models, decided to do what consumers were doing. Instead of installing the more-expensive, larger, integrated units, they incorporated these cheaper, smaller, less-sophisticated GPS boxes. That's what you got in your Rogue, Susie. You got a cheap little GPS.

RAY: A final option on the market now is your smartphone. A lot of people are abandoning GPS units altogether now in favor of their phones. Google Maps, which is available for free on most smartphones, generally provides excellent directions — as long as you don't mind Google knowing not only everything you've ever searched for on the Internet, but also your minute-to-minute whereabouts.

TOM: This may be the next area to "take over" the GPS function in cars, as companies like Apple start to offer software that allows drivers to mirror their phone displays and interfaces on vehi-

cle entertainment systems.

RAY: In general, though, these days we'd recommend a highly rated portable unit for most people. The biggest advantage of the portable unit is choice. You can shop for and buy one that suits your needs, is easy to use and provides good, reliable directions. And most importantly, if it fails, or becomes out of date (in terms of information or technology), you always have the option of tossing it in the garbage and buying another one.

TOM: That's not the case with a built-in system, where you're often stuck paying \$300 for an update whether you like the system or not. A customer of ours had a nightmare experience with Honda, where they sent her the wrong CD update, and then the dealer refused to refund her \$300 or give her the correct CD, sending her on a wild goose chase to get it back from some company in Colorado that apparently supplies Honda's navigation maps but never answers the phone, and when it does, can't find both cheeks in the shower.

RAY: So if you're not happy with the cheap GPS system that came with the Rogue, Susie, just don't use it. Buy one of the Garmin Nuvi 3000 series (or 2400 series) units from someplace that gives you 30 days to return it, and try it out. If you don't like it, try another one. Happy navigating!

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Next Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Get more Click and Clack in their new book, "Ask Click and Clack: Answers from Car Talk." Got a question about cars? Write to Click and Clack in care of this newspaper, or email them by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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USD

Students Spend Spring Break In Service

VERMILLION — Fifteen University of South Dakota students spent spring break in three different locations learning about social issues and serving in communities.

The trips were planned and coordinated by student site leaders in the Alternative Week of Off-campus Learning (AWOL) student organization. AWOL encourages active citizenship through immersing students in educational service-learning experiences, exposing them to diverse social issues and encouraging students to apply the wisdom gained through these experiences to their daily lives.

One AWOL group spent their week in Denver working with a wide variety of community and non-profit organizations in the areas of sustainability and urban agriculture, including Denver Urban Gardens, Groundwork Denver, Greenleaf, Produce Denver, Sprout City Farms

and Urbiculture. Participants Emily Roberson of Tyndall (Site Leader), Joslynn Clauson and Carly Holmstrom, both of Sioux Falls, and Learning Partner Lucia Carlson of Rio Rico, Ariz., got dirty while performing hands-on projects in the areas of urban agriculture, conservation, and sustainability.

Site Leader Erica Kuharski of Rapid City, Adam Fenton of Temecula, Calif., Chelsea Gilbertson of Vermillion, Jessica Ward of Remsen, Iowa, Veronica Claussen of Jefferson and Learning Partner Lauren Schuur, coordinator of Prevention Services with the USD Student Counseling Center, traveled to Silver Springs, Fla., to learn about Wildlife Protection and Conservation, working through the organization Forest Animal Rescue, a lifetime care sanctuary for non-releasable wild animals. The rescued animals were

abused or neglected and range from big cats to bears, wolves, primates, bats and more. At Forest Animal Rescue, these animals have space and peace that they need to heal and thrive. AWOL participants did not work directly with the animals, but they performed infrastructure improvement projects that helped to improve the grounds and sustain the health and well-being of the animals indirectly.

Additionally, another AWOL group spent spring break in the Rosebud Native American Reservation in South Dakota, volunteering with several agencies to examine poverty on the Reservation. Participants worked with Habitat for Humanity in Mission painting rooms and cleaning a house that would

eventually be sold to a family in need. The group also worked with preschool children at the Mission and Rosebud Head Start program, with elderly and long-term care for patients with diseases such as dementia and Alzheimer's at the White River Healthcare Center, and met with Rosebud Ambulatory Service to learn more about the primary health issues in the area.

Trip participants included: Site Leader Nate Vinzant of Sioux Falls, Logan Bullard of St. Albans, Vt., Andrew Koch of Sioux Falls, Jamie Rykhus of Oak Grove, Minn., Lauren Leichtnam of Vermillion, Emily Pauli of Milbank, Desiree Su of Sioux City, Iowa, and Learning Partner Sara Boyum of West Point, Neb.

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