

## Life In Poetry

# Poet Examines Adult Life Through Eyes Of A Child

BY TED KOOSER  
 U.S. POET LAUREATE

Sometimes, when we are children, someone or something suddenly throws open a window and the world of adults pours in. And we never quite get over it. Here's a poem about an experience like that by Judith Slater, who lives in New York.

### ZIPPO

I didn't think handsome then, I thought my father the way he saunters down Main Street, housewives, shopkeepers, mechanics calling out, children running up to get Lifesavers. The way he pauses to chat, flipping his lighter open, tamping the Lucky Strike on his thumbnail.

I sneak into his den when he's out, tuck into the kneehole of his desk and sniff his Zippo until dizzy, emboldened; then play little tricks, mixing red and black inks in his fountain pen, twisting together paperclips. If I lift the telephone receiver

quietly, I can listen in on our party line. That's how I hear two women talking about him. That's why my mother finds me that night sleepwalking, sobbing. "It's all right," she tells me, "you had a nightmare, come to bed."

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## Flower/Vegetable Show Planned In Yankton

The Yankton Town and Country Garden Club is sponsoring a Flower/Vegetable Show on Saturday, July 28, at the Yankton Community Library.

Guidelines for entering may be picked up at the library, the Chamber of Commerce and the 4-H Office. Submit your entries from 9 a.m.-noon (no charge), with judging from noon-1 p.m. The show is then open for free public viewing in the library's meeting room from 1-4:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Betts Pulkrabek at 463-2206.

## Book Signing Slated For Hurley City Park

HURLEY — Author Darrin Johnson of Sioux Falls will hold a book-signing at the Hurley Days festivities at the Hurly City Park on Saturday, July 28. He will be signing books from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Johnson will be available to sign copies of his book, "Hamster Day."

For more information, contact Chris Coffey at 888-361-9473 or ccoffey@tatepublishing.com.

## Memorial Event Schedule For This Weekend

There will be a Wild Hog Rally Memorial Event for Clint VanderPoel and David Pederson on July 28. There will be a double poker run starting at approximately noon: one will begin at VanderPoel My Bar in Beresford and one from Pederson Ice House in Yankton, both continuing at Mayfield Bar & Grill, arriving at approximately 4:30 p.m.

There will also be a Motorcycle Rodeo Contest, a Catch-a-Slippery Pig contest (2 person teams) and a barbecue. Music by Slack Water Jack will begin at approximately 8 p.m. Camping will be available.

More details can be found at www.facebook.com/MayfieldBar.

## Deadlines Approach For S.D. State Fair Entries

HURON — Deadlines for all South Dakota State Fair open-class entries are right around the corner.

The static entry deadline is Tuesday, July 31. Entries postmarked on that day will be accepted. Remember to include payment and completed W-9 form (include Social Security Number) with entries.

Other upcoming deadlines include open-class livestock, horse, FFA, and agriculture entries, which are due on Tuesday, Aug. 7. Late fees will apply to entries received after the deadline.

The 2012 South Dakota State Fair runs from Thursday, Aug. 30, to Monday, Sept. 3. Channel Seeds Preview Day is Wednesday, Aug. 29.

The State Fair theme this year is "Taste the Fun." For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900 or visit www.sdstatefair.com.

You can also find the State Fair on Facebook and Twitter.

## MVCA Hosting Open House In Yankton

Missouri Valley Christian Academy of Yankton will host an Informational Open House at 4-7 p.m. Tuesday, July 31, for all families interested in a Christian education for their child(ren) for the 2012-13 school year.

This event will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 305 W. 25th St.

MVCA is a non-denominational Christian school offering a Bible-based curriculum for grades K-7. For more information about this event or MVCA visit the school's website at www.mvcamustangs.org or call 665-4470.

# Husband And Wife Battle Over AC

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
 King Features Syndicate

### Dear Tom and Ray:

As I write this, I am still fuming. This past week, the temperature has been in the high 80s to low 90s. I hate the heat and get super grumpy. So, I get into my wife's VW, which, of course, has been baking in the sun all day, and she's waiting for the engine to warm up before she turns on the AC so the AC will be colder! After what felt like a four-mile drive in hell, she finally turned on the AC, but she would only set the fan speed to No. 1, so there was barely any air blowing. I asked if we could put the fan on the highest setting to, you know, get some cold air into this hot box. She said no, and kept it on the lowest possible setting. I wanted to scream! Her reasoning was that since the air is recycled, the AC works better, and the air is therefore colder, if the fan is not turned on full blast. Huh? Is she right? Why on earth are there other fan speed settings, then? I'm thinking so one can actually FEEL the cold air. Has all this heat fried my thinking capabilities? Sincerely hot under the collar -Skip

**TOM:** Oh, boy. She's 100 percent wrong, Skip. But even worse, the way you guys are relating to each other reminds me of some of my earliest marriages.

**RAY:** With one exception: In those marriages, Tom was always the one who was 100 percent wrong.

**TOM:** There's no reason to "warm up" the air conditioner before using it, or to warm up the engine before turning on the AC. The engine is more than capable of powering the air conditioner right away without any adverse effects, and the AC is ready to work within seconds.

**RAY:** And because the air conditioner recirculates the air inside the passenger com-



## CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

partment, it cools that air FASTER if the air is recirculated more times per minute through the evaporator. So, having the fan on the highest setting not only would cool the air faster, but it has the added benefit of creating an evaporative effect on your skin, making you feel cooler, too.

**TOM:** But those are minor issues! The bigger issue is: Why is she making you suffer, Skip? Do you deserve it? You might! We don't know you.

**RAY:** If she doesn't simply hate you, then the other plausible explanation is that she learned the AC thing from her father. It's very tricky to get between your wife and her father. You have to approach any such situation with extreme caution.

**TOM:** So, cool down first so you'll be less grumpy. And rather than telling her she's dead wrong — which she is — tell her you found an interesting article. Just to increase your odds here, say that you found it in Scientific American rather than in, say, Playboy.

**RAY:** Explain that while her approach to using the AC (i.e., the convection oven ap-

proach) used to be the right way to do it, due to recent improvements in technology (like 50 years ago), it's now actually fine to use the AC right away, and that the new recirculate mode actually cools BETTER if the fan setting is higher.

**TOM:** You'll be employing a white lie, but you'll be doing it in the interests of marital diplomacy.

**RAY:** By presenting your findings that way, you'll be respectful to her rather than dismissive of her opinion, you'll leave her a graceful way to change her mind rather than cause her to dig in her heels, and you won't be disparaging her mythical father and making her choose between the two of you.

**TOM:** I know you're not going to do that, Skip. You're going to do the happy dance and prance around the house in your BVDs, singing "Nya nya nya nya nya nya."

**RAY:** Which is fine, Skip. You certainly can do that. But keep in mind, it may result in you having to get your own car to ride around in soon. And maybe your own apartment, too. Good luck, and try to stay cool.

If it ain't broke, you won't have to fix it! Order Tom and Ray's pamphlet "Ten Ways You May Be Ruining Your Car Without Even Knowing It!" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Ruin, 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 e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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# Some Tuition Rates Not What They Seem

BY CAROL BILICZKY  
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KRON, Ohio — When Emma Dontis was deciding where to go to college, the pricey College of Wooster got the nod, in part because she loved the campus — and in part because it offered to slash \$35,000 off the yearly bill of \$50,000.

"It came down to money," Dontis said. "It was the only in-state school I applied to and I decided I wanted to stay close to home. And they gave me quite a bit of money."

Dontis had discovered a little known secret of higher education. While the sticker price for private colleges appears to be much higher than that of their public counterparts, the privates — also called independents — often slash student bills by half or more.

That means many students — almost all, really — do not pay the published list prices of \$30,000 to \$50,000 that are common at many private colleges.

According to an April study by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO), the average first-time, full-time freshman nationwide received \$12,000 in grants in 2009. That significantly offset the average tuition of \$28,600 at private, not-for-profit institutions, which award two-thirds of the institutional aid nationwide.

Sometimes these awards are funded, which means that the institution has donations or endowment proceeds — real money — to pay for them.

But more often, the scholarships (for merit) and grants (for need) are what the colleges consider "unfunded," which means they are simply cuts in the college's published list price. They can be swept away, much like a car dealer reduces the price of a vehicle. Sticker prices \_ in cars and higher education alike — are not always real.

At Oberlin College in Lorain County, Ohio, for example, only 15 to 20 percent of the \$54 million in institutional aid is funded, according to Rob Reddy, director of financial aid.

"What we do (in financial aid) is create a budget, subtract the family contribution and meet 100 percent of the need," he said. Given that Oberlin's list price is \$57,000 a year, one of the highest in Ohio, the need can be considerable.

"We understand that expense is a major concern," Reddy said. "We try to attract students who will thrive. Then we talk about the cost factor."

As college costs have skyrocketed in the last two decades, so has the amount that private colleges are willing to slash off the bill.

According to the NACUBO study, the discount rate for private colleges has grown from about 27 percent in 1990 to 37 percent in 2000 to almost 43 percent last fall.

The practice is so pervasive that almost 86 percent of first-time, full-time freshmen at private colleges nationwide got price breaks, according to the study.

At Walsh University in North Canton, 98 percent of students get some kind of institutional aid — almost all of it unfunded — to meet the yearly cost of \$35,000 for tuition, fees, room and board, said Brett Freshour, vice president for enrollment management.

While \$35,000 is a relatively moderate cost for a private college, it still is out of reach for many of the university's students, he said.

"The mission of our founders, the Brothers of Christian Instruction, was to educate the working classes," Freshour said. Walsh students "are not on the wealthy end of the spectrum. A good percentage of them are really needy."

At the College of Wooster, more than three-quarters of students get some kind of institutional aid, according to Scott Friedhoff, vice president of enrollment and college relations. One in five students comes from a family with an income of less than \$40,000, he said.

"We will put together a financial aid award that will make it feasible for every student we admit," he said.

Those awards often are essential to attracting incoming freshmen, who are the bedrock of many of the college's enrollment strategies.

These incoming students have the potential to be enrolled for four years or longer, bringing in federal funds and loan money along the way even if they contribute little out of pocket.

Colleges also get the chance to shape the incoming class the way

they want it, luring students with attributes in music or sports or other special categories.

The students fill seats that might otherwise go empty and bolster enrollment. The right students can help the college to improve its performance in the all-important national rankings that almost all brag about on their home page.

Mom and dad may be thrilled that Junior can command discounts of \$10,000, \$20,000, \$30,000 or more, and the luckiest families may find themselves picking among several offers.

That's what happened to Emma Dontis, the Firestone High grad who weighed an attractive offer from Wellesley College against that of the College of Wooster.

Dontis recalls that the private women's college in Massachusetts offered her about \$35,000 to offset the \$55,000 yearly bill.

"Our students pay only what they can afford — nothing more," the college says on its website. Last year, the typical Wellesley student received \$38,400 in loans, work-study programs and grants.

Dontis, who is majoring in biology with an eye to becoming a marine biologist, selected Wooster because she wanted a co-ed college and also wanted to be closer to her family in Akron.

Wooster offered an aid package that is typical for a Wooster student "coming from a family with similar financial resources as Dontis," said Friedhoff of the financial aid office.

"Students coming from families with greater resources would receive less grant/scholarship assistance and students coming from families with fewer financial resources would receive more," he said.

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## 50th Anniversary

### Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Steffen

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and MaryJean (Lammers) Steffen, of Crofton, NE, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 28, 2012. The celebration will be begin with 5:30 pm mass at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Crofton, NE. An open house & dance will follow at the St. Rose Parish Center in Crofton. The event will be hosted by the couples children and grandchildren. The couple request no gifts.

The couple were married on Oct. 9, 1962 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Fordyce, NE.

The couple has 5 children: Randy (Nancy) Steffen of Crofton, NE, Charleen Stessman of Topeka, KS, Ronnie (Karyn) Steffen of Crofton, NE, Bob (Julie) Steffen of Crofton, NE, Beth (Dan) Stoutamire of Sioux Falls, SD.

The couple has 16 grandchildren. The family requests a card shower. Cards can be sent to: PO Box 10, Crofton, NE 68730.

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