

Life In Poetry

Poet Examines The Ordinary World

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. POET LAUREATE

If you've followed this column through a good part of the seven years we've been publishing it, you know how hooked I am on poems that take a close look at the ordinary world. Here's a fine poem by Eamon Grennan, who lives in New York state, about bees caught up against a closed window.

UP AGAINST IT

It's the way they cannot understand the window they buzz and buzz against, the bees that take a wrong turn at my door and end up thus in a drift at first of almost idle curiosity, cruising the room until they find themselves smack up against it and they cannot fathom how the air has hardened and the world they know with their eyes keeps out of reach as, stuck there with all they want just in front of them, they must fling their bodies against the one unalterable law of things—this fact of glass—and can only go on making the sound that tethers their electric fury to what's impossible, feeling the sting in it.

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Gas Smell Might Be A Small Leak

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

For the past four to six weeks, when I start my Chevy Trailblazer (2004) first thing in the morning, the smell of gas and sometimes oil comes out of the air-conditioning vents. Once the car has run for five minutes or so, the smell dissipates and does not come back for the rest of the day. We typically keep the car in the garage overnight. My husband does not think this is a big deal, since I have taken it to the mechanic twice and they didn't find a problem. The first time I took it in, they replaced the thermostat in the coolant system. The second time, they conducted a fuel-pressure test and an evaporative smoke test. The results did not show any problems. I am still driving it with the gas smell in the morning. I drive my two young girls (5 and 2) around daily. Is my husband right that I should not worry? Or should I be concerned, take it to a different mechanic and ask them to do ... what? Thank you. —Shannon

RAY: I'd be concerned but not alarmed, Shannon. Let's assume that what you're smelling is gas, rather than oil. What do you need to be concerned about when you smell gas?

TOM: Fire usually is at the top of my list. And to the great thrill of every hungry liability lawyer in the country, I'm going to suggest that the risk of a gasoline fire due to your particular problem, Shannon, is relatively low (not nonexistent, but low). Why? Because it's been examined carefully by mechanics twice, and they've found no leak.

RAY: It takes very little gasoline to make a lot of gasoline smell. And if your gasoline



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

smell is dissipating after five minutes and not coming back for the rest of the day, it's probably being caused by a very small amount of seepage.

TOM: That said, breathing gasoline fumes is not good for the old brain cells — especially the brain cells of little kids. So, for that reason, I would ignore your husband, and push to get this fixed.

RAY: When you park the car at night, the fuel system is still under tremendous pressure. My guess is that as the engine cools down, some small fitting or hose shrinks a little and allows a little bit of gasoline to seep out.

TOM: And the next day, when you turn on the car, the smell of that gasoline wafts right into the cowl at the bottom of the windshield, and comes into the passenger compartment through your vents. Then, as the engine heats back up, the gasoline evaporates and the leak seals itself up, and everything is fine for the rest of the day.

RAY: The best way to find this kind of small leak is with an old-fashioned emissions wand. Before everything was centralized in the car's data port, we used to stick a wand in the tailpipe to test a car's emissions system. That wand was designed to pick up microscopic amounts of unburned gasoline — which were supposed to be combusted or catalyzed before they got to the tailpipe.

TOM: So if you can find a mechanic who still has an emissions wand, he can probe around the engine compartment and use it to detect a very small amount of gasoline anywhere.

RAY: What you want to do is leave the car with that mechanic overnight. Try to simulate the exact conditions under which it misbehaves. So drive the car over one evening, park it and leave the key. Then let the mechanic use that very sensitive wand to pinpoint the leak in the morning, before the engine heats up and the leak disappears.

TOM: And in the meantime, keep the 2- and 5-year-old from smoking cigars in the car first thing in the morning, just to be on the safe side. Good luck, Shannon.

In their pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Tom and Ray break down the strategies for buying a car, so you can make the most of your money. 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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IRS To Take Returns On Education By Mid-Feb.

WASHINGTON — As preparations continue for the Jan. 30 opening of the 2013 filing season for most taxpayers, the Internal Revenue Service announced today that processing of tax returns claiming education credits will begin by the middle of February.

Taxpayers using Form 8863, Education Credits, can begin filing their tax returns after the IRS updates its processing systems. Form 8863 is used to claim two higher education credits — the American Opportunity Tax Credit and the Lifetime Learning Credit.

The IRS emphasized that the delayed start will have no impact on taxpayers claiming other education-related tax benefits, such as the tuition and fees deduction and the student loan interest deduction. People otherwise able to file and claiming these benefits can start filing Jan. 30.

As it does every year, the IRS reviews and tests its systems in advance of the opening of the tax season to protect taxpayers from processing errors and refund delays. The IRS discovered during testing that programming modifications are needed to accurately process Forms 8863. Filers who are otherwise able to file but use the Form 8863 will be able to file by mid-February. No action needs to be taken by the taxpayer or their tax professional. Typically through the mid-February period, about 3 million tax returns include Form 8863, less than a quarter of those filed during the year.

The IRS remains on track to open the tax season on Jan. 30 for most taxpayers. The Jan. 30 opening includes people claiming the student loan interest deduction on the Form 1040 series or the higher education tuition or fees on Form 8917, Tuition and Fees Deduction. Forms that will be able to be filed later are listed <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/List-of-IRS-forms-that-1040-filers-can-begin-filing-in-late-February-or-into-March-2013> on IRS.gov. Updated information will be posted on IRS.gov.

Riverview Reformed To Host Soup Kitchen

Riverview Reformed Church of Yankton will be holding a Soup Kitchen on Thursday, Jan. 31 running from 4:30-7 p.m. at 1700 Burleigh.

The menu includes BBQ pork sandwiches, hot dogs, chicken dumpling soup, ham and bean soup, chili, pies & desserts. To-go meals available.

Bon Homme Farmers Union Meeting Set

TABOR — The Bon Homme Farmers Union will meet at 8 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, at the BY Electric meeting room in Tabor.

The upcoming state convention and selection of delegates to the convention will be the main order of business.

For more information, contact 583-4468.

SCHOLASTICS

SACRED HEART SCHOOL ACADEMIC ROLLS SECOND QUARTER 2012-2013

Fifth Grade Roll of Excellence

- (* - Straight A's)
Baker, Tayden
Curran, Christian
Eichacker, Ryan*
Fanta, Mary
Gokie, Hailey*
Kouri, Cecilia
Kouri, Claire
Krajewski, Josephine*
LeFebvere, Rose
Mines, Ivy
Payer, Justin
Sandal, Parker*
Schroeder, Madison
Vornhagen, Olivia
Woerner, Natalie*
Wolfgram, Payton*

Honor Roll

- Bernatow, Brooklyn
Binder, Madeline
Bose, Keegin
Campbell, Jada
Dayhuff, Billi Jo
Haahr, Anneliese
Heine, Morgan
Manning, Ava
Marsh, Jonah
Nelson, Grant
Salvatori, Carissa
Strom, Jakob
Wuebben, Madison
Yaggie, Dylan

Sixth Grade Roll of Excellence

- (* - Straight A's)
Dangler, Bryce
Geigle, Kellie*
Jussel, Jess*
Kortan, Samantha
Kusek, Noel*

- Lehl, Nick*
McCarthy, Erin*
Medeck, Holly
Nguyen, Brian*
Perakslis, Catherine
Reinhardt, Jessica
Sandal, Kendra
Schulte, Miranda
Shoberg, Anna
Vyborny, Sophia
Wenande, Courtney
Wubben, Madison

Honor Roll

- Becker, Abby
Buechler, Morgan
Hacecky, Harlie
Hunhoff, Walker
Kolker, Emily
Lange, Tyler
Liebig, Olivia
Madson, Brooke
Mueller, Evan
Peitz, Brandon
Sedlacek, Sydney
Warriner, Olivia
Woodmancy, Michael

Merit Roll

- Smith, Alexander

Seventh Grade Roll of Excellence

- (* - Straight A's)
Baker, Shiann
Benoit, Adele*
Bent, Max
Budig, Kate*
Callahan, Brendan
Cordell, Madie*
Dvorak, Evan*
Eichacker, Nathan
Fejfar, Megan*
Fitzgerald, Tanner*
Frick, Savannah

- Hicks, Holly*
Knoff, Anne*
Mines, Holly
Paulsen, Quinn
Rafferty, Trevor*
Specht, Cameryn*
Vavra, Carly*
Wolfgram, Jack

Honor Roll

- Barger, Dillon
Cass, Tori
Dangler, Brady
Fortner, Ethan
Garcia, Mimi
Jensen, Lauren
Kreitzinger, Matthew
Lange, Trevor
Rockne, Hunter
Schild, Koby
Schoenfelder, Jack
Smith, Maddie
Yaggie, Storm

Eighth Grade Roll of Excellence

- (* - Straight A's)
Becker, Courtney*
Bent, Keeli
Bisgard, Sophie*
Brockberg, Avery
Buttolph, Emily*
Cameron, Hunter
Hauser, Katie*
Heine, Belle*
Kanaly, Samantha*
Kathol, Jordan
Katterhagen, Kate*
Kouri, Sophie*
Mueller, Nicole
Mueller, Tasha
Rezac, Alexis*
Rezac, Kristen*
Rezac, Lauren*
Rucker, Rachel*

- Schroeder, McKenzie
Shoberg, Natalie
Shuey, Brandon
Stephenson, Nate*
Wubben, Morgan*

Honor Roll

- Becvar, Cheree
Bray, Steven
Carda, Lucas
Cwach, Blake
Heine, Michael
Hunhoff, Kendra
Kennedy, Kolbi
Kortan, Dylan
Liebig, Kyra
McDonald, Haley
McDonald, Shannon
Payer, Jordan
Ruffinott, Rose
Schild, Keely
Schwartz, Stephanie
Warriner, Jacob
Welter, James
Wenande, Drew
Wintz, Josh

Merit Roll

- Winterringer, Miranda
Zimmerman, Courtney

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY

BELLEVUE, Neb. — Bellevue University proudly acknowledges the accomplishments of students who have earned degrees from July through December 2012 — 1,317 total, including 403 master's degrees and 914 bachelor's degrees.

Area graduates include:
• Yankton—Erica Hansen, BS in Investigations; Noah Kleinsasser, BS in Business Analysis and Management.

BIRTHDAYS

MALINDA (LINDA) CROSS

Malinda (Linda) Cross of Yankton will celebrate her 100th birthday on Feb. 5, 2013.



Cross

A card shower will be held. Greetings can be sent to her at 2903 Douglas Ave., Apt 103, Yankton, SD 57078.

She previously resided at Lake Andes.

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