

American Life In Poetry

A Kiss I Failed To Give

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

Kurt Brown was a talented poet who died in 2013, and his posthumous selected and new poems opens with this touching late poem to his wife, Laure-Anne.

THE KISS

That kiss I failed to give you.
 How can you forgive me?
 The kiss I would have spent on you is still
 There, within me. It will probably die there.
 But it will be the last of me to die.

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Car Talk

Why Drive A Truck All Year If You Only Rarely Need It For Towing?

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate

Dear Car Talk:
 I have a 1999, 8-cylinder Dodge Ram 4-wheel-drive crew-cab truck that has served me well towing my 1-ton pontoon boat. What would you recommend to replace it that might get a little better gas mileage and still provide a comfortable ride for four people? I tow only every other year or so – 800 miles round trip. Thanks!

— Kevin

I'd recommend that you replace it with a Toyota Avalon Hybrid, supplemented by a U-Haul rent-a-pickup once every other year.

A lot of our customers make the mistake of buying a car for something they do very infrequently. You know, they get an SUV that's capable of seating eight people for the one trip per year they take to Grandma's with Cousin I. And here you are, driving around every day, getting 13 mpg as penance for a chore you have to do only every two years.

An alternative is to get a comfortable family car that you can enjoy 103 out of 104 weeks every two years, and then just rent a pickup (or, even better, borrow one) for your biannual week at



Ray MAGLIOZZI

the lake. I mention the Avalon Hybrid because I drove it recently and was impressed by its roominess and ride, and the nearly 40 mpg it got, city and highway. But you can get any car you like.

And then, when you want to haul the boat, you rent a pickup truck and put the towing wear and tear on that. It's not cheap to rent a pickup; you might spend \$500-\$1,000 for the week. But do the math:

If you drive 20,000 miles a year and you're getting 13 mpg, over two years you'll spend \$9,228 on fuel (assuming gas stays at \$3 a gallon, which it probably won't). If you drive that same 20,000 miles a year over two years in a car that gets 40 mpg, your fuel cost will be only \$3,000.

So, even counting the pickup truck rental, you'd still come out ahead by \$5,000 every two years! And you won't have to pass over nearly as many parking spaces that you don't fit in.

There are other options, too. If you

really do need a pickup truck, or just want one, for whatever reason, I like the RAM 1500 with the V-6 diesel engine. That gets a combined 22 mpg, with an impressive 27 mpg on the highway, and it handles well, for a humongous beast.

Or you could check out the new aluminum-bodied 2015 Ford F-150, which I haven't driven yet. But reportedly it will get similar mileage.

Or, keep your old truck around just for that one vacation week if you really want to.

But if it were me, I'd get a car, Kevin, and live it up. Let us know what you decide.

Do you really need that truck if you only make one trip to the lumberyard per year? Find out what kind of car NOT to get in Car Talk'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.

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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Online Programs At USD Garner Rankings By U.S. News

VERMILLION — Two online graduate programs at the University of South Dakota have earned top recognition from U.S. News & World Report.

The Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) program at the Beacom School of Business is ranked No. 41 nationally in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best Online M.B.A. Programs. According to the publication, M.B.A. programs are ranked separately from other online graduate business programs for the first time in 2015 with the list containing 196 online M.B.A. programs throughout the United States.

The Beacom School of Business' Master of Professional Accountancy (M.P.A.) program is listed at No. 31 in the 2015 U.S. News & World Report rankings of Best Online Graduate Business Programs. The ranking includes graduate business programs of all types, excluding

M.B.A., and contains 225 graduate business programs nationwide.

"This is a very nice honor for both of our online graduate programs," said Venky Venkatachalam, Ph.D. "It also validates, nationally, the reputation that our online M.P.A. and online M.B.A. not only offer great curriculum features but great value."

The Beacom School of Business online M.B.A. and M.P.A. programs are accredited by AACSB International. The 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Graduate Programs rankings are based on student engagement, admissions selectivity, peer reputation, faculty credentials and training, and student services and technology.

For more about the methodologies used to rank online programs, go to www.usnews.com/education/online-education/articles/rankings-methodologies/.

USD Student Recipient Of National Broadcast Scholarship

VERMILLION — Kathleen Serie, a junior Media & Journalism major at the University of South Dakota, is one of 13 students nationwide to win a scholarship from the Broadcast Education Association for 2015-16. Her scholarship was one of the Nielsen Company Scholarships sponsored by the Nielsen Company. The winners were selected by the BEA Scholarship Committee at its November 2014 meeting in Washington, D.C.



Serie

participation in Coyote News by serving as live correspondent, head anchor and now co-producer of the weekly broadcast.

In addition to her experience with Coyote News, Serie has interned with South Dakota Public Broadcasting and KELOLAND News.

The BEA will hold a convention in Las Vegas on April 12-15 that will include a scholarship award ceremony. Serie and her family plan on traveling to Las Vegas for the ceremony and convention. She will also have the opportunity to attend the National Association of Broadcasters national career fair on April 15.

"I'm looking forward to attending some of the seminars and learning more about the media industry and interacting with media professionals," Serie added.

63rd Annual SD Picnic To Be Held Feb. 22

The 63rd annual South Dakota Picnic will be held indoors on Sunday, Feb. 22, at the Woodbrook Estates Mobile Home Park Recreation Center, 1510 Ariana Street, Lakeland, Florida. Attendees are asked to bring a large covered casserole or hot dish, salad or dessert to share, also plates and silverware for your own family. Coffee, iced tea and sodas will be furnished.

Lunch will be at 1 p.m., but feel free to come anytime after 11:30 a.m. to visit with fellow South Dakotans.

If you have any questions, call or email June Clark, president, (863-646-1131), jjclark01@msn.com; or Sue Kelly, secretary (941-792-8235), suehkelly@verizon.net/. If you can attend, RSVP to June or Sue.

Lincoln Kindergarteners Fight Germs



Brooks and Mariah showing some of the germs their Kindergarten class created.



This germ was created by Isaiah Loving. He attends kindergarten in Mrs. Wagner's room at Lincoln Elementary School.

We're on the ground. We're in the air. We're GERMS and we live everywhere!

The Lincoln Elementary School kindergarten students have been busy learning about germs! We've read books and poems, and sung songs about germs. Some of the books we've read are, "GERMS! GERMS! GERMS!" by Bobbi Katz, and "Germs Make Me Sick!" by Melvin Berger.

After reading about germs, the children brainstormed ways to keep healthy. They wrote about germs and drew pictures of germs. Using construction paper, they created their own germs. They are awesome!

We learned that germs are all around us, but they are too small to see. Many germs are harmless, but two kinds, viruses and bacteria, can make you sick. We also

learned how your body works to fight them off and keep you healthy.

We want to share our Rules For Good Health with you:

1. Stay away from anyone with a cold or flu.
2. Wash your hands with soap and warm water to get rid of germs.
3. Eat good, healthy food.
4. Brush your teeth after meals.
5. Get plenty of rest.
6. Do some exercise every day.
7. Visit your doctor and dentist regularly for check-ups.
8. Be sure to get the shots you need.

We had fun learning about germs! We want to leave you with one more bit of advice: "When you cough or sneeze ... cover please!"



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