

Life In Poetry

Poet Examines The Importance Of Voting

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

It's a good thing to have a poem about voting in the week of the election, and here's a fine one by Judith Harris, who lives in Washington, D.C.

MY MOTHER GOES TO VOTE

We walked five blocks
 to the elementary school,
 my mother's high heels
 crunching through playground gravel.
 We entered through a side door.

Down the long corridor,
 decorated with Halloween masks,
 health department safety posters—
 we followed the arrows
 to the third grade classroom.

My mother stepped alone
 into the booth, pulling the curtain behind her.
 I could see only the backs of her
 calves in crinkled nylons.

A partial vanishing, then reappearing
 pocketbook crooked on her elbow,
 our mayor's button pinned to her lapel.
 Even then I could see—to choose
 is to follow what has already
 been decided.

We marched back out
 finding a new way back down streets
 named for flowers
 and accomplished men.
 I said their names out loud, as we found

our way home, to the cramped house,
 the devoted porch light left on,
 the customary meatloaf.
 I remember, in the classroom converted
 into a voting place—
 there were two mothers, conversing,
 squeezed into the children's desk chairs.

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 © 2012 by Judith Harris, whose most recent book of poems, Night Garden, is forthcoming from Tiger Bark Press, spring 2013. Poem reprinted by permission of Judith Harris 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.

Vermillion Library Closing Due To Construction

VERMILLION — The Vermillion Public Library will be closed Monday, Nov. 5, through Sunday, Nov. 18 due to construction. The current plan is to reopen at 10 a.m. Monday, Nov. 19, but the library and city staff will work hard to open earlier, if possible. At that time, use the new entrance on the northwest corner of the building.

During the closure, all the contents of the current building will be temporarily moved to the new north section and the basement. This is a temporary arrangement and a tight configuration of furniture, stacks, tables, chairs, etc., will be necessary. Some library material will not be available. Be sure to ask at the Circulation Desk if you cannot find a library item.

The Tech Center will temporarily be located in the small conference room in the northwest corner of the building. There will be no meeting rooms until Spring 2013.

The current facility will be renovated starting in November with completion expected by April 1, 2013.

For additional information, contact City Manager John Prescott at 677-7050 or Library Director, Jane Larson at 677-7060.

Fall Vendor Fair Set For Yankton

The Stewart Elementary PTA of Yankton will be hosting its fourth annual Fall Vendor fair on Sunday, Nov. 4, running from 1-4 p.m. There will be more than 30 vendors available with a variety of goods and services.

There will also be a cupcake sale beginning at 1 p.m. Come early for the best selection.

All proceeds from the fair will be used to help sponsor programs at Stewart Elementary School.



Mark Johnson
Yankton County Commissioner

OTE

Our future depends on it!

Paid for by Mark Johnson, Yankton County Commissioner

Readers Wants To Build Frankenstein Car

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate

Dear Tom and Ray:

Recently I've been thinking of piece-mealing a car (aka creating a Frankenstein car) from the best parts of all the cars I can identify, the goal being that the car would be the most reliable, lowest-maintenance, most fun to drive vehicle ever to grace the surface of this planet. I do realize that such an endeavor would entail a great deal of fabrication and modification of components, but hopefully these matters will be overcome by my optimism and determination. I've been Googling to find the best components, and so far I've decided that the engine of this beast will be the Volvo B18/20, which apparently powered some of the world's highest-mileage cars. So, do you have any other advice for me, as far as components or anything else? —Hunter

TOM: Well, I'd suggest that you go back and watch "Frankenstein" again, and take note of what happens to the "vehicle" in the end.

RAY: It certainly sounds like a fun project, Hunter. And you're obviously unencumbered by such hindrances as family or employment. So I take it you need something to keep you busy. This will fill up your schedule.

TOM: But keep in mind that there's a 99 percent chance that if you do produce a vehicle in the end, it's going to be unsafe, unreliable, unpredictable and undrivable.

RAY: Manufacturers spend a lot of time and effort matching their components so they all work well together — so that the weight balances and the car handles well, so that it has the right amount of power and braking ability,



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

and the engine works well with the transmission, and so that the computer software ties everything together, including the safety equipment.

TOM: You're just going to throw a bunch of parts together and hope for the best. The result is likely to be a mess, even if all of the individual pieces are good ones.

RAY: But I know you're going to do this anyway, Hunter. We've been answering car questions long enough to recognize that no matter what we say, you're going to be out hunting for an engine this weekend.

TOM: In which case we'd recommend a late-1990s or later Honda Civic engine. The old Volvo "DL" engines certainly were great and durable, but the Civic engine is less expensive to fix, more reliable, more fuel-efficient, cleaner and easier to get parts for.

RAY: In fact, I'd use the engine AND trans-

mission from a Civic. Not only will you have a reliable drive train that way, but you know they'll work well together, and you'll be able to use the computerized engine-management system with little modification.

TOM: Actually, while you're at it, you might just want to buy a whole Honda Civic and be done with this crazy idea. We know it's already full of great components. And then you could concentrate on modifying the body panels and interior. That way, you might end up with something you could actually drive.

RAY: I know, I know. That's not enough of an adventure for you. And to be fair to you, Hunter, projects like this sometimes are the venues in which genius is unleashed.

TOM: Or the venues in which people get killed. Those activities often are closely related. So whatever you decide, please be careful. And send us pictures of your monster — before the fire consumes it.

You want to buy a used car, but how do you find a good one? Tom and Ray can help! Order "How to Buy a Great Used Car: Secrets Only Your Mechanic Knows." Send \$4.75 (check or money order) to Used 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.

© 2012 BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI AND DOUG BERMAN

CRUISERS DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Classic Cruisers Car Club member Jon Huitema, left, is shown presenting a \$350 check to Dr. Tom Stotz for the Yankton Baseball Association.

RIVERBOAT DAYS DONATION



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Classic Cruisers Club member Jon Huitema is shown presenting a \$350 check to Nancy Teachout of the Riverboat Days Committee.

Soil Sampling Information For After The Drought

BROOKINGS — Because of the drought this growing season, soil sampling after harvest becomes very important this year says Ron Gelderman, SDSU Soils Extension Specialist.

"Soil sampling should be part of any nutrient management program but is even more important after a dry year with limited yields," Gelderman said. "For those fields that were severely moisture stressed, available nitrogen (N) carryover may be higher than normal."

Gelderman says all growers should take 2-foot soil samples throughout their fields and have them analyzed for nitrate-N; especially for those fields going into a non-legume crop.

"If the rotation hasn't yet been set, sample and analyze as if it will be a non-legume crop. As the old adage goes 'It is better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it.' The additional sampling cost is inconsequential compared to potential fertilizer savings or yield gain," he said.

Gelderman says that past drought years have shown higher than average carryover levels. For

example, the average carryover nitrate-N level following corn, is about 70 pounds per acre. In a dry year, he says it would not be unusual to measure 100 to 120 pounds per acre of carryover N after poor yields on some of these moisture stressed fields.

"That is a difference of 30 to 50 pounds or about \$18 to \$30 an acre in savings with today's N prices. Some laboratories have been reporting average carryover nitrate-N values of 20 pounds an acre higher than average for this fall," he said.

However, Gelderman says this is not always the case. Which is why testing is a must this fall.

"One of our moisture-stressed nitrogen rate trials on corn near Beresford had near average carryover levels. In that case, if the grower 'guessed' at carryover levels of 30 pounds an acre more than average, yield might very well be 5 to 10 bushel an acre lower than would be with the proper test and recommendation. The point is we cannot predict what the carryover levels will be. Therefore, every field should be tested."

Because of the fact that within many fields there could be high carryover N variability that may reflect the high yield variability due to differential soil moisture within that field, Gelderman recommends zone sampling.

"A zone sampling program based on yield zones may show some large nitrogen fertilizer savings for next year and will put the nitrogen where it is needed and not oversupply other areas of the field where it is not," he said.

Given the poor yields in some fields, there would be less phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) removed with the grain as well. However, Gelderman says measuring the availability of carryover P and K is more difficult than for nitrogen.

"The soil P and K test may have increased slightly (due to less removed with the lower yields) but

yield, tillage, residue removed, soils, precipitation and temperatures all can influence how much of these nutrients become available for next year's crop. It is best to follow soil test guidelines for those nutrients and not give a "credit" for any unused nutrients."

In a dry fall, he says it is not unusual to find K tests even lower than in a "normal" year. The reason is that the lower rainfall after harvest has not moved the K from the plant residue into the soil. Potassium will move quite readily with water while plant N and P are tied up with organic compounds and will depend on microbial decomposition as they become available.

To learn more contact a SDSU Extension agronomy field specialist by calling your SDSU Extension Regional Center. Contact information can be found at iGrow.org.



midwest GOLD-SILVER

Convert Your Unwanted Gold & Silver & Receive Your Cash Today

- Coins-Gold, Silver & Platinum
- Bullion-Gold, Silver & Platinum
- Silver Flat Ware • Silver Jewelry
- Gold Jewelry • Broken Chains
- Old Rings • Bracelets
- Dental Gold

2901 Broadway, Suite E
 Next to Sears
 Yankton, SD 57078
605-260-4653
 Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10AM-5PM,
 Sat. 10AM-4PM
 www.midwestgold-silver.com

Dear Editor,

District #19 Senate Candidate Bill Van Gerpen has at one time run an ad telling Senior Citizens "that he will be their man in Pierre," telling them if they have a problem just call him he'll take care of it.

That being said, I'm wondering where Bill Van Gerpen was on August 10, 2012 when "AARP" held an open forum at "The Coral" in Tyndall, SD on how to save "MEDICARE." Bill Van Gerpen skipped that meeting!

I'm afraid if we senior citizens vote for Bill Van Gerpen it will just be a wasted vote. If Bill Van Gerpen gets elected he'll just be a "Yes Man" for the Governor!

Ron Dertien
 Avon, SD

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Calling all Trick-or-Treaters!

Join the fun at the annual
Halloween Trick or Treat

There will be lots of games and plenty of treats!

Wednesday, October 31
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
1212 West 8th Street

Avera
 Yankton Care Center
 (605) 668-8800

Trick-or-Treaters 5th grade and younger welcome.



ROGER'S FAMILY PHARMACY
 "A tradition of trust"

It's that time of year.. Flu Shots are now available!
 (must be 18 or older)
 No appointment neccessary.

BEAT the Flu BUG

Get your Shot!

218 West 4th Street • Yankton, SD 57078 • **(605) 665-8042**

30th Anniversary Celebration



Lee and Suzan Gass of Yankton will celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary on October 30, 2012. Suzan Rasmussen and Lee Gass were married on October 30, 1982 in Kennard, Nebraska. The couple has three children: Ryne Gass, Papillion, NE; Morgan Gass, Omaha, NE; and Emily Gass, Spearfish, SD.