

AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY:

## Experiences In A Poem

BY TED KOOSER  
U.S. Poet Laureate

A poem is an experience like any other, and we can learn as much or more about, say, an apple from a poem about an apple as from the apple itself. Since I was a boy, I've been picking up things, but I've never found a turtle shell until I found one in this poem by Jeff Worley, who lives in Kentucky.

### ON FINDING A TURTLE SHELL IN DANIEL BOONE NATIONAL FOREST

This one got tired  
of lugging his fortress  
wherever he went,  
was done with duck and cover  
at every explosion  
through rustling leaves  
of fox and dog and skunk.  
Said au revoir to the ritual  
of pulling himself together. . .

I imagine him waiting  
for the cover of darkness  
to let down his hinged drawbridge.  
He wanted, after so many  
protracted years of caution,  
to dance naked and nimble  
as a flame under the moon—  
even if dancing just once  
was all that the teeth  
of the forest would allow.

*American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation, publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2008 by Jeff Worley, whose most recent book of poems is Best to Keep Moving, Larkspur Press, 2009, which includes this poem. Reprinted from Poetry East, Nos. 62 & 63, Fall, 2008, by permission of Jeff Worley and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2009 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.*

## Nursing Distance Program Receives \$5 Million Grant

VERMILLION — With a three-year, \$5 million grant awarded by the United States Department of Labor, The University of South Dakota Department of Nursing will be able to develop more registered nurses and address a critical need for nursing educators with graduate degrees.

The \$5 million grant is part of more than \$225 million in health care and high growth training grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The USD Department of Nursing is one of only eight institutions — out of 55 — to receive a maximum grant of \$5 million. This funding will allow for the recruitment of unemployed veterans and military personnel, who are interested in entry level health care positions in hospitals, and registered nurse education as well as support future nurse educators to achieve the required graduate degree.

"We have recently formed a partnership with Compass Point Labor Management, who has an employer partnership with the military allowing access to personnel in any branch of the service," explained Kathy Manning, the USD Distance Nursing Director. She pointed out that active duty veterans experience unemployment rates at least 2 percent higher than the general public.

"This grant will allow us to work with Compass Point to assist unemployed veterans and transitioning military personnel who are interested in entry level health care positions in long term care centers and hospitals," she added.

Additionally, the grant provides opportunities for these newly placed and incumbent health care workers to pursue nursing careers while continuing employment with a primary health care partner, such as The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society, headquartered in Sioux Falls, S.D., and additional partners Tuff Memorial Home of Hills, Minn., Southwest Health Care Services of Bowman, N.D., and Presbyterian Healthcare Services of Albuquerque, N.M.

Employees of these primary health care partners receive education and support from the USD Nursing-Distance program, which currently offers an Associate of Science in Nursing

degree. All students in the distance program are employees of the Society or USD Nursing's other health care partners. Since USD Nursing began its partnership with the Good Samaritan Society in 2003, providing the Distance Nursing program to Society employees, more than 100 Society employees from nine states have graduated from the USD Nursing-Distance program. The Society is the nation's largest not-for-profit provider of long-term care and services.

"The Good Samaritan Society has made a significant investment in this program since 2003 and we have gained real value by being able to grow our own nurses," said Sonia Bury, director of Learning Services for the Society. "This new partnership with Compass Point will not only provide us access to more front-line caregivers, and to the nurses they will become, it is a way for each of our organizations to make a real difference for a lot of people."

Funding from the grant will allow the USD Nursing program to purchase a mobile simulation unit to bring state-of-the-art clinical and skills laboratory experiences to nursing students within a nine state region. Additional funds will be used to promote the graduate degrees required of nursing faculty, particularly faculty who seek Ph.D. nursing degrees. The faculty financial support includes dollars for tuition, fees and work release time.

"While this grant is certainly a great benefit to our veterans and military personnel who want a career in health care related fields," Manning stated, "it also addresses a critical need to employ and educate long-term health care and acute care hospital caregivers to meet the increasing complexity of health care and our nation's workforce needs in practice as well as nursing education."

The USD Nursing program, part of The U's School of Health Sciences, is approved to serve students through The U's Distance program in nine states: Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, New Mexico and Idaho.

For more information, visit [www.usd.edu/health-sciences/nursing/distance-program.cfm](http://www.usd.edu/health-sciences/nursing/distance-program.cfm).

# Is Further Investigation Needed?

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI

**Dear Tom and Ray:**  
I have a 2003 Toyota Prius, which has gone 67,000 miles. I always take it to the dealer, and recently had it there for its 65,000-mile service. After a fairly long wait, the service manager came to me to tell me that there had been an accident. They had driven the car crooked onto the oil-change rack, and "the wheel fell off."

I have to admit that I really didn't know exactly what that meant, except that it didn't sound too good. He took me into the work area, where they were already doing a front-wheel alignment on my car.

He said that the realignment was being done because of possible damage when the car's wheel fell off the rack. There was no charge, and he admitted they were at fault here. They also are replacing some rubber thingie under the front bumper that has had a rip in it for about four years. So I do not have a problem with the dealership in this respect.

My questions are these: Could there be further damage, such as hairline cracks and bent or dented pieces under the car, as a result of this accident? Is this something that may show up later as a serious problem?

Thanks. — Mary

**RAY:** I don't think there's anything more to worry about, Mary. If they were able to align the front wheels, that means the parts are all working as they should be.

**TOM:** Here's what happened: There are certain "ramp lifts" that have two tracks that you drive the car onto. My guess is that



CLICK &amp; CLACK

some kid who was trying to send a text message at the same time drove your car onto the lift crooked, and one of the front wheels dropped off the side. That's not easy to do, by the way.

**RAY:** There were two reasons why it took so long for the service manager to come and tell you about it. First, he wanted to assess the damage himself, so he'd know what to tell you. Second, he had to chase this kid around the shop a few times with a tire iron.

**TOM:** When a car falls down like that, what breaks its fall are the front suspension and steering components. And it's certainly possible that a lower control arm or a tie rod got bent. But those pieces are pretty tough.

**RAY:** And if a tie rod, for example, were bent, they would not be able to align the front wheels. So if they successfully aligned

the car, that suggests that either no damage was done, or they were able to fix it before bringing you into the service area.

**TOM:** But if you're worried that they missed something, or that they're covering something up, there are two things you can do. The first test is the easiest: Just drive the car.

**RAY:** If you feel it no longer tracks straight, or the steering feels unusual in any way, then they may have missed something. And in that case, you'll need to take it back to them and ask them to take a closer look and fix it.

**TOM:** But if it handles exactly as it did before this mishap, then all is well. I don't know of any of those parts that could sustain "hidden damage" and break later. I think any damage would be apparent right now.

**RAY:** But if you're still worried, Mary, the next step is to take it to another dealer. Tell the dealer what happened, and explain that it occurred at another shop. You don't have to tell them which shop did it, since they may be reluctant to criticize a fellow dealer. Or they may know the kid who did it. They may have fired him last week after chasing him around THEIR shop with a tire iron.

**TOM:** Just ask them to inspect the car for you, and see if they can detect any damage. And if a second, independent set of eyes sees nothing, you're home free, Mary.

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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## A PRETTY PENNY



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured above presenting the check to Kelly Freng is Layne Droppers President of the student council along with members of the student council. Pictured from left to right: Elizabeth Pearson, Paige Thieman, Lindsay Larson, Kelly Freng, Bethany King, Garner Brandt, Matt Watt, Layne Droppers, Landon Withrow, Sam Gusso, and Juan Skorey. Not pictured is Blake Savey and Sheldon Gant.

## YMS Fundraises For Earthquake Victims

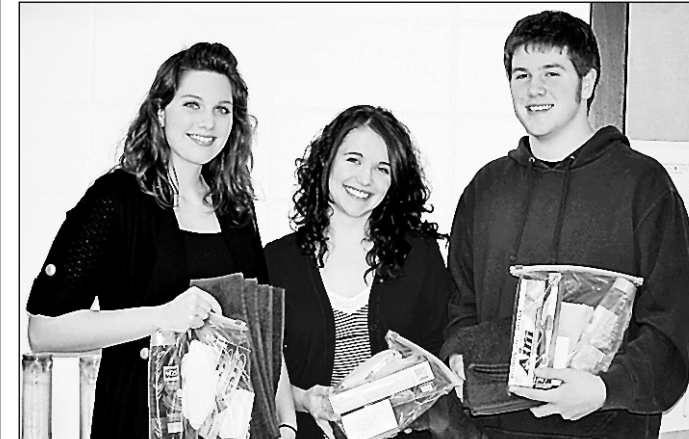
BY TODD DVORACEK,  
Yankton Middle School  
Assistant Principal

The Yankton Middle School student council put together a fundraising event for the victims of the recent Haiti Earthquake. The challenge that they put out to each homeroom was to see who could collect the most weight in coins per each homeroom. We had outstanding participation throughout the middle school and as a whole gathered approximately 702 pounds of coins for a grand total of 2,181.42. The winning homeroom was Mrs. Schaeffer's Homeroom with 66 lbs. of coins followed by Mrs. Bernatow's

homeroom with 56 lbs., and in third was Mrs. Ryken with 49 lbs. The winning homeroom will get a breakfast pizza party, 2nd place will get hot cocoa and cookies, and the 3rd place homeroom will get mini pops. We greatly appreciate all of the support from all of our students.

The student council presented this check to Kelly Freng who will be traveling to Haiti on a mission with a group from the World Wide Village. She stated to us that this money will be used for many medical products, blankets, and items of necessity. She is planning on taking pictures and sharing her experiences with the student council as well as the students at the middle school.

## A HELPING HAND



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Three Yankton High School students recently led a drive to assemble health kits for the children of Haiti. The three are, from left, Heidi Olson, Cassie Moderegger and Gavin Brandt.

## YHS Students Lead Collection Drive

Three Yankton high School seniors had planned for months to be a part of a mission team to Haiti and were to leave Wednesday, Feb. 10.

But when the earthquake happened, plans changed. With unsafe conditions and the airport closed to civilians, their tickets were canceled.

Yet in dealing with the disappointment and knowing the great need after having been there, Gavin Brandt and Heidi Olson, along with newcomer Cassie Moderegger, felt a great desire to do something to help. These YHS students led an organized effort and challenged the student body to collect items such as combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, washcloths and towels so that health kits could be

assembled and sent to Haiti.

The students responded generously. Approximately 120 kits were assembled, and numerous extra items were collected. (Also, 50 additional kits were donated by Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, bringing the total to 170.) Along with the health kits, the students were asked to donate loose change.

A typical meal of beans and rice costs about 23 cents to feed a child in Haiti. They may receive one meal a day. Yankton High School students & staff donated \$530, which will be sent to a local non-profit organization called Helping Hands for Haiti, to purchase food for the Haitians. Additional gifts were given toward this project from HyVee, WalMart, and the hospital.

## NSU Rep. To Visit YHS

Tina Westling, Northern State University admissions representative, will be at the Yankton High School Thursday, March 4 at 11:10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Westling will be available to speak with members of the community who are considering applying to Northern State University located in Aberdeen, S.D. She will share information and answer questions on NSU's many programs including the Wolf FACT scholarship, academic programs, costs and financial assistance, and any other questions about NSU.

For more information visit [www.northern.edu](http://www.northern.edu) or call the NSU at 800-NSU-5330.



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