

American Life In Poetry

Hanging On To That Bond

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

Parents and children. Sometimes it seems that's all there is to life. In this poem Donna Spector, from New York state, gives us a ride that many of us may have taken, hanging on for dear life.

ON THE WAY TO THE AIRPORT

You're speeding me down the Ventura freeway in your battered Scout, patched since your angry crash into the drunken pole that swerved into your road. We've got no seat belts, no top, bald tires, so I clutch any metal that seems as though it might be firm, belie its rusted rattling. Under my August burn I'm fainting white, but I'm trying to give you what you want: an easy mother. For the last two days you've been plugged into your guitar, earphones on, door closed. I spoiled our holiday with warnings about your accidental life, said this time I wouldn't rescue you, knowing you'd hate me, knowing I'd make myself sick. We're speaking now, the airport is so near, New York closer than my birthday tomorrow, close as bearded death whose Porsche just cut us off in the fast lane. When you were three, you asked if God lived under the street. I said I didn't know, although a world opened under my feet walking with you over strange angels, busy arranging our fate. Soon, if we make it, I'll be in the air, where people say God lives, the line between you and me stretched thinner, thinner but tight enough still to bind us, choke us both with love. Your Scout, putty-colored as L.A. mornings, protests loudly but hangs on.

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Red-Hot Catalytic Converter Might Be Due To Valve Trouble

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:
I have a 1998 Honda CR-V with about 189,000 miles on it. A month or two ago, the Check Engine light came on, and a scan said I had two bad oxygen sensors. I had them changed. Then, a few weeks ago, the car started stalling while driving. The Check Engine light came on again, and this time the scan said "Catalyst Efficiency Below Threshold." No problem. I had the catalytic converter changed. The car still stalled. I changed the ignition coil, distributor cap/rotor, spark plugs and wires, and cleaned out the idle air control valve. When I pulled out the spark plugs, they looked normal. The car still stalled. It seemed like it was the worst going up a hill around 60 mph, and it seemed like it got worse if the air conditioner was on. I took it to the dealership, and they tried telling me that the catalytic converter that was put on was too small. So I carried it back to the muffler shop. They told me there's no way it's the wrong size, but they have great customer service, so they'd do it anyway. Before he pulled the "old" one off, he said he drove the car and noticed that the converter was getting cherry-red hot. When he pulled out the old catalytic converter (it had been on only around 10 days), he said it had been melted! Something is running so hot that it's melting the catalytic converter in less than two weeks! I know it's losing some oil, but other than that and the stalling, the car runs great. It starts up every time, and it runs smoothly. I don't really think that gas mileage has been affected either. When the car stalls, we have to wait anywhere from five to 30 minutes before it will start again. Sometimes, it



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

won't go 25 miles without stalling, but this past weekend, it went 75 miles before it stalled. I'm out of ideas; I need help! Thanks in advance, you guys! — Amhad

RAY: Gee, I can see you're going to be a hard guy to get rid of, Amhad. You've already tried everything. What did you leave for us to suggest? Acupuncture?

TOM: My first thought when reading your letter was that you had a plugged fuel filter. But then you threw in the red-hot converter thing, so that's not a fuel-filter problem.

RAY: If your converter is turning cherry red, that's because there's unburned fuel getting into the exhaust system and being combusted inside the converter. The question is: Why?

TOM: My guess would be that it's a valve problem. These older CR-V's tend to suffer from valve seat recession. So you need to talk to Janet Yellen about this, Amhad.

RAY: If the exhaust valves aren't adjusted regularly on this car (we recommend checking them every 30,000 miles on these older CR-V's), they can get too tight and burn out, or damage the valve seats. The valve seats are where the valves are supposed to nest when

they're closed and make a seal. If the valves aren't making a tight seal, for whatever reason, unburned fuel can escape out of the cylinders and be sent down the exhaust pipe.

TOM: That also could explain the stalling, because bad valves give you bad compression. If too much fuel and air is escaping the cylinders rather than combusting inside them, the engine won't run.

RAY: When the engine gets hot, parts expand. The valves probably are expanding in the heat, to the point where they no longer seat well. That's why the car stalls. When you let them cool off for 25 minutes or whatever, compression returns and you're able to run the car again.

TOM: So you can start by asking for a valve adjustment. But if the valves or seats are already damaged, or a valve is already burned out, no amount of adjustment will help, and you'll be in for a valve job, Amhad.

RAY: Unfortunately, that's going to cost you over \$1,000. But look on the bright side: At least the guys in the muffler shop won't all lock themselves in the men's room every time they see you coming.

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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USD Announces 2014-15 Scholarship Recipients

VERMILLION — The University of South Dakota announced today recipients of its prestigious scholarships, Coyote Commitment awards and other scholarships awarded during Scholarship Recognition Day weekend, Feb. 22-23.

USD's most prestigious scholarships available to incoming freshmen are the George S. Mickelson Scholarship and the USD Presidential-Alumni Scholarship. Both of these prestigious awards provide recipients with four-year, renewable scholarships provided the students meet the appropriate criteria. Other significant awards include the Ulliyot Lakota Scholarship, awarded to Native American students who are members of recognized tribes; the School of Law Honor Scholar Program; the Sanford School of Medicine Alumni Student Scholars Program; the Dorothy C. Schieffer Political Science Scholarship; the Beacom School of Business Scholarship; the Walter A. and Lucy Yoshioka Buhler Scholarship; and the Al Neuharth Excellence in Journalism Scholarships.

NEBRASKA

• Concord — Jacob Newton, Wakefield High School, Coyote Commitment Prom-

ise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Laurel — Kelsey Kardell, Laurel-Concord High School, Coyote Commitment Distinction Scholarship for \$7,000 (\$1,750/year); Bobbi Lanser, Laurel-Concord High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year);

• Ponca — Charles Carlson, Ponca Public School, Coyote Commitment Grant Scholarship for \$2,000 (\$500/year).

SOUTH DAKOTA

• Beresford — Kory Diefendorf, Beresford High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Caleb Johnke, Beresford High School, Coyote Commitment Veritas Scholarship for \$14,000 (\$3,500/year); Allison Mohr, Beresford High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Dakota Dunes — Ellie Bohan, Dakota Valley High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Brenan Green-Sherman, Heelan High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Jacob Long, Dakota Valley High School, Coyote Commitment Distinction Scholarship for

\$7,000 (\$1,750/year), USD Valedictorian Scholarship for \$500;

• Dolton — Meghan Hofer, Freeman Academy, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Elk Point — Elysia Buehner, Elk Point-Jefferson High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Katherine Mickelson, Elk Point-Jefferson High School, Coyote Commitment Distinction Scholarship for \$7,000 (\$1,750/year);

• Hurley — Ivy Sherard, Viborg-Hurley High School, Coyote Commitment Distinction Scholarship for \$7,000 (\$1,750/year);

• Irene — Sydney Nielsen, Irene-Wakonda High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Jefferson — Lynette Moreland, Elk Point-Jefferson High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Menno — Tyrell Bertsch, Menno High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Matthew Presler, Menno High School, Coyote Commitment Leadership

Scholarship for \$8,000 (\$2,000/year), Youth Business Adventure for \$500, USD Valedictorian Scholarship for \$500;

• Parkston — Megan Dundas, Parkston High School, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year);

• Parker — Tristan Tupy, Parker High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Youth Business Adventure for \$500;

• Platte — Claire Raders, Platte-Geddes High School, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year);

• Vermillion — Nathan Svendsen, Vermillion High School, Coyote Commitment Leadership Scholarship for \$8,000 (\$2,000/year);

• Wakonda — Daniel Brue, Irene-Wakonda High School, Coyote Commitment Grant Scholarship for \$2,000 (\$500/year); Preston Kenley, Irene-Wakonda High School, Coyote Commitment Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Kenan Tiaht, Vermillion High School, Coyote Commitment Veritas Scholarship for \$14,000 (\$3,500/year), Rawlins Scholarship for \$10,000 (\$2,500/year);

• Yankton — Brittany

Ament, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Brice Cowman, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Veritas Scholarship for \$14,000 (\$3,500/year); Brett Ewald, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year); Tyler Highland, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Grant Scholarship for \$2,000 (\$500/year); Matthew Hilson, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Tucker Kennedy, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Mitchell Mueller, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Promise Scholarship for \$4,000 (\$1,000/year); Kalyne Peterka, Yankton Senior High, Coyote Commitment Achievement Scholarship for \$6,000 (\$1,500/year).

Church 125th Celebration Planned

MENNO — Grace Lutheran Church in Menno will be celebrating its 125th anniversary as a congregation and 100th anniversary as Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday June 8. The public is invited for the celebrations.

A special morning worship service will be held starting at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Mark C. Chavez, the general secretary of the North American Lutheran Church, delivering the morning message. A catered meal and fellowship will follow at the Menno City Auditorium. An afternoon worship service also be held at the Auditorium.

With questions or to RSVP, contact Kari Schoenfish at (605) 660-7227 by May 16.

REUNIONS

KNODEL-ZEEB REUNION

The Knodel-Zeeb Reunion will be held June 1 at

Riverside Park, Yankton. A pot luck dinner will begin at noon. Contact 605-530-4481.

Thank You

People of Yankton, do not be surprised if one day you see a little gray haired lady walking along and occasionally skipping with a huge smile on her face. That will be **Toots Marchand**. The reason for that is all my special relatives, thoughtful friends and a helpful neighbor.

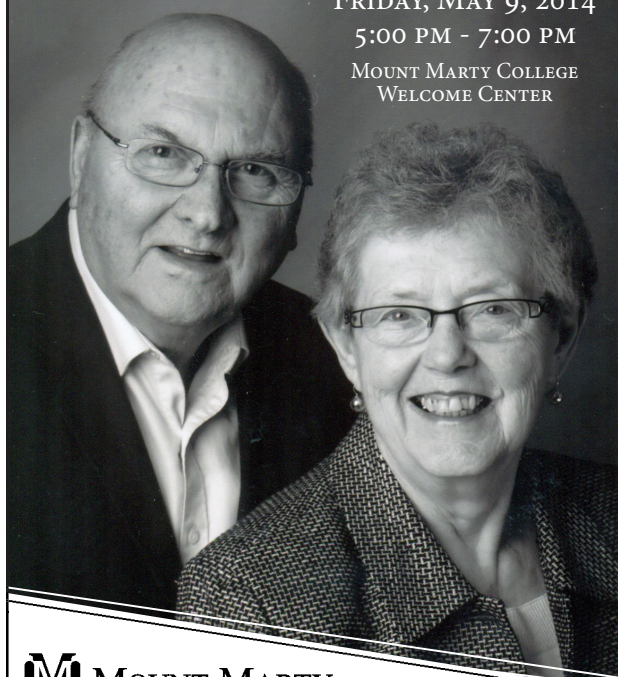
Thanks for all the flowers, cards, goodies and visits during my stay in the hospital and nursing home, and for remembering me on my birthday. Thank you a bunch.

~Toots

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