

Life In Poetry

A Beautiful Poem On The Boundaries Of Pity

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

Dana Gioia, who served as Chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, did a marvelous job of bringing the arts to Americans, arguably the best job that anyone in that position has done. He was a fine poet before he took that job, and he is a fine poet after. Here's an example of his recent work.

PITY THE BEAUTIFUL

Pity the beautiful,
 the dolls, and the dishes,
 the babes with big daddies
 granting their wishes.

Pity the pretty boys,
 the hunks, and Apollos,
 the golden lads whom
 success always follows.

The hotties, the knock-outs,
 the tens out of ten,
 the drop-dead gorgeous,
 the great leading men.

Pity the faded,
 the bloated, the blowsy,
 the paunchy Adonis
 whose luck's gone lousy.

Pity the gods,
 no longer divine.
 Pity the night
 the stars lose their shine.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright © 2011 by Dana Gioia, whose most recent book of poems is Pity the Beautiful, Graywolf Press, 2012. Poem reprinted from Poetry, May 2011, by permission of Dana Gioia and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2012 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts.

May Is Declared Mental Health Awareness Month

An estimated 23 percent of American adults, 18 years or older, suffer from a diagnosable mental disorder each year. These adults are members of our family, our friends, our co-workers, and our neighbors.

Observing Mental Health Awareness Month during May is a good initiative to education families, friends, co-workers, neighbors, and those who have mental disorders about illnesses such as depression, anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. However, it is important that this educational effort not cease at the end of May.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard has declared May as Mental Health Awareness Month in South Dakota.

Stigma and stereotypes associated with mental illnesses can keep those living with such an illness from seeking treatment that could improve their quality of life and help them manage the illness effectively. Currently, two-thirds of the 44 million Americans who have been diagnosed with a mental illness are not receiving treatment for their illness even though treatment success has increased to 60-80 percent in recent years.

Education is essential to encourage individuals to seek treatment, which can be a combination of psychotherapy, medication, and support services. For example, key elements of successful treatment include family, peer, and community support, as well as teaching individuals to manage their symptoms. Treatments also need to be tailored to the individual and his or her illness, as certain medications and therapies tend to work better for different types of illnesses. If you have specific concerns about your mental health, contact your primary care physician who can refer you to a mental health professional.

For many years Mental Health Awareness Month has helped to improve the health and lives of millions of Americans. This year, organizers want even more people to know that caring for their minds as well as their bodies helps keep them productive, healthy and happy in aspects of life: at work, at home, and at school.

This message is brought to you by South Dakota Advocacy Services. Visit www.sdadvocacy.com or call us at 1-800-658-4782.



There Is So Much in Life to Hear

More than twenty-one million infants, children, and adults in America suffer from some degree of hearing loss in one or both ears. Such hearing impairments can go unsuspected until the sounds of daily life become faded or unrecognizable. Rather than accepting an impairment as an inevitable part of aging, or shying away from social interaction to avoid embarrassment, seek proper treatment from our audiologists. There is so much in life to hear.



Todd A. Farnham,
 Au.D., CCC-A



Beth J. Beeman,
 Au.D., CCC-A



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It's Time To Let This Car Go

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:

My boyfriend drives a 2000 Ford Taurus station wagon with 112,000 miles. He's an MD and specializes in palliative care medicine, which is to say he helps patients, families and other doctors navigate the scary time around the end of life. Almost all of the patients have a definitive diagnosis. Critical to his practice is having a reasonably firm prognosis from the treating physician. That is to say, in order to make decisions, the family and patient need to know, "How long, doc?" Paul's station wagon is worth less than \$2,000, the transmission is shot and it would cost more to repair than the car is worth. What happens is a slipping, shimmying grinding between first and second gears. For the most part, we dance around it by letting off on the accelerator at about the time the car shifts. We've been driving the car this way for years. But lately we've been going out of town on road trips three to five hours long. We feel like we have an acceptable diagnosis: The transmission is broken and needs to be fixed (and it costs more than the value of the car!). What we want is a prognosis. More importantly, what are the car's final moments going to look like? Will she go fast, lurching to a stop God knows where? Or will she begin to show some sign that the end is near, such that we have time to get to safety? I know you're thinking he's a doctor and should just go buy a different car, but when I started dating him five years ago, he only owned a bicycle, and I had to coerce him into getting a car. We've looked for a used car, but he was too picky (i.e., cheap!). He has been gracious



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

enough to upgrade our AAA membership (and at the same time, he added bicycle coverage). — **Code Blue**

RAY: This is a classic case of the cobbler's family wearing shoes with holes in them. Paul is able to provide a wonderful, necessary service to others, but he can't do it for himself. This car needs palliative care!

TOM: Actually, it needs euthanasia, but tell him you'll settle for a little forethought and a "do not resuscitate" order.

RAY: The whole purpose of palliative care is to help people face an unfortunate reality in a kind and caring way. That gives people a chance to make good planning decisions together, gives them time to say goodbye and, overall, helps them handle a terrible situation in the best possible way.

TOM: That's exactly what your boyfriend needs, vis-a-vis his dying heap of a Taurus. He probably knows from his work that the first thing a dying patient and his family have to do is face the reality that the end is near. Your

boyfriend is doing just the opposite: He's whistling past the junkyard.

RAY: Once the sad reality is accepted, then you can decide how you can best handle the coming transition, for everyone involved. You have time to make plans — like, in this case, shopping for an adequate replacement car before you're stranded five hours away from home on a 95-degree day.

TOM: And the prognosis is lousy. This car is like a guy who's had eight heart attacks and is still eating three cheese-steaks a day: It could expire at any moment. And when it goes, it'll be without warning, and most likely the engine will just rev up but the car won't move. That may not sound terribly dangerous — unless you happen to be making a left turn across traffic or crossing a railroad track.

RAY: So my advice to you, Code Blue, is to sit him down, put your hands on both of his shoulders, look straight into his eyes and say, "Hon, we have to discuss a very difficult subject."

TOM: And if that doesn't work, YOU buy a car, and charge him the IRS-approved 55.5 cents a mile to ride with you.

What is the most cost-effective way to buy a car? Tom and Ray hash it all out 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 e-mail them by visiting the Car Talk Web site at www.cartalk.com.

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SCHOLASTICS

EMILY FEDDERS

MADISON — Emily Fedders, a senior at Yankton High School from Yankton, was recently awarded the DSU Merit Champion Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to high achieving students based on ACT scores and high school GPA.

Along with excelling in academics, Emily has been involved in basketball, volleyball, National Honor Society, student council, Pioneer Club and Yankton High Club. She has also been named Kiwanis Science Student of the Month, academic all-state in volleyball and basketball, all ESD Conference volleyball and basketball team, athlete of the year for basketball and South Dakota Class AA All-State Basketball Team 2011. She is the daughter of Dan and Pam Fedders. Emily will be attending Dakota State University in the fall to pursue a degree in respiratory care.



Fedders

Outstanding Sophomore Accounting Award

• Ponca — Chris Dohma: Outstanding Freshman-Information Technology-PC Support & Networking Award

• Verdigris — Spencer Frederick: Outstanding Sophomore Utility Line Award

• Tabor — Scott Deboer: Outstanding Freshman Graphic Design Award

• Vermillion — Joe Bob Geis: Outstanding Freshman Theatre Award

These are students, listed by hometown first, were also announced as scholarship recipients during the program.

• Creighton — Deanna Witt: President's Early-Entry Half-Tuition Waiver

• Fordyce — Travis Arens: Wayne State College Presidential Transfer Scholarship

• Laurel — Bryan Pippitt: President's Early-Entry Half-Tuition Waiver

• Wynot — Cassie Schmidt: President's Early-Entry Half-Tuition Waiver

A dessert reception was held before the awards program. Northeast faculty and staff served the honorees and their guests.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NORFOLK, Neb. — As another academic year comes to a close, the administration, staff, and faculty at Northeast Community College again hosted a Student Achievement Awards Program to honor students who have excelled in their program of study and college activities.

Several scholarship recipients were also announced at the program.

The honored area students are listed by hometown with the awards they were given.

• Laurel — Hillary Kuhlman:

JENNA STEFFEN

Jenna Steffen will receive her

Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center at the Spring Commencement Exercises Saturday, May 5 in Omaha.

She will continue training as a resident physician in the Department of Obstet-



Steffen

rics and Gynecology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

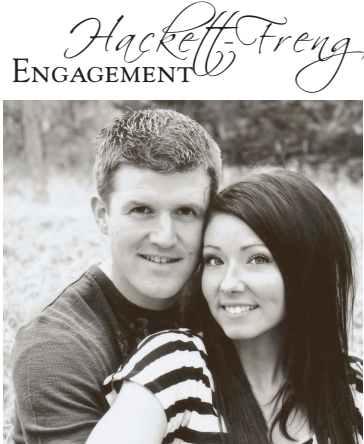
Jenna is a graduate of Crofton High School and Creighton University of Omaha. She is the daughter of Jeff and Jolene Steffen; granddaughter of Lucille Arens and her late grandparents: Gerald Arens and Walter and Betty Steffen all of Crofton.

An open house, in her honor, is planned at her parents home, 55472 888th Road, Crofton on Sunday, May 6, from 4-8 p.m.

Courtney is the daughter of Halona Hall, of Pierre, SD and Michael Hackett, Eagle Butte, SD. She is a 2002 graduate of Stanley County High School and attended college at BHSU and Sillan University. Courtney is currently employed at Great Plains Life Assurance as an Office Assistant.

Alan is the son of Mark & Sue Freng of Yankton, SD and Deborah & Bill Blount of Prescott, AZ. He is a 1998 graduate of Yankton High School and a 2003 graduate of Minnesota State University-Mankato. Alan is employed by the South Dakota Retirement System as a Retirement Financial Planner.

The couple is planning a June 15th, 2012 wedding.



With Fondest Memories

We remember those who have passed away and are especially dear to us.

On Saturday, May 26th we will publish in print and online at Yankton.net a Memorial Day section devoted to those who are gone but not forgotten.

Aneta Burrows

Dec. 30, 1960-Nov. 8, 2002

Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.

Dan, Ann & Sarah

Select one of the verses below to accompany your tribute.

- We hold you in our thoughts and memories forever.
- May God cradle you in his arms, now and forever.
- Forever missed, never forgotten. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
- Thank you for the wonderful days we shared together. My prayers will be with you until we meet again.
- The days we shared were sweet. I long to see you again in Gods heavenly glory.
- Your courage and bravery still inspire us all, and the memory of your smile fills us with joy and laughter.
- Though out of sight, you'll forever be in my heart and mind.
- May the light of peace shine on your face for eternity.
- May God's angels guide you and protect you throughout time.
- You were a light in our life that burns forever in our hearts.
- May God's graces shine over you for all time.
- You are in our thoughts and prayers from morning to night and from year to year.
- We send this message with a loving kiss for eternal rest and happiness.
- May the Lord bless you with His graces and warm, loving heart.
- I have written my own message and it is included.

To remember your loved one in this special way, send \$10.00 per listing.

Fill out the form below and mail to:

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan/With Fondest Memories

319 Walnut Street, Yankton, SD 57078

Deadline: Tuesday, May 22, 2012

"With Fondest Memories" • Deadline: May 22 • Submission Fee \$10

Name of deceased _____

Date of birth _____ Date of passing _____

Number of selected verse _____ OR Personal message _____

Print your name here _____ Phone _____

Number _____