

Life In Poetry

# Here's A Poetic Look At Life's Many Barriers

BY TED KOOSER

U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

The following poem by Kathryn Stripling Byer is the second in a series of related poems called "Southern Fictions." Despite all the protective barriers we put up between us and the world, there's always a man with a wink that can rip right through. Byer has served as North Carolina's Poet Laureate.

I STILL CAN'T GET IT RIGHT

I don't know. I still can't get it right,  
the way those dirt roads cut across the flats  
and led to shacks where hounds and muddy shoats  
skulked roundabouts. Describing it sounds trite  
as hell, the good old South I love to hate.  
The truth? What's that? How should I know?  
I stayed inside too much. I learned to boast  
of stupid things. I kept my ears shut tight,  
as we kept doors locked, windows locked,  
the curtains drawn. Now I know why.  
The dark could hide things from us. Dark could see  
what we could not. Sometimes those dirt roads shocked  
me, where they ended up: I watched a dog die  
in the ditch. The man who shot him winked at me.

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 ©2001 by Kathryn Stripling Byer from her most recent book of poems, Southern Fictions, Jacar Press, 2011. Descent, her new collection, is forthcoming from LSU Press. Reprinted by permission of Kathryn Stripling Byer 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. American Life in Poetry ©2006 The Poetry Foundation Contact: alp@poetry-foundation.org This column does not accept unsolicited poetry.

SCHOLASTICS

BRIAR CLIFF UNIVERSITY

SIoux CITY, Iowa — At Briar Cliff University's 81st commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 19, 2012, President Beverly A. Wharton conferred degrees to 230 candidates.

Area graduates included the following:

BACHELOR OF ARTS NEBRASKA:

- Hartington — Allen Heine;
- SOUTH DAKOTA: Dakota Dunes — Caitlin Steinkamp;

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE NEBRASKA:

- Wynot — Sarah Wieseler, summa cum laude.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING NEBRASKA:

- Creighton — Courtney Becker, magna cum laude;
- SOUTH DAKOTA: Dante — Megan Cimpr

BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK SOUTH DAKOTA:

- McCook Lake — Amber Martin.

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING NEBRASKA:

- Laurel — Amy Nicolas.
- SOUTH DAKOTA: Beresford — Rhonda Christensen;
- Jefferson — Tavane Harrison;
- Yankton — Meredith Hunhoff; Jennifer McGinnis.

BAILEY KUCHTA

WAYNE, Neb. — Bailey Kuchta of Wynot has been accepted for the nursing option of the Rural Health Opportunities Program (RHOP) at Wayne State College.

She is the daughter of Brian and Gina Kuchta.

"The need for rural health professionals continues to grow," said Dr. David Peitz of Wayne State College. "These students have proven themselves to be gifted and dedicated to their profession. They have displayed the potential to develop into strong community leaders."

RHOP is a cooperative effort between Wayne State and the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and encourages students from rural areas of Nebraska to return to rural settings after graduation to pursue their career. Individuals selected obtain guaranteed admission to UNMC Colleges upon successful completion of studies at WSC and receive a full-tuition waiver at WSC.

Students from communities of populations less than 10,000 are granted special consideration for admission to the RHOP program. Areas of study under the program include medicine; pharmacy; dentistry; dental hygiene and medical technology.

A shortage of rural health practitioners in Nebraska prompted higher education institutions to implement the RHOP program in 1989. Selection of candidates is based on an applicant's residency in a rural Nebraska community, academic potential and commitment to practice in rural Nebraska.

Information about the RHOP program can be found at: <http://www.wsc.edu/schools/nss/rhop/> or please call 402-375-7329 or 800-228-9972 or email [PREPROF@WSC.EDU](mailto:PREPROF@WSC.EDU).

# Blame Game? Time To Move On

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI  
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:  
We recently purchased a 2003 Honda Civic with 80,000 miles. The previous owner was very fastidious about maintenance, and had replaced several major items within the past six months, including the timing belt, for which he provided us receipts. My husband was driving the car recently and accelerated to pass another vehicle, when the Civic suddenly lost power and some of the dashboard lights came on. Fortunately, he was close by, and was able to limp home at a slow speed. We had the car towed to the repair shop that we have used previously, and they diagnosed the problem as a burned-out alternator and PCM. The mechanic told us that the problem was caused because when the timing belt was replaced, the alternator was left loose and not grounded. He said that when there was a power surge during acceleration, both the alternator and the PCM burned out. The repair bill was \$1,200. We contacted the shop where the timing-belt repair was done, and the owner denies that his work would have caused this damage. He said our repair shop sold us unnecessary parts, and said the alternator is not touched when a timing belt is installed. He also pointed to the five-month span between the time the work was done by his shop and the alternator problem, and suggested that any problems with the repair would have shown up sooner. We don't know what to believe. What do you think? — Kathi

TOM: Well, first of all, you have our condolences, Kathi. The PCM is the powertrain con-



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

rol module, also known as "the computer." That's why this repair was so expensive.

RAY: Is the story possible? Can an ungrounded alternator cause this damage? I'm sure it can. I've never wanted to find out, so I've always made sure my customers' alternators are grounded when they leave the shop. But inadequate grounding can potentially cause a host of electrical problems.

TOM: But can you attribute it directly to the guy who changed the timing belt five months ago? That's almost impossible, at this point.

RAY: He had to loosen the alternator to remove the car's other belts in order to get at the timing belt. So it's possible he neglected to tighten the pinch bolt that grounds the alternator to the bracket through its housing.

TOM: But then why did it take five months

to fail? I suppose it could have loosened up more and more over time until it was not grounded at all, but on a 10-year-old car, one of those could just as easily have failed on its own for another reason.

RAY: Or it's possible that the guys at your shop were the ones who were mistaken, or dishonest.

TOM: I sympathize with you guys. You just got what is supposed to be a reliable car, and you immediately had an expensive and unexpected repair. But that sometimes happens with cars, even when it's nobody's fault.

RAY: So my advice would be to forget about it and move on with your lives. I don't think you'll ever know for certain whether this was somebody's fault unless you engage CSI: Midas Muffler. So assume there was no evil deed done here — the car just broke down — and don't lose any more sleep over it.

Bumps and potholes do more than merely annoy drivers. Find out what, and how you can ease the pain, by ordering 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 Clack 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](http://www.cartalk.com).

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## BAMAAR STUDENTS OF THE YEAR



Two Yankton High School seniors, Tytus Ivanich, left, and Sarah Ekeren, right, were named BAMAAR Students of the Year at a recent recognition ceremony held at RTEC. Ivanich is the son of Brian and Ann Ivanich of Yankton and Ekeren is the daughter of Dave and Kristi Ekeren of Yankton. Pictured with them is Josh Svatos, general manager of RTEC. The award, presented by Yankton High School in conjunction with RTEC, recognizes outstanding students enrolled in Career and Technical Education courses at YHS.

COURTESY PHOTO

## AAA Offering Topsy Tow Over Memorial Day

SIoux FALLS — AAA South Dakota is offering Topsy Tow over the extended Memorial Day holiday period. The service is free and open to the public.

A tow for your car and a ride home for you are available from AAA South Dakota if you think you've had too much to drink at a Memorial Day party and feel unsafe behind the wheel.

AAA South Dakota's Topsy Tow community service program runs from 6 p.m. on Friday, May 25, until 2 a.m. on Tuesday, May 29, in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Mitchell and Yankton.

"In some situations, even one drink can be enough to impair your driving abilities," said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. "And the more you have to drink, the greater the chances for tragedy behind the wheel. We hope Topsy Tow gets a lot of calls over the holiday. This way, everyone, including the vehicle, gets home safely."

To call for Topsy Tow, dial (800) AAA-HELP and ask for Topsy Tow. AAA will provide a free tow and a free ride for the vehicle and up to two people, no questions asked, within a 15-mile radius from point of pickup.

However, Topsy Tow will take you to only one place, and that's home.

The service is offered at no charge to AAA members and non-members alike.

## Dancer Workshop Set For Yankton Studio

Guest dance instructors Timera Cunningham and Rob Massey will be hosting a workshop for dancers ages 7-adult on May 30-31 at Judi's Dance Studio, Yankton.

Students will receive professional instruction in ballet, jazz, lyrical and musical theater. There will even be an adult boot camp.

Ms. Cunningham began her dance training at Beverly Rogers' Academy of Dance in Kentucky. She went on to further her dance education at Oklahoma City University where she received her

BFA in Dance Performance. She began working for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines after graduation where she completed 8 contracts and toured more than 50 countries. She has also worked for Six Flags and has been a part of the American Spirit Touring Company.

Mr. Massey was born in Sheffield, England, and at age 16 was given a full scholarship to attend the Northern Ballet School in Manchester, England. He received his NBS diploma after completing a 3-year classical

dance course. He performed with the Manchester City Ballet and Jazzglore Dance Company before accepting a job with Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines.

To register or for more information, call (605) 665-9439, or email [judisdance@gmail.com](mailto:judisdance@gmail.com).

## Memorial Day Deadlines

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan will be closed Monday, May 28th, for the Memorial Day holiday.

The following deadlines will apply:

- Out On The Town — Wednesday, May 23
- Tuesday, May 29 newspaper — 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 23
- Wednesday, May 30 newspaper — 5 p.m., Thursday, May 24
- Thursday, May 31 newspaper — 5 p.m., Friday, May 25

There will be no newspaper on Monday, May 28, 2012.

## YANKTON DAILY PRESS&DAKOTAN

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## Memorial Day



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ANNIVERSARY 30th

Duane & Julie Potts of Yankton will be celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary today, May 22, 2012. Duane Potts and Julie Wilcox were married May 22, 1982 at the MMC Chapel in Yankton.



Their children are John, Matt, Ben, and Michelle Potts.