

American Life In Poetry

Food For Thought

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

When we're feeling sorry for ourselves it can help to make a list of things for which we're grateful. Here is a fine poem of gratitude by Barbara Crooker, who lives in Pennsylvania, and its images make up just such a list. This is from her book *Small Rain* from Purple Flag Press.

SUSTENANCE

The sky hangs up its starry pictures: a swan, a crab, a horse. And even though you're three hundred miles away, I know you see them, too. Right now, my side of the bed is empty, a clear blue lake of flannel. The distance yawns and stretches. It's hard to remember we swim in an ocean of great love, so easy to fall into bickering like little birds at the feeder fighting over proso and millet, unaware of how large the bag of grain is, a river of golden seeds, that the harvest was plentiful, the corn is in the barn, and whenever we're hungry, a dipperful of just what we need will be spilled . . .

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SCHOLASTICS

BRIANNA KELLY

LA MIRADA, Calif. — In October, Brianna Kelly was named to Biola University's Dean's List for academic excellence.

Kelly, from Yankton, was one of 1,566 students who were named to the Dean's List for Spring 2015.

Biola students are placed on the Dean's list to honor those with a grade point average of 3.6 or higher while enrolled in twelve of more credit units and whose cumulative grade point average is at least a 3.2. This past spring, 38 percent of Biola students achieved this academic goal.

"Inclusion on the Biola Dean's List is an indication that this student is performing exceptionally well in a rigorous academic program," said Patricia Pike, Vice Provost for undergraduate education. "Our Dean's List students are bright, motivated, engaged, competent and personable. They are already demonstrating the characteristics of success that results from applied intelligence and that will support future endeavors in society, community, career, and family life."

Biola's grade point average requirement for the Dean's list is one of the high-

est among Southern California Christian Universities.

Biola University is a leading Christ-centered university in Southern California that offers a premier, nationally ranked education and has been named one of the nation's "up and coming" universities by U.S. News & World Report four times in the past five years.

MACKENZIE BRAAK

SEARCY, Ark. — MacKenzie Braak of Chancellor has been selected for the 2015-16 Belle Canto women's choir at Harding University. Following auditions at the beginning of the fall semester, female student vocalists were chosen for the almost 60-member ensemble.

Braak performs a selection of sacred and secular pieces. The group consists of a variety of majors and talented singers in all disciplines.

Harding is the largest private university in Arkansas and has been ranked by U.S. News & World Report for 22 consecutive years as a top 25 school in the South. Harding also maintains study abroad programs in Australia, Chile, England, France, Greece, Italy and Zambia. For more information visit www.harding.edu.

SCHOLARSHIPS

ELKS SCHOLARSHIPS

Yankton area high school seniors who plan to further their education after graduation should be aware that Elks National Foundation scholarship applications are now available at <http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars>.

Each year \$3.74 million in college and vocational education scholarships are awarded through three scholarship programs made available through the Elks National Foundation. Only the federal government provides more money for college and vocational educational scholarships than does the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

These three options available on the website:

- * Most Valuable Student – for any high school seniors who are U. S. citizens;
- * Legacy Awards – for children and grandchildren of Elks members; and
- * Emergency Educational Grants – for children of deceased or totally disabled Elks.

The Most Valuable Student Scholarship application will be found on the internet at www.elks.org. The application must be printed out and submitted to the Elks Lodge nearest to the applicant's home by Dec. 4, 2015.

Each year Yankton Elks Lodge awards six scholar-

ships, three male and three female, from among local applications submitted to the local lodge from throughout the Yankton area. These winners each receive \$300. Their applications are then submitted to the South Dakota Elks Association scholarship committee for further review for possible state and national scholarship awards.

Last year a student from Verdigré, Nebraska, was selected a local winner and subsequently earned a \$4,000 scholarship from the Elks National Foundation as a result of the state judging process.

Funds for the scholarships, \$3.7 million, are provided through the Elks National Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Members of the Elks donate to the foundation which never spends the donations but rather invests all donated funds and only the interest earned on the endowment is used to fund activities including scholarships, Hoop Shoot contests for boys and girls 8-13 years of age (as many as 1.3 million participants in 2013) and Veterans Service projects among others.

To learn more about the scholarship opportunities or the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, contact Steven Pietila, 605-760-4916.

The family of Barry Mettler would like to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who called, visited, sent cards, food, memorials, flowers and for all the hugs we received during our time of loss. Your love and thoughtfulness meant so much to us. God Bless you all!

Brenda Mettler,
 Jamie & Abraham,
 Zachary & Mikayla Libby,
 Jarod Mettler,
 Jeremy & Xavier Mettler,
 Andy Kanengieter and
 Aaron Kanengieter



Car Talk

In Battle Of High-Mileage Subaru Versus Lower-Mileage Jeep, Which One Wins?

BY RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Car Talk:
 I love, love, love your show and column. I just inherited a 2006 Jeep Commander with 60,000 miles on it. It's in almost mint condition. But I have been driving a 2003 Subaru Forester since buying it new in 2002. It has 150,000 miles. It's had expensive repairs in the past couple of years, but it seems OK now. Would you sell the Subaru and keep the Jeep, or keep the Subaru and sell the Jeep? Someone told me that after 1995, Jeep finally got its act together and made good cars. Is that true? The gas mileage on the Jeep is pretty disgusting, but I don't drive more than 5,000 miles per year. I would so appreciate your advice. Thanks.

—Cherie
 Keep the Jeep, Cherie. Jeeps are better than they were, even though they're still not great in terms of reliability. However, that Subaru with 150,000 miles is almost certain to become unreliable in the near future; 150,000 is a lot of miles. And the fact that it "seems OK now" means it's the perfect time to sell it!

At 150,000 or perhaps a bit earlier, most Subarus have engine seals that are leaking oil, leaking head gaskets, a



Ray MAGLIOZZI

water pump that needs replacing, and certainly a timing belt that has to be changed. If you haven't done all of that stuff yet, you're looking at \$2,500 in the near future. Plus, at that age, lots of stuff can go wrong, unpredictably. Your transmission may develop issues. Your suspension, exhaust and brake components will be rusting out or failing. And this is the age at which a car tries to send its owner little SOS messages. Like when the rearview mirror falls off, or the glove box stops closing.

While the Jeep is not the most reliable car built, it has only 60,000 miles on it. So it's far more likely to last you many years.

And you're right that the Jeep's mileage is awful. But since you're driving only 5,000 miles a year, it's less of an issue, and an expense, than if you drove 20,000 miles a year.

If you want another opinion (and after writing to Car Talk, I don't blame you), take both cars to a mechanic you trust, and ask him to check them

out as if they were used cars that you were thinking of purchasing. He'll check everything and give you a full report on what he finds. Then you can use that information to make an informed decision.

I can tell you're emotionally attached to your old Subaru. But based on mileage alone, I'm guessing judges would pick the Jeep in a unanimous decision.

But whatever you decide, put aside the proceeds from the sale of one car to pay for future repairs on the other. Then you'll be covered no matter what you do.

Which is cheaper, buying or leasing? Should you keep a car forever or dump it after three years, before trouble starts? Find out in Click and Clack's pamphlet "Should I Buy, Lease, or Steal My Next Car?" Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Car Talk/Next Car, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

Got a question about cars? Write to Car Talk in care of this newspaper, or email by visiting the Car Talk website at www.cartalk.com.

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USD's PA Program Prepares Veterans For Civilian Service

VERMILLION — Training programs for physician assistants who provide indispensable health care to many rural areas trace their roots to Vietnam veterans looking for a meaningful career when their military service ended.

"If it weren't for veterans, there wouldn't be a PA profession," said Wade Nilson, chair of the physician assistant program at the University of South Dakota, which began in 1993.

The first class of PAs was assembled at Duke University in 1965 and consisted of four veteran Navy hospital corpsmen who already had received considerable medical training during their military service. The first PA curriculum was based on fast-track training of doctors during World War II.

Modern physician assistants attend many of the same classes as medical students but spend less time on their formal education



Sherlock

because they are not required to undertake a residency. PAs now provide important health care services in all areas of every state, and opportunity forecasts for the profession are among the brightest in the employment sector.

Of the 390 PAs who have graduated from USD's program, 175 are working in South Dakota. The program currently accepts 25 new students each year, and 20 of them must be South Dakota residents. A critical mission of the USD program is to provide rural areas with skilled health care providers.

Three military veterans are currently enrolled in USD's PA program, including Alex Sherlock, a former member of an elite naval group known as the SWCC

(Special Warfare Craft Crewman) that supports SEAL units. During numerous secret assignments in eastern Asia, Sherlock piloted a special vessel that delivered and retrieved SEALs on various missions and also operated large weaponry on the craft.

"We did special operations that often involved direct actions, including capturing high-value targets," said Sherlock, a chief petty officer. "It was exciting stuff."

Another type of operation involved medical missions to help people in remote areas of the Philippines.

"We transported medical supplies and doctors to rural villagers who desperately needed help," said Sherlock, who also provided security for the visiting physicians. "Those were among the most gratifying experiences for me while I was deployed, and those missions also got me thinking about medical service as a career."

Sherlock earned his

undergraduate degree from USD in criminal justice before joining the Navy. He served in active duty for seven years and has been in the reserves since 2010. He started in the physician assistant program in 2014 and after a one-year clinical experience will graduate in 2016.

Sherlock, who is married with two small children, plans to work in a small-town hospital emergency room and also serve as a PA in the Navy Reserve.

"USD's program is terrific, but my military service was also invaluable. It showed me how to handle adversity and get things done," he said. "During duty in the Navy I learned how to be resourceful and resilient. My military experiences taught me how to be patient during tough situations. These attributes will serve me well in my work providing health care."

Participants Sought For Clinical Pastoral Education Class

Avera Health Services is conducting a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital that goes from January through May.

There are still openings in the class, which consists of 100 classroom hours and 300 clinical hours.

CPE is a practical professional education program for ministry and provides training for chaplains and church workers. It includes seminars

with a peer group and supervisor, practical experience in an appropriate setting, individual tutorials with a supervisor and the opportunity to reflect on ministry as it is performed.

Anyone who is interested in knowing more about this learning opportunity can contact: Rev. Peter Holland, ACPE Supervisor, Avera Health ACPE, at (605) 322-4713, or Chaplain Tweeter Henseler, Coordinator of Pastoral Care Avera Sacred Heart Hospital at (605) 668-8386.



SENIOR COMPANIONS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Join our dedicated volunteers in their mission to assist other seniors in the Yankton area to stay in their own homes.

Activities may include:

- Help with shopping and errands
- Visiting and listening
- Plan, prepare or share meals
- Help with reading, writing letters
- Share hobbies and other interests

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