American Life In Poetry

Receiving Some **Fatherly Advice**

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate

This touching poem by Dan Gerber, who lives in California, captures the memory of a father's advice, but beneath the practical surface of that advice we can sense a great deal of emotion, which shows through a little crack at the moment the father clears his voice before continuing.

ADVICE

You know how, after it rains, my father told me one August afternoon when I struggled with something hurtful my best friend had said, how worms come out and crawl all over the sidewalk and it stays a big mess a long time after it's over if you step on them? Leave them alone, he went on to say, after clearing his throat, and when the rain stops, they crawl back into the ground.

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Sluggishness May Signal Fuel-Deliv. Problem

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a 1999 GMC Suburban with a 5.7 V-8 engine and 140,000 miles. Lately, the truck has had problems getting moving from 0 to 30 mph. When I press on the gas, the truck acts as if it is being suffocated. The exhaust sputters and pops. When I floor the gas, the truck takes a couple of seconds to react, usually with a jarring burst forward followed by more self-suffocation. The truck, once moving past 30 mph, works fine. I had a relative inform me that my catalytic converter is "clogged" and that I need a new one. Do you agree? — Al

TOM: Well, I've learned from painful

experience that you should never trust a relative who gives out advice on car re-

RAY: Yeah. Especially if he happens to be your brother.

TOM: This guy's wrong, Al. If your catalytic converter were plugged, you'd have the opposite problem: The car would have no trouble going 0-30 but would bog down at higher speeds. So that's not it.

RAY: What's more likely is that you're having fuel-delivery issues. I'd start by replacing the fuel filter, especially if yours has been in there since Bill Clinton was downing Big Macs in the Situation

TOM: If that doesn't fix it, my guess is that your fuel injectors are not working well. The injectors might not be spraying fuel into the cylinders in the proper pattern, and that's causing imperfect combustion and momentary flooding, and making the car bog down at low speeds.



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

RAY: Once you get past 30 mph, there's a lot more fuel and more pressure going through the injectors, and that's what makes the spray pattern correct itself. Plus, the car is already moving, which reduces the demand on the engine

TOM: Your injectors could just be dirty. We rarely see that anymore, because late-model cars have all been running on the newer, cleaner, Tier 3 gasolines that we have these days. But your car is older, and spent many years

and makes everything more forgiving.

running on older, dirtier fuel. **RAY:** So start by trying a home remedy: Get a couple of cans of BG 44K, if you can find it. Or try Chevron Techron. They're both fuel-system cleaners. Run a bottle of one of those through the system with a tank of gas and see if you get any improvement. If you do, try another bottle or two and see if you can bring it back to where you want it.

TOM: If that doesn't clear it up (it probably won't), your next step would be to find a shop with what we call a Wallet

RAY: Its real name is the Motor Vac, and it's a machine that forces a solvent through the fuel system at high pressure to clean out gums and varnishes. It works pretty well, but the service will cost you a good \$100.

TOM: And if that doesn't work, then you need a mechanic to help you figure out whether it really is the injectors, or something else. He'd start that process

with a complete engine scan. RAY: You don't want to just go replacing fuel injectors without being

pretty certain that they're the problem. **TOM**: They're not as expensive as the catalytic converter your relative was egging you to buy, but you'd be annoyed if you spent hundreds of bucks replacing your fuel injectors based on nothing but a newspaper column, and then still had your low-speed stumble.

RAY: And we'd be annoyed, because then you'd be adding to our already-tall hate-mail pile. So get it checked out in person, Al. Good luck.

Tom and Ray share secrets on how you can save tens of thousands of dollars on your cars over the next 20 years in their 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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SCHOLASTICS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

VERMILLION - University of South Dakota students have been honored for their academic success during the 2013 Fall Semester.

USD students achieving Dean's List honors this spring total 1,708 students while 439 part-time students have been cited with Academic

Recognition honors. Students earn Dean's List distinction by achieving a GPA of at least 3.5 while maintaining a course load of 12 or more credit hours with no incomplete or failing grades. Part-time students are eligible for Academic Recognition by completing at least 12 hours prior to the current semester earning a minimum of three and up to at the University of South Dakota

School of Law attained Dean's List recognition. To be named to the School of Law Dean's List, law students must achieve either a GPA of 85.00 or greater for that semester or rate in the top 10 percent of their class for that semester, whichever group is smaller. The list is not based on cumulative grade point average, and first semester, first-year law students are not eligible for the law school's Dean's List

The South Dakota Board of Re gents sets the policy for Dean's List eligibility. For more information on the Board of Regents policy, please see www.ris.sdbor.edu/policy/2-Acade-

mic_Affairs/documents/2-10.pdf . Area students receiving academic honors for the 2013 Fall Se-

NEBRASKA Crofton - Bridget R Arens, Natalie Bottolfson, Gina M Dendinger;
• Laurel — Amy M. Pritchard, Kiley R Thompson, Haley L. Hefner

Newcastle — Courtney S. Addison, Leah R. Geis, Luke D Rohde;
Ponca — Katie M Anderson;
Randolph — Melissa J Lange; · Wynot - Samantha Wieseler.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Alcester — Lynnette Christensen (academic recognition);
 Armour — Michael J Nour, Julie

 Avon — Emily D. Van Gerpen;
 Beresford — Anna M Limoges,
 Andrew J. Dolan, Kyle E. McKelvey, Blaire Garza, Myki Patrick, Lennea M Clark, Ashley K Anderson, Leah M Akland, Taryn R Twite, Nathan D. Glanzer (academic recognition), Brittany K Bielau (academic recognition), Brittany Lyle (academic recognition) Chris Cowan (academic recognition) Sara J Miller (academic recognition). Shannon L Carlson (academic recognition), Kimberly A. Hanson (acade-

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• Delmont — Devin Kurtz, Julie M. Kaufman (academic recognition);

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WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

WAYNE Neb - More than 800 students at Wayne State College were named to the Dean's List for exemplary academic achievement during the past semester. Students listed on the dean's list are full-time undergraduate students who have

achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the semester. An denotes a 4.0 GPA for the term.

Area students include:
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CENTER — Siara Mae Fritz COLERIDGE — Michaela Marie COLEMIDGE — Michaela Marie

Dendinger, Kathleen L. Kleinschmit*

CREIGHTON — Riley Paige

Dohmen, Josh Joseph Javorsky,

Jennifer Kay Laflan*, Carrie A.

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James Nielsen, Brandi Elizabeth

Sorensen, Aaron Arthur Von Seggern, Shelby Lynn Wiebelhaus*
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Eskins*, Megan M. Miller, Cody
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PONCA — Benjamin Scott
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Bovee, Joseph Lee Stansberry*

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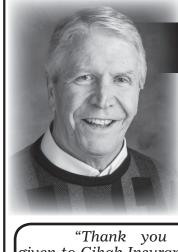
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