

American Life In Poetry

A Poem For Custodians

Seventy years ago, when I entered Beardshear Elementary in Ames, Iowa, the school employed a custodian, Mr. Shockley, who had for an office a closet under the stairs. I wish I could thank him for mopping up all our vomit and helping us buckle our galoshes. Here's a fine poem about custodians by David Livewell, from New Jersey, whose most recent book of poems is Shackamax-on (Truman State Univ. Press, 2012).

CUSTODIANS

Retired from other trades, they wore
Work clothes again to mop the Johns
And feed the furnace loads of coal.
Their roughened faces matched the bronze
Of the school bell the nun would swing
To start the day. They limped but smiled,
Explored the secret, oldest nooks:
The steeple's clock, dark attics piled
With inkwell desks, the caves beneath
The stage on Bingo night. The pastor
Bowed to the powers in their hands:
Fuses and fire alarms, the plaster
Smoothing a flaking wall, the keys
To countless locks. They fixed the lights
In the crawl space above the nave
And tolled the bells for funeral rites.
Maintain what dead men made. Time blurs
Their scripted names and well-waxed floors,
Those keepers winking through the years
And whistling down the corridors.

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Technology Help To Be Offered At Library

Do you need help with basic computer skills, e-mail, Internet searches, Facebook, etc.? If so, the Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut Street, has just what you need.

Students from the Yankton High School National Honor Society will be at the library one more time before they begin their summer break. On May 2, from 1-3 p.m., the teens will work with individuals who need assistance with comput-

ers. Thirty-minute time slots are available as mini technology classes.

This service is free of charge, but anyone needing assistance must register ahead of time by calling or stopping in the library, giving the staff your contact information and telling the staff what help you are seeking.

For further information, contact the library at 668-5276.

Car Talk

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:

I had a '73 MGB, and it had the vent windows. I now have a 2007 VW Eos, and like all new autos, it does NOT have vent windows. I miss the vent windows. Why were they designed out of the newer vehicles?

— John

For two reasons, John. One is that they're no longer really necessary.

For those too young to remember vent windows, vinyl seats that left branding marks on your thighs and car interiors that felt like ovens, cars used to have small, triangular windows in front of the driver and passenger windows. Those vent windows could be unlocked and then angled outward, so they would catch the wind and blow it directly onto your face ... or other important areas of the body that require cooling.

And back before air conditioning, those vent windows could mean the difference between showing up at work ready to suck up to the boss, and showing up for work looking like you'd just



Ray
MAGLIOZZI

played two hours of one-on-one with LeBron James.

But almost every car now comes with air conditioning. So if it's so hot that simply lowering a window won't cut it, you always have the option of rolling up the windows and turning the temperature down to 70 degrees.

And that leads to the second reason why you don't see vent windows anymore: Cars are actually more fuel-efficient with all of their windows closed and the air conditioner on — even when you factor in the energy used to power the air conditioner.

A lot of work and science go into making cars aerodynamic these days so as to maximize mileage. And in order to make the wind flow around the car, the windows have to be closed to create a smooth exterior surface. If you open the windows, you increase the car's wind resistance and reduce its fuel

mileage, especially at higher speeds.

And that's just with the regular windows open. If you were to push out one of the windows, so it was perpendicular to the car — which is what vent windows did — it'd be like mounting a pizza box on your door. It would kill the aerodynamic profile of the vehicle.

So that's why you don't see them anymore, John. But if you're really nostalgic, next time you go to the local pizza joint to get indigestion, save the box and stick it out your window on the way home.

Don't get stuck with a lemon. Be an informed shopper. Read Click and Clack's guide "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used Car, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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Contest Help



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Toastmasters International Area 62 Spring Speech and Evaluation Contests were held in the Avera Sacred Heart Hospital Pavilion on April 9 with greeter Sandy Spady escorting guests and contestants in and out of Conference Room 3. The Head Judge for the contest was Greg Stach. He briefed all the Area 62 judging team on the various contest rules, including his fellow Club 6217 team members: (left to right): Steve Anderson as timer; Chelsi Hames as judge; Spady as Sergeant at Arms; and Muriel Stach as vote counter.

Annual Blessing Of The Bikes Set For May 9

The Midwest Riders Motorcycle Club is sponsoring the 21st annual "Blessing of the Bikes" on Saturday, May 9, at 11 a.m. at the east end of Riverside Park, Picnic Shelter No. 1, Yankton.

Local ministers will bless each motorcycle and rider and commemorative dash plaques will be provided for a free will donation.

The Midwest Riders Motorcycle Club is open to all motorcycle enthusiasts. A weekly club ride takes place during the riding season.

For more information or to join the Midwest Riders Motorcycle Club, contact Terry Overseth, at 605-661-7198 or Lori Roinstead at 605-661-8352.

School

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district," he said. "I will also like to add, I'd rather see kids have an opportunity to take art than sit in a study hall. And that was what we were doing. We had a lot of kids sitting in study hall that weren't taking advantage of something because they couldn't. I think we are going to see a lot of great participation from the kids."

Board member Jim Fitzgerald said he researched what other school districts throughout the state did with their art programs.

"I believe the rest of the school board did as well," he said. "I do believe someone did research on which schools our size are currently offering art in the middle school and which ones aren't. Well, due to the cuts, we did find out that we are the only school who did not have that opportunity for kids."

The lack of the position has impacted the entire fine arts department, Johnke said.

"We are seeing the deficits of not having an art position at the middle school when the students come to the high school," she said. "The teachers there have commented about the remedial work or the foundation work that they are having to do because that was not in place in the middle school."

Dvoracek said that by approving the position, the YSD will be bringing a new, innovative way of delivering art instruction to YMS.

"We are not necessarily bringing back an old program... (before) this position was just for seventh and eighth grade art," he said. "We did not include sixth graders. This position coming back gives sixth through eighth grade (students) the opportunity to take part in some part of art curriculum."

The position would not only give YMS students the opportunity to take art, but also kept them be involved with band, orchestra and chorus.

"Our goal is to get kids to choose two or three," Dvoracek said. "There are some kids that don't take any of these courses at all. But we are going to really encourage them to get involved with one area or another. They could be in band one day, art the next day. It would work very successfully."

Additionally, the position would give flexibility to the YMS band program.

"(The instructor) can work with the marching band and the ninth grade band at the high school because some of her duties will be shifted within the fine arts department," Johnke said.

The school board opened the meeting up for comments from the general public before the decision was made.

Yankton Area Arts executive director Julie Amsberry and Art Adventures instructor Kathleen West were a few of the people that spoke on behalf of approving the position.

"We can teach cold, hard facts all we want," Amsberry said. "But if we don't teach kids to think outside the box and think freely, we aren't letting them reach their full potential. I think Yankton students deserve more than that."

West showed the board a picture of a student of hers made and discussed the decision-making skills needed to make the picture.

"I want to show you all the decisions this child had to make," West said. "The decision about where to put the hills. The decision about where to put the crops. The decision about making the bushes and the trees smaller in the background, a little bigger in the middle ground and a big bush in the foreground," she said.

"She's 8 years old and making all these decisions and going right after it, folks. If we keep that going — a habit of mind just in decision making — we missed that in middle school. We missed that part. Art is really, really good for kids."

Before voting, Greenaway thanked the general public for all the input on the issue.

"From previous students to professionals who were in our community, one that

really stood out to me is a dentist who sent a letter and wanted to reach out to me about the creativity of art still comes into her practice today as far as making colors for what she needs to do with teeth and whatnot," she said. "Sometimes I think we take for granted or don't stop and think about all the ways that art can play in our lives."

In other business during Monday's special meeting:

- The school board also approved a one-year contract to re-hire a Title I/ Reading Recovery teacher for the 2015-2016 school year.

Lydia Wentworth was hired to be trained as an additional Reading Recovery teacher for a one-year position during the 2014-2015 school year.

The training was provided by the University of South Dakota through a I3 Grant at no cost to YSD.

Director of Student Services Kathy Wagner recommended bringing back the position.

"The current Title I budget has been reviewed and it has been determined that between

expected carryover and our 2015-2016 allocation, there are enough dollars in the Title I Grant to continue to fund the additional Reading Recovery teacher for another year," Wagner wrote to Dr. Kindle in an e-mail.

- YSD students will be happy to hear they will not have to make-up the snow day they had in December.

The snow day could be made up. However, the state department of education re-

quires a minimum number of minutes to be in session at the elementary, middle and high school levels. The YSD surpasses the minimum minutes by a considerable amount.

The YSD school board decided to leave the 2014-2015 school calendar as approved.

The last day of school for YSD students is May 15.

Follow @hartjordynne on Twitter.

50th Anniversary Celebration



Mr. and Mrs. Sparks

Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Verna Sparks of Yankton, SD, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on May 1, 2015.

The couple have two children: Sheryl and Chris. They have 2 grandchildren: Jordan and Ewald.

Their family requests a card shower. Greetings may be sent to 1106 E 14th, Yankton, SD.

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