

Life In Poetry

Prayer Can Be Poetry

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

The title of this beautiful poem by Edward Hirsch contradicts the poem, which is indeed a prayer. Hirsch lives in New York and is president of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, one of our country’s most distinguished cultural endowments.

I WAS NEVER ABLE TO PRAY

Wheel me down to the shore
where the lighthouse was abandoned
and the moon tolls in the rafters.

Let me hear the wind paging through the trees
and see the stars flaring out, one by one,
like the forgotten faces of the dead.

I was never able to pray,
but let me inscribe my name
in the book of waves

and then stare into the dome
of a sky that never ends
and see my voice sail into the night.

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One-Act Play Festival To Feature
Top H.S. Theatre Productions

Many of South Dakota’s finest high school actors will gather in Aberdeen for the 56th Annual State High School One-Act Play Festival. The 2012 State One-Act Play Festival will be held February 2-4 at the Johnson Fine Arts Center at Northern State University.

The Annual State One-Act Play Festival, sponsored by the South Dakota High School Activities Association, is the state tournament for high school drama competition. This year the SDHSAA State One-Act Play Festival will bring together 43 of the best South Dakota high school theatre productions in a festival setting. During the State Festival, each qualifying school will perform their play for the public and a panel of three judges. Awards presented at the Festival will include overall “Superior Plays” “Outstanding Performers” and “Outstanding Ensembles”.

The 2012 State One-Act Play

Festival will showcase performances by 14 Class “A” schools presenting plays which are serious in nature; 14 Class “B” plays which are humorous in nature; while the plays presented by the Class “AA” schools may be either serious or humorous.

The first performance of the State Festival begins at 11:00 Thursday morning, February 2. All performances are free to the public. New performances will begin approximately every forty-five minutes throughout each day of the Festival. The State Festival awards will be presented at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. A complete listing of all performance times, play titles and names of the nine judges can be found on the SDHSAA web site (www.sdhjaa.com). The awards will be posted on the SDHSAA web site as soon as possible following the announcement of results on Saturday, Feb. 4.

Burfeindt Wins National Competition

Matthew Burfeindt, son of Joel and Janel Burfeindt from Irene, is currently an electrical and computer engineering student pursuing a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Burfeindt's research paper, “SNR-enhanced Inverse Scattering for Microwave Breast Imaging,” received the first prize award in the Ernest K. Smith USNC-URSI Student Prize Paper Competition. He was chosen to present his paper during the plenary session at the 2012 National Radio Science Meeting in Boulder, Colorado, in early January.

This open scientific meeting is sponsored by the U.S. National Committee (USNC) of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI). The USNC-URSI is appointed by the National Research Council of The National Academies and represents U.S. radio scientists in URSI.

Matthew Burfeindt is a 2004 graduate of Irene High School and a 2008 graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He currently resides in Fitchburg, WI.

Southeast C.C. Dean’s List Released

Southeast Community College has released the names of students who earned spots on the Dean’s List following the 2011 Fall Quarter, which ended Dec. 15. To be recognized on the Dean’s List, a student must complete at least six hours for the term with a minimum grade-point average of 3.5. Classes with a grade of “P” (Pass) do not count toward the six-hour minimum. Included on the list was:

Emily Burbach, McCool Junction, Neb., formerly of Wynot, Neb., daughter of Chuck and Paula Burbach, 4.0.

Buena Vista University Dean’s List Named

STORM LAKE, Iowa — The following students have been named to the Dean’s list for the fall semester at Buena Vista University.

Grace Sullivan from Yankton. Sullivan received a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

Caitlin Hof from Yankton. Hof received a perfect 4.0 grade point average for the semester.

Students named to the Dean’s List must have a minimum grade point average of 3.5 for the semester, based on a 4.0 grade point system, and must have taken at least 12 hours of coursework.



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The Best Way To Brace For Impact

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
www.cartalk.com

Dear Tom and Ray:
I drive in city traffic daily, and I find that at least once per day, I have to brake sharply from traffic speed to a dead stop. I usually check the rearview mirror to see what is happening behind me as I stop. The question is: If someone is about to hit me, should I release the brakes to lessen the impact, potentially pushing me into the car in front of me, or should I hold the brakes and take the full impact on my rear bumper? My gut tells me to hold the brake, but could I suffer less total damage by having a little damage on both ends, or should I take the hit and try to spare the vehicle in front of me? Thanks. – Dwayne

TOM: Well, I think you should stop texting your bookie while you drive, Dwayne. That may result in fewer panic stops.

RAY: But if you're in city traffic and someone is about to hit you from behind, I think you're better off keeping your foot on the brake.

TOM: First of all, rear-end damage tends to be a lot less expensive than front-end dam-



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

age. There's simply more stuff in the front end. And it's pricier stuff. There's the radiator, the steering components, the air-conditioning condenser and the engine. In the back, there's ... well, the trunk.

RAY: Second, if you take your foot off the brake, you'll be sacrificing the car of the guy in front of you, and potentially injuring someone who isn't braced for impact. And that's

USD Students Go ‘AWOL’ For Community Service

VERMILLION — More than 50 students from the University of South Dakota traveled during their winter break to the south-east United States, central Minnesota and Central America to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, spend time with children in need, and assist Ecuador farmers with the planting and harvesting of their crops.

As part of USD's Alternative Week of Off-Campus Learning (AWOL) program, 17 students repaired homes destroyed by tornadoes in Birmingham, Ala.; 11 students worked with the LeBonheur's Children's Hospital and the Hope House in Memphis Tenn.; 11 more students worked with community organizations in Minneapolis, Minn., including local soup kitchens and Meals on Wheels; and 17 students traveled internationally to Ecuador where they learned about conservation and forest preservation's best practices.

BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

"I speak for our whole group when I say that this trip made a huge impact on our lives in many ways," said USD student Jessica Sundleaf of Sioux Falls, who spent a week in Birmingham working with Habitat for Humanity.

In 2011, a tornado devastated homes in the Birmingham area and throughout the South. Sundleaf and other students

learned how to install insulation, use a nail gun and put up siding. Additional trip volunteers from USD included Katie Beckman of White Lake, Kayla Brower, Monique Ellefson and Daniel Price of Sioux Falls, Melissa Kutil of Hartford, Kaylee Bahr and Ashley Miller of Aberdeen, Rachel Blake of Centerville, Kara Fischbach of Mellette, Amos "A.J." Meyer of Williams, Iowa, Paige Moser of Rapid City, Jonathan Schreiner of Remsen, Iowa, Emma Smith and Megan Waldner of Huron, Nick Weinandt of Yankton, and Learning Partner Danielle Hollmann of Estelline.

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Many of the families that worked with USD students in Memphis were amazed that the volunteers were giving so much of their time while receiving nothing in return. However, Brooke Decker of Huron disagreed. "In all reality, I felt that we weren't gaining anything but everything," she added.

Students partnered with both the LeBonheur's Children's Hospital and the Hope House, a learning center for children who have at least one family member that is HIV/AIDS positive. Throughout the week, students divided their time between the two organizations and interacted directly with the children and their families making crafts, distributing hot cocoa, playing

games and more. Students volunteering in Memphis included Abby Wolf of Jordan, Minn., Jessica Colburn of Aurora, Neb., Chelsea Zaragoza of Ruthven, Iowa, Abigail Hubbling of Fulda, Minn., Christine Brown of Watertown, Joshua Rogers of Fort Pierre, Brett Lorenz of Aberdeen, Mattea Stokke of Platte, Molly Larson of Sioux Falls, and Learning Partner Tyler Miiller of Mitchell.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Working in a homeless shelter was a real eye-opener for students who spent time in Minneapolis with several community outreach organizations.

"I had always thought that I knew a lot about this city," said Jake Renze, the trip Learning Partner who lived in Minneapolis for several years, "but I was humbled very quickly."

Participants on this trip focused solely on the issue of homelessness and poverty working closely with community-based Families Moving Forward, Habitat for Humanity, Community Emergency Service and Meals on Wheels. Student volunteers included Alexa Walker of Vermillion, Eric Schlingmen of Rapid City, Tim Nelson of Council Bluffs, Iowa, Andrew Fick of Quimby, Iowa, Amy Sandhurst of Sioux Falls, Lindsey Jones of Burke, Kelly Turner of Rochester, Minn., Allison McEntee of

Lennox, Rebecca Molsberry of Algona, Iowa, and Alicia Karn of Tea.

ECUADOR

"It is amazing to see what people from other cultures do to support their families," said Casey Kelly of Omaha, Neb., who was one of 17 volunteers from USD that spent a week in Ecuador working with the organization Jatun Satcha.

While in Ecuador, volunteers focused their efforts on learning about conservation and forest preservation taking place along coastal Ecuador. Students worked with local farmers and residents on many projects, including crop planting and harvesting, helping with mangrove reforestation and repairing homes in the community.

Ecuador trip participants included Dan Davies of Vermillion, Alyssa Day and Mary Galvin of Sioux Falls, Anna Hyronimus of Brandon, Kendall Schneider of Aberdeen, Hanna McElroy of Sioux City, Iowa, Caitlin Blumer and Emily Struck of Yankton, Kyle Kirby of Salem, Michelle Corio of Elk Point, Heather Allemang of Neligh, Neb., Leah Akland of Beresford, Brent Olinger of Emery, Marisol Lopez-Munoz of South Sioux City, Neb., Audrey Flatgard of Arlington, and Learning Partner Karl Reasoner of Sioux Falls.

Funds Available For Neighborhood
Stabilization Program Three

PIERRE — South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA) is accepting applications for about \$1 million of Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3) funds currently available for eligible housing projects.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 (NSP3) is part of the federal Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. The intent of NSP3 is to assist in the redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes in specific geographical areas.

The eligible uses of the NSP3 funds include financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed upon homes and residential properties; purchase and rehabilitation of homes and residential properties that have been abandoned or foreclosed upon in order to sell, rent or redevelop; demolition of blighted

structures; and redevelopment of demolished or vacant properties.

Eligible applicants are units of local governments, nonprofit organizations and for-profit developers. SDHDA views the Neighborhood Stabilization Program as an opportunity to provide additional funding to the state of South Dakota to accomplish housing goals that may not typically be eligible or financially feasible under our current housing programs.

The NSP3 Program application and maps of eligible areas are available on SDHDA's website at www.sdhda.org

For more information on the NSP3 Program, please contact Peggy Severson at peggy@sdhda.org or call 605.773.3181.

Applications must be received by March 30, 2012, at 5:00 p.m. (CST).

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