

American Life In Poetry

A Poetic Look At Difference And Resolution

BY TED KOOSER
U.S. Poet Laureate

Sit for an hour in any national airport and you'll see how each of us differs from others in a million ways, and of course that includes not only our physical appearances but our perceptions and opinions. Here's a poem by Ada Limón, who lives in Kentucky, about difference and the difficulty of resolution.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO US AND THE WORDS WE USE

All these great barns out here in the outskirts, black creosote boards knee-deep in the bluegrass. They look so beautifully abandoned, even in use. You say they look like arks after the sea's dried up, I say they look like pirate ships, and I think of that walk in the valley where J said, You don't believe in God? And I said, No. I believe in this connection we all have to nature, to each other, to the universe. And she said, Yeah, God. And how we stood there, low beasts among the white oaks, Spanish moss, and spider webs, obsidian shards stuck in our pockets, woodpecker flurry, and I refused to call it so. So instead, we looked up at the unruly sky, its clouds in simple animal shapes we could name though we knew they were really just clouds — disorderly, and marvelous, and ours.

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The Disappearing Dashboard Lights

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:
I write this letter as the rain pecks away on the windshield of my surveillance van. I'm a private eye. I live in Nebraska. I do a fair amount of surveillance, for which I use a gun-metal-gray, 1999 Chrysler Town & Country van. I use the van to surveil insurance fraudsters with bad backs, to track down cattle rustlers, to serve court papers, to conduct interviews with witnesses to malfeasance, mayhem and murders, and to shadow desperate housewives slinking over to the cheating side of town.

The Case: I've got a problem. Not a big problem, as problems go. It's more like a nuisance, like when your girlfriend keeps asking if you are married and your wife keeps asking if you have a girlfriend. But I digress. Here's the deal. As I'm driving my surveillance van down the road, on occasion my gauges will flatline. It happens every so often. Usually the next day they (the gauges) will perk back to life, or they may jump to life while I'm barreling down the road after some knothead running from a repo. However, it should be noted that the warning lights continue to work during that time. What is odd, and perhaps it is the clue to the whole caper — or perhaps just a red herring — the ABS warning light will come ON when the gauges flatline, and the ABS warning light will then turn OFF when the gauges return to life. It is a mystery. So, I came to the best car dicks I know to solve this caper. Better than my local shade-tree shyster, who not only has a boat, but he also has a Harley. If you need a

retainer, I warn you, work has been slow. Slower than a turtle wearing a tourniquet. Slower than a gazelle with gout. Slower than my brother-in-law on Monday morning. Slower than a — well, you get the picture. — **Steve**



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

TOM: We were working the late shift at the garage, Steve. And this doll walks in. She's got a '99 Town and Country.

RAY: And guess what? She's in a jam. Her dashboard takes a powder every so often. Just like yours.

TOM: And the goose she's married to doesn't know what to do, so he sends her to us. She's lucky we're gumshoes and not hatchet men.

RAY: Anyway, we listen to her sob story, and give her car the up and down.

TOM: My brother gets in, and sure enough, the instrument cluster has taken it on the heel and toe. Looks fried.

RAY: So I give it some serious chin music. I whack it with both fists on top of the dashboard, and, whadda ya know? It does a Lazarus — comes back to life. All lit up.

TOM: So he tells the dame, "You got a busted cluster, Buster."

RAY: And she says: "Why'd you smack my dashboard? And don't call me Buster."

TOM: So I tell her that sometimes a bad connection on the instrument cluster's printed circuit board can cause intermittent failure like that. Sometimes by whacking it, you can get it to come back to life temporarily, confirming that the problem is right there, in the cluster.

RAY: And besides, I tell her, even if you don't get it to come back to life, giving it a hard shot in the beeper will make you feel a whole lot better.

TOM: Yeah, I tell her, if you really want to teach this bus a lesson, drive it into a guard rail, haha.

RAY: She don't think that's funny. So I tell her, look, if it's not the instrument cluster, it could be a bad body control module, which is a little computer that controls things like lights and interior functions. But in her case, I was pretty sure it was the instrument cluster.

TOM: So she asks how much cabage we're talking about.

RAY: Depends, I say. If you can find a cat willing to take out the cluster and look for cracked solder joints on the circuit board and solder 'em back together, it could be an hour's work. But you might not find someone willing or able to do that.

TOM: Another option is to grab up a used one from a junk yard. But, of course, that one could be halfway to the big sleep itself. You never know.

RAY: If you want to replace it with a new cluster, that'll definitely fix it, but you're looking at big money. A bunch of C's. South of a grand, but maybe not by much.

TOM: "That's a lotta spinach," she says. "I may have to put this thing in the wooden kimono, along with my deadbeat husband."

RAY: We nodded. "Good luck, ma'am," I said. We never saw the broad again. So we'll say the same to you. Good luck, Steve. And be careful out there.

Auto repairs can be costly! Save money 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 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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Welding

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Now, each day after an eight-hour shift at KPI, Olson heads over to RTEC to teach both beginning and advanced welding. He is currently spending up to an additional five hours each day at the education center helping 14 students acquire their skills.

"I like working with welding, but I really enjoy the weekends, too," he said with

a laugh, joking about his long hours.

RTEC general manager Josh Svatos said Olson's assistance has been instrumental in preparing students for their careers, as it is rare for an institution to have someone on staff with his background in both teaching and real-world experience.

"People like Bob don't come around too often," Svatos said. "We're spoiled to have such a tool in our toolbox."

With the community currently celebrating South Dakota Manufacturing Week, Olson said that it is not only

important to recognize the work of the manufacturers, but also the role education plays in developing their employees.

"It's something that's needed. The workforce seems like it's going away, and there aren't many people we can hire any more without training them," he said. "If we didn't have RTEC, 50 percent of the people at Kolberg wouldn't be working there right now."

Svatos added that technical education is also vital for the community's "bigger picture."

"Education is the corner-

stone to growing a skilled workforce, which in turn relates directly to manufacturing jobs, which equals economic development," he said. "And you wouldn't be able to bring any of that full circle without the Bob Olsons of the world."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

Tax

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If the Legislature makes a change, it would take effect for 2015 calendar year.

"It's not a final product by any means," Roberts said.

The council set a revised target for the unemployment trust fund Monday. They now want \$78 million in reserve. That is a small inflationary in-

crease from the \$76 million target previously set.

Unless the tax rates are changed, the fund will have an estimated \$89 million in reserve by the end of 2015, according to Labor officials. The current forecast calls for ending 2013 with \$64 million in reserve.

The council wants to be able to cover the largest amount of benefits paid in a year. That was \$63.6 million in 2009 during the depth of the recession.

Influenza

From Page 1

family members."

Kightlinger said the free immunizations for children is not offered in many other states.

He also cited an organized system of health care across the state and plain common sense as the reasons South Dakota has done comparatively well to other states.

"We've got good people working in the public health field in this state," he said. "The vaccine is readily available and it's encouraged by people in public health."

Johnson said there are any number of reasons why some people don't get the shots, such as a false sense of security.

"Sometimes people think they haven't gotten the flu before so why get it now," she said. "Just because you haven't gotten it doesn't mean you're never going to get it."

She also said common misconceptions of what the flu shot prevents is another reason some choose not to get the shots.

"Sometimes people think influenza is stomach flu," she said. "That's not something your flu shot prevents; that's gastroenteritis. What (the vaccination) protects you from is influenza, which can be a very serious disease."

Johnson said symptoms of influenza include aching,

fever, chills, headaches and a cough with a potential for it to lead to pneumonia. She added the virus can be spread for 24 hours by a carrier before they even develop symptoms and that healthy people can easily spread it to more vulnerable people if left unvaccinated.

Kightlinger recommends that everyone over the age of 6 months get the vaccine.

"Take your children in," he said. "Get it yourself, make sure your family is protected, especially if you have people in your household who are vulnerable (children under 6 months, people with weaker immune systems, family members who have had a recent illness or transplant). Get vaccinated so you aren't catching the virus and bringing it to them."

In addition to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, flu shots are being offered by local clinics and businesses including the Yankton Medical Clinic, Walgreens, Kmart, HyVee, among others.

In the Yankton School Dis-



Wolf-Dietrich

Rachel Wolf and Jordan Dietrich were married June 1, 2013, at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, IL.

trict, schools will also offer free shots to children with parental consent. Parents do not need to be present. Consent forms for elementary, middle school and high school students are due Oct. 8. The schedule is as follows:

•Tuesday Oct. 15: Beadle Elementary School (morning), Lincoln Elementary School (noon)

•Wednesday Oct. 16: Yankton Middle School (11 a.m.), Yankton High School (morning) Students over the age of 18 may fill out their own consent forms.

•Thursday Oct. 17: Stewart Elementary School (morning), Webster Elementary School (mid-late morning)

Consent forms are available on the school district website at www.ytd.k12.sd.us/flushots/.

You can follow Rob Nielsen on Twitter at twitter.com/RobNielsen-PandD/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/

Rachel is the daughter of Jerry and Jan Wolf of Northbrook, IL, and Jordan is the son of Roger and Donna Dietrich of Yankton, SD.

Rachel graduated from Washington University with a degree in Finance and Accounting, and is currently earning her MBA at the University of Chicago.

Jordan graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Management Information Systems, and is currently a consultant with SapientNitro Corporation. The couple resides in Chicago, IL.

It's the first of the month...

OCTOBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		


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MORNING COFFEE

WEEKDAYS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Tuesday, October 1
7:40 am Yankton Library
(Kathy Jacobs)
8:20 am KPI-JCI
(Joe Vig, Jeff May)

Wednesday, October 2
7:40 am MVCA
(Dana Forbes, Doug Dykstra)
8:20 am Hy-Vee Foods
(Chef Staci)

Celebrating
South Dakota
Manufacturing Week

Friday, October 4th



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and



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