

A Poetic Look At Our Sense Of Smell

BY TED KOOSER
 U.S. Poet Laureate

Our sense of smell is, as you know, not nearly as good as that of our dogs, but it can still affect us powerfully. A good writer, like Tami Haaland of Billings, Montana, can show us how a single odor can sweep us back through time.

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The smell, once water has rinsed it, is like a field of ripe grain, or the grain held in a truck, and if you climb the steel side, one foot lodged on the hubcap, the other on the wheel, and pull your body upward, your hands holding to tarp hooks, and lift toes onto the rim of the truck box, rest your ribs against the side, you will see beetles and grasshoppers among the hulled kernels. Water stirs and resurrects harvest dust: sun beating on abundance, the moist heat of grain collected in steel, hands plunging and lifting, the grain spilling back.

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 Joseph Millar from his most recent book of poems, Blue Rust, Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2012. Poem reprinted by permission of Joseph Millar and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2013 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.

Get Used Cars Checked

BY TOM AND RAY MAGLIOZZI
 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Dear Tom and Ray:
 My name is Emma, and I am 20 years old. I am about to purchase my first car. I have chosen a 1975 Mercedes 240D non-turbo, four-speed manual. It's going to cost me \$1,500 from a dealer. I found his ad on Craigslist. My dad and I went to see the car, (about two and a half hours away from my home) yesterday. Overall, this car is a gem – nicely preserved, and cherry red. Even the air conditioning blows cold! However, when we took the car for a ride, at about 30 mph and above it made a really sharp grinding sound from the back. All signs point to the differential. The noise is emanating from its location, and when we got out and looked under the car, the thing looked icky: Thick grease had oozed its way out and hardened on the exterior. It presumably was dry inside. Not sure, but we think it was a slow leak. So, exercising caution, we did not purchase the car then and there, but rather told the dealer that we would come back later in the week after he had the differential checked out. My dad thinks that it will be OK if it gets some heavy oil put in it. My question is, Should the whole differential be replaced? And if so, how immediately should I do that? If the dealer gets the oil changed in the differential, would it be OK to drive for a while (weeks? months?)? And if I do have to get the thing replaced, is it really worth it? Will it end up costing more than I am going to pay for the car? Please help. Thanks!

— Emma
RAY: In my vast experience, Emma, once the differential is damaged to the point that it's making noise, just putting fresh oil in it – or fresh oil, bananas and sawdust – is not enough to reverse the damage. So, if you're sure that the noise is coming from the differential, I think



CAR TALK

Tom and Ray Magliozzi

you should go on the assumption that the differential is cooked.

TOM: That means you'll need to replace it in ... how long is your drive home? Two and a half hours? You might make it.

RAY: Actually, it could last months or more. But I wouldn't count on it.

TOM: What you really need to do is get an independent opinion – not from this dealer, who is trying to sell the car, but from someone who is working for YOU. So take it (or have the dealer take it) to a shop you trust (you can use www.mechanicsfiles.com if you don't know a trusted shop near where the car is being sold), and have your own guy go over the car, bumper to bumper.

RAY: If all that's wrong with the car is the differential, you'll want to know what that's going to cost to fix or replace. Then you can try to negotiate with the seller. So if he wants \$1,500 for the car, and the differential is going to cost \$1,000, you can offer him \$500 and see if he'll take it.

TOM: Or ask him to replace the differential himself, since he's a car dealer and presumably has mechanics working for him. And then you'll give him \$1,500.

RAY: But if your own mechanic discovers that the transmission is also

limping along, the exhaust is about to fall off, or you need brakes, calipers and control arms, you might decide to walk away and look for something a little less classic. Like a 2003 Corolla.

TOM: No, I can tell that Emma is a person of very refined tastes. She homed in on this old Mercedes because it's unusual ... and because, unlike the '03 Corollas of the world, this car has character. It has soul. It makes her smile every time she sees it.

RAY: And she'll mostly see it sitting in the driveway, waiting for a tow truck.

TOM: No, I disagree. This will be a great adventure, Emma. I applaud you, because I, too, have similarly refined and misunderstood taste.

RAY: Taste? His ex-wives all called it a curse. So, if you are similarly cursed, Emma, you should think about steps you can take now to make your life a little less difficult. Like, win the lottery. Or try to marry an old Mercedes mechanic.

TOM: Or just get your cars checked out carefully before you buy them, Emma, to minimize the expensive surprises and "I told you so's" from your uncultured brother. Good luck, kid. And enjoy whatever car you end up with!

Don't get stuck with a lemon. Be an informed shopper. Read Tom and Ray's guide "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.

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Darkness To Light Prevention Training Oct. 9

Everyone can help the Yankton region to take action against child sexual abuse by learning how to prevent this epidemic in real time. Take the first step towards prevention and commit to take Darkness to Light's award-winning prevention training. Stewards of Children.

Stewards of Children training will be offered in the Yankton community on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at the South Training Center on the Human Services Center south campus, Yankton.

To accommodate the schedules of those interested in attending, three class time options are available:

- Class Option A — 9 a.m.-noon;
- Class Option B — 1-4 p.m.;
- Class Option C: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Participants must pre-register and specify their preferred class time by Oct. 1. Class size is limited.

Darkness to Light (www.darkness2light.org) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the prevention of child sexual abuse. The organization has trained more than 2,200 Facilitators in 47 states and 10 countries. More than 173,000 adults have been trained in Stewards of Children since its implementation in 2005. Sherrie Schweder, LMSW, and Mandi Allen, LMHC, employees of Mercy Child Advocacy Center in Sioux City, Iowa, are authorized to lead trainings.

Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children is a three-hour workshop designed to educate adults on how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to the reality of child sexual abuse. Stewards of Children emphasizes child safety as an adult's re-

sponsibility. Trainings are open to the public and is of specific interest among parents, youth sports organizations/coaches/camp counselors, youth service organizations, teachers / school personnel and faith centers. Each participant will be inspired to take personal responsibility in preventing this epidemic. Stewards of Children facilitates discussion about the incidence and consequences of abuse, and presents information about child protection policies and reporting mandates.

Training for a nominal fee includes an interactive workbook and companion brochure, 7 Steps to Protecting Our Children. Continuing education hours for professionals in various fields are being requested at no charge to participants.

For more information, contact Pam Kettering, executive director of Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc., (YAMWI) at yamwi.org@gmail.com or call 605-665-4659, Ext. 218.

Stewards of Children is proven to change beliefs, actions and attitudes toward child sexual abuse. This training is provided free with support from YAMWI, Healthy Yankton, and United Way and Volunteer Services of Greater Yankton

USD 2013 Inman Award Recipients Named

VERMILLION — Philip and Marjorie Odeen of McLean, Va., will receive the University of South Dakota Foundation's 2013 Darwin and Adele Inman Award for Distinguished Service.

A 1957 USD graduate, Philip Odeen served in senior positions with the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the National Security Council. He was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and later led the Defense and Arms Control staff for then-National Security Adviser Henry Kissinger. A member of the Northrop Grumman Board of Directors as well as the boards of Avaya, Convergys, Reynolds and Reynolds, and Washington Gas Light Company. He serves on the U.S. Defense Science Board and is active in various other government advisory groups.

Marjorie Odeen graduated from USD in 1958 with a degree in communications disorders. She is a member of a volunteer organization in Washington,

D.C., that raises money for charitable causes that include providing educational opportunities for at-risk children.

Both Odeens are USD Foundation Trustees; Phil has also served on the Foundation Board of Directors. The couple gave the lead gift to restore the historic Skinner organ during renovation of Aalfs Auditorium in Slagle Hall.

The Inman Award will be presented at Dakota Days during the Foundation's annual award luncheon at 12:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4 in the Muenster University Center. Reservations may be made by contacting Kathy Chandler at 1-800-521-3575.

Created in 1996 by the University of South Dakota Foundation, the award annually recognizes the generosity and volunteer leadership exemplified by Darwin and Adele Inman during USD's early years. The Odeens are the 24th recipients.

Summer Readers



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Beadle School recently held an awards program to recognize students that participated in a Summer Reading and Technology program. Students were encouraged to complete 12 hours of reading and/or work on an approved technology site focused on math and reading skill development. The Beadle PTA purchased two of the technology programs that students have access to both in and out of school. The programs were Education City and IXL. Both programs allow students to work on standards that they are taught throughout the year in class. Students were presented certificates, pencils and a medal during a recognition event on September 18, 2013. Congratulations to the following students: Evan Gilbertson, Isabella Opbroek, Elliot Dooley, Collin Patrick, Sophie Montagne, Lily Diedrichsen, Ryan Schulte, Kiefer Hysell, Trevor Hysell, Oliver Dooley, Mitchel Zimmerman, Haley Luke, Addison Sedlacek, Mya Gilbertson, Hope Leshner, Ava Gilbertson, Maggie Schaefer, Kalea Thon, Keaton List, Lauren Tereshinski, Tim Merchen, Annika Ahlers, Chloe Becker, Piper Lefdal, Ben Lefdal, Caleb Zimmerman, Christopher Opbroek, Claire Tereshinski, Gavin Haselhorst, Kate Beeman, Brooke Anderson, Nykki Husman, Sarah Beeman, Conner Nickles, and Aiden Anderson.

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Tickets available by calling 605-668-8310, or online at www.AveraSacredHeartFoundation.org.

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