

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

## 'Not Knowing Why'

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

Animals are incapable of reason, or so we've been told, but we imaginative humans keep talking to our dogs and cats as if they could do algebra. In this poem, Ann Struthers looks into the mystery of instinctive behavior.

### NOT KNOWING WHY

Adolescent white pelicans squawk, rustle, flap their wings,  
lift off in a ragged spiral at imaginary danger.  
What danger on this island in the middle  
of Marble Lake? They're off to feel  
the lift of wind under their iridescent wings,  
because they were born to fly,  
because they have nothing else to do,  
because wind and water are their elements,  
their Bach, their Homer, Shakespeare,  
and Spielberg. They wheel over the lake,  
the little farms, the tourist village with their camera eyes.

In autumn something urges  
them toward Texas marshes. They follow  
their appetites and instincts, unlike the small beetles  
creeping along geometric roads, going toward small boxes,  
toward lives as narrow or as wide as the pond,  
as glistening or as gray as the sky.  
They do not know why. They fly, they fly.

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## SCHOLASTICS

### IRENE-WAKONDA 2ND QUARTER HONOR ROLLS

#### A Honor Roll

Seniors: Casey Hessman, Kari Rye, Zach Sorensen;  
Juniors: Ann Brockmueller, Candace Merchen, Liz Nutley, Lea Schaefer, Carly Wilson;  
Sophomores: Melissa Hessman, Haley Hinseth, Morgan Lee;

Freshmen: Mackenzie Huber;  
8th Grade: Preston Larson, Justin Ostrem, Michael Saffel;  
7th Grade: Skyler Heirigs and Jessica Johnson.

#### B Honor Roll

Seniors: Dylan Hauger, Justin Polley, Tate Schroeder, Dan Sokolowski;  
Juniors: Alyas Buzzard, Holly Schenk, Chelsey Steffen;  
Sophomores: Scott Davis, Pearl Gaidelis, Dustin Knutson, Lauren Mews, Cash Murphy, Luke Schroeder, Sam Smith, Tucker Sorensen;  
Freshmen: Dillon Buchanan, Jeremy Davis, Jessica Djurkowsitch, Lucas Gustad, Trevor Hansen, Jamie Healy, Chris

Heirigs, Trisha Kathol, Maggie Kribell, Dustin Livingston, Jake Vollmer;

8th Grade: Rainy Brewer Nysven, Daniel Brue, Bailey Hinseth, Kevin Hinseth, Josie Huber, Sydney Nielsen, Ashleigh Schroeder, Sheyanne Sorensen;  
7th Grade: Jack Johnson, Amy Morman and Choe Nielsen.

### UND FALL HONOR ROLL

More than 570 students were named to the President's Roll of Honor at the University of North Dakota for the 2009 fall semester.

The UND President's Roll of Honor recognizes outstanding academic achievement over the course of the student's complete academic career. To qualify, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.8 or higher (4.0 equals a straight A average), have earned a minimum of 30 semester hours and have earned a minimum on 12 hours at the close of the semester.

Area students include: Hartington — Christopher Kruse; Randolph — Shane Merchant

# Olive Oil Does Not Repel Snow

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

### Dear Tom and Ray:

We had a big snowstorm this week. Not wanting to scrape the ice off my windshield, the night before the storm I looked around for something to put under my wipers to keep the ice off. Unable to come up with anything, I contemplated alternatives. Then it came to me: Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil! I smeared some Filippo Berio on the windshield and waited for the snow. The next morning, the snow slid off the windshield like a greasy zeppole. Great, I thought. When the snow stopped, I noticed a haze on the windshield. I figured it would wash off. Well, I was wrong — the stuff has adhered to the glass as if it were baked on. I'm still scraping off the hardened oil. Help! — Tom

RAY: Tom, it's people like you who make great discoveries. You're the kind of person who is unafraid to experiment. And once in a while, you'll hit upon something that will benefit all mankind. This was not one of those times.

TOM: No, Filippo Berio Extra Virgin Olive Oil has many excellent uses — my brother uses it as a hair tonic — but windshield cleaner is not one of them.

RAY: You've probably cooked with olive oil. When you're done, you put the frying



CLICK &amp; CLACK

pan in the sink. And if you then let it sit and cool off for a while, you'll find a hardened, whitish layer of congealed grease stuck to it. That's what's on your windshield.

TOM: If you had done this during one of those midsummer snowstorms, Tom, it might have worked. But the cold temperature is what congealed the oil and did you in.

RAY: So, how do you get it off? Well, with a frying pan, you can use steel wool — not a good option for your windshield. You also can use hot water and soap, and try to "un-congeal" it. This would be best done in a

heated garage.

TOM: If he had a heated garage, he wouldn't be in this mess in the first place!

RAY: Good point. How 'bout we suggest he just drive in reverse until late June?

TOM: Here's what I'd do, Tom: Run the defroster with the heat on high for a good 20 minutes before attempting to remove the grease. The warmer you can get the congealed oil, the easier it will be to remove.

RAY: If soap and water are not up to the task, try a 50-50 mixture of water and methanol. It's a mild solvent that's safe for glass, and it's pretty good at cutting grease.

TOM: And if all else fails, there's always the glass-cleaning tool of last resort: the hammer. Good luck, Tom.

*Bumps and potholes do more than merely annoy drivers. Find out what, and how you can ease the pain, by ordering Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.*

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](http://www.cartalk.com).

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## New Nursing Students Honored At Mount Marty

The nursing profession is a life work and a dedication. The Mount Marty College Nursing Program hosted a Pledging Ceremony for its newly-admitted nursing class of 2012 on Wednesday, Jan. 18 in the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel. Forty-one students participated in the ceremony.

The Pledging is a ceremony of commitment to uphold the standards of the nursing profession. It celebrates the beginning of each nursing student's career as a student and then as a professional nurse. Pledging is also a ceremony that reviews the responsibilities profes-

sional nurses assume in their practice. Nursing students take a vow at this time indicating their dedication to the profession of nursing.

Faculty members of the Mount Marty College Nursing Program participated in the ceremony. Dr. Jacqueline Kelley, Nursing Program Chair & Director, and S. Jeanne Weber, Sacred Heart Monastery, welcomed the sophomore nursing students, their family and friends. The readings were provided by Shelly Luger and S. Kathryn Burt and Jennifer McGinnis presented the sophomore nursing

class. S. Esther Holzbauer and S. Corinne Lemmer anointed the students' hands, a symbol of the responsibility to use nurses' hands conscientiously and Mary Walkes lead the students in a Nurses' Prayer.

Holly Rothschild, a MMC junior nursing student, was the recipient of the Marcella Draper Nippis Scholarship. This scholarship is made annually to a junior or senior nursing student who shows a willingness to work hard to overcome challenges to succeed and shows such talents and qualities that of Colonel Nippis.

## ARSON

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closure. One of the concerns was, there was somebody running around burning churches.

"It has taken a while to conclude the investigation," he added. "But it's not like TV. You can't get it all done in an hour."

The investigation into the fire was conducted by the Yankton Police Department, the Yankton Fire Department, the South Dakota State Fire Marshal, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Yankton County State's Attorney Office.

Officials at St. John's were notified during the weekend that a suspect had been charged in connection with the fire.

"I was never really worried about whether they caught somebody or not, except for that individual's sake," the Rev. Dave Gunderson said. "It's nice to know that, if this is the individual responsible for the fire and the court system works correctly, this person will not repeat the crime and hopefully be rehabilitated. This is such a young person. The hope would be that this will turn them around, and they can do something more constructive with their life. I'd want them to be a blessing to a community down the road."

The damage done to St. John's, which is located 1009 Jackson Street, has been placed at more than \$2 million.

Gunderson said that, despite the disruption to the congregation and the grief the incident caused, the spirit of the congregation lives on as strong as ever.

"We as a church always see the power of God's love and forgiveness," he said. "His promise to anybody who repents is that there is forgiveness. That would certainly be true for us as a church. We're not here to seek revenge. That's not our business. Our business is to share the gospel of Christ. Whoever did this to us, if they ever came and asked for our forgiveness, I think we'd be very willing to forgive."

The congregation experienced first-hand the blessings of the community and the goodness that can stem from such an incident, Gunderson said. It is anticipated the new church will be ready for services by Easter, if not earlier.

"In many ways, it's going to be a much more efficient building energy-wise," Gunderson said of the facility under construction. "It's also going to be better able to serve the congregation and the community."

Gunderson said that law enforcement has been good about pursuing the case and commended them for their work. "Getting to this point ... shows that our law enforcement and the people investigating the fire did a great job," he said.

## ONION

From Page 1

selecting the onion itself. He prefers a larger onion to provide adequately sized sections for the "forecast."

"It should be a South Dakota onion. It can be any color onion — white, yellow, purple," he said.

Peters finds others willing to provide the onion for each year's task.

"I don't have room for a garden now that I live in town, so a neighbor lady gives me purple and white onions," he said. "This year, it was a yellow onion that originally came from Greenwood Colony (near Delmont)."

Dr. Morris Schuurmans of Wagner, a retired optometrist, provided onions for years, Peters said.

Schuurmans has held more than a passing interest in the weather experiment. He and his wife, Margarete, were honored by the National Weather Service (NWS) in 2006 for their contributions to the NWS volunteer cooperative weather observer program.

Peters also serves as an NWS weather observer. However, he jokingly notes the onion reading isn't part of his official forecast.

Once the onion has been chosen, Peters cuts his "patient" vertically down the middle.

"You take it apart very carefully," he said. "You handle it gently, and it opens up like an artichoke."

Peters divides the onion into a dozen parts, with each representing a month. He spreads the sections onto a tray.

"You put the two outside, largest sections in opposite corners of the tray. One represents January, and the other one December," he said. "You keep doing that until you have three rows, with the corresponding sections facing each other."

Each section forms a cup, with Peters placing a half-teaspoon or teaspoon of table salt in each cup.

When it comes to finding out the onion's forecast, Peters literally peels away each layer.

"You want to leave intact the onion skin that divides each sec-

tion," he said. "If the onion skin is off, then the salt gets directly on the onion."

After two hours, Peters checks the salt on each section. If the salt remains dry, the corresponding month will see below-normal precipitation. If the salt becomes wet and cakes into a small ball, that month will see above-normal moisture.

So what does the forecast hold for 2010? Look for a drier year, Peters said.

"During the first five months, the forecast is for below-normal precipitation," he said. "For June, July and August, it will be above normal. Then it alternates (for the remainder of the year)."

How did the onion perform in 2009? Actually, pretty well, allowing for a hailstorm during the year that seemed to upset the conditions and make things "topsy-turvy," Peter said.

The weather rebounded in time to turn around this past year's crops, Peters said.

"We had predicted a wet August, and it brought back crops that were damaged by hail," he said. "The beans weren't looking good the 5th of July, but we ended up getting 20 or 30 bushels an acre. It's not great, but it's better than we thought it would be."

Then came the onion's prediction that December 2009 would turn into a wet month.

"I played golf on Nov. 30, and I could have played Dec. 1 (at the Scotland course) if they hadn't already shut down the greens," Peters said. "Then, on Dec. 2, it went to snowy and cold. It went from summer to winter, just like that."

Even with that snowy blast,

Peters wasn't ready for the final outcome — the historic Christmas blizzard.

"We had the forecast that December would be wet and chilly, but we didn't forecast 40 inches of snow," he said.

So far, 2010 has been right on track for the onion, with January relatively dry, Peters said.

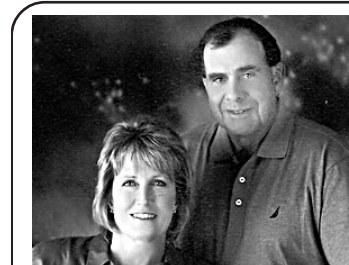
"Since the first of the year, we had snow but it was only one inch here (at Scotland)," he said. "The wind was freakishly strong, though, and blew all the time."

Peters has gained notoriety with the onion forecast.

"One year, I was driving school bus and the kids would ask, 'What did the onion say for October?'" he said. "Well, it said record-breaking moisture. But it was the 26th of October, and there still wasn't any rain. Then it really cut loose, and we got 3 to 4 inches. I was surprised yet grateful."

Peters has worked with the weather his entire life, attending meteorological school in the Navy. After his military discharge, he helped form a private weather service that provided forecasts for six Dallas radio stations. The service opened a branch office in Cleveland, where he quickly learned about lake-effect snow.

Peters eventually returned to South Dakota, where he became an NWS volunteer weather observer. In 1992, he began writing a weather column for the weekly newspapers in Wagner and Lake Andes. He still writes for those papers, adding the Scotland weekly when he moved to his current home.



Mr. &amp; Mrs. Gordon Leader

The family of Carolyn and Gordon Leader invite you to participate in a card shower to celebrate the couple's 40th wedding anniversary.

They were married February 7, 1970.

at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton, SD.

Their children include daughters, Amy of Nashville, TN, Kimberly and Brenda of Yankton, SD, Cheryl and spouse Patrick Bauder of Scotland, SD, Kristin and Sarah of Sioux Falls, SD, and sons, John, Tecumseh, NE, and Mark of Crofton, NE.

Carolyn and Gordon are the proud grandparents of six granddaughters, Jordan, Amber, Ashley, Brittney, Tatum and Alexis.

Cards of congratulations can be sent to 55368 Hwy 12, Crofton, NE 68730.

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