

COMING UP NEXT ON NEWSDEPTH...

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOURTEEN MONTHS - THE U-S SUPREME COURT HAS NINE JUSTICES... WE'LL LOOK AT THE DIFFICULTY FILLING THAT ONE VACANT SEAT.

A GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALISTS UNCOVERS A DISCREPANCY THAT LEAVES ANOTHER SEAT EMPTY - THEIR PRINCIPAL'S!

SOME PROFESSIONAL WRITERS MIGHT SOON LEAVE 'THEIR' SEATS. THEY'RE THREATENING TO 'STRIKE' - AND STOP SUPPLYING SCRIPTS FOR TV AND THE MOVIES....

BUT NEWSDEPT'S SEAT SURE ISN'T EMPTY... AND THIS WEEK'S ANIMAL STORY -- IS A BIG ONE!

NEWSDEPTH IS NOW!

A NEW JUDGE FINALLY TAKES A SEAT ON THE BENCH -- AFTER A DRAWN OUT FIGHT IN THE SENATE.

HELLO EVERYONE, I'M RICK JACKSON.
THANKS FOR JOINING US TODAY.

THE SUPREME COURT HAS NINE JUSTICES ONCE MORE.

DONALD TRUMP'S NOMINEE, NEIL GORSUCH, WAS SWORN IN AT THE COURT BY CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS IN A PRIVATE CEREMONY.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL OATH ENDED THE 14-MONTH VACANCY LEFT BY THE UNEXPECTED DEATH OF JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA LAST FEBRUARY. THEN A PUBLIC CEREMONY FOLLOWED -- AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

---SOT---

JUSTICE NEIL GORSUCH/SUPREME COURT: "I'M HUMBLLED BY THE TRUST PLACED IN ME TODAY. I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT TO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH WILL BE EXPECTED. AND I PROMISE YOU THAT I WILL DO ALL MY POWERS PERMIT TO BE A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS GREAT NATION."

THE NEWEST -- AND YOUNGEST MEMBER ON THE SUPREME COURT WILL GET STRAIGHT TO WORK WITH HIS EIGHT NEW COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVE BEEN OPERATING SHORTHANDED.

THE SUPREME COURT IS VERY IMPORTANT; BECAUSE THEIR DECISIONS IMPACT LAWS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. WHEN QUESTIONS CONCERNING PARTICULAR LAWS ARISE IN LOWER COURTS, THE JUSTICES WHO MAKE UP THE SUPREME COURT ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EXPLAINING AND INTERPRETING THE CONSTITUTION -- AND THEY HAVE THE FINAL SAY.

BUT FILLING THIS VACANCY IS NOT AS EASY AS JUST SWEARING GORSUCH IN AND SENDING HIM OFF TO COURT.

AS WE TOLD YOU LAST WEEK, JUSTICE GORSUCH HAD TO FIRST BE APPROVED – OR CONFIRMED BY THE U.S SENATE – BUT THE BITTER RIVALRY BETWEEN THE SENATE’S TWO POLITICAL PARTIES MADE THIS CONFIRMATION IMPOSSIBLE. IT’S BEEN DESCRIBED AS A PARTISAN BATTLE. A PARTISAN IS A COMMITTED MEMBER OF A POLITICAL PARTY, ESPECIALLY ONE WHO IS RELUCTANT TO COMPROMISE WITH THEIR POLITICAL OPPONENTS.

THIS PARTISANSHIP ANGERED SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN:

SEN. JOHN MCCAIN: "THE UNITED STATES SENATE WAS DESIGNED FOR US TO COMMUNICATE, FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER, FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE RESULTS AND REPERCUSSIONS OF A FREE AND FAIR ELECTION.."

WHILE THE SENATE STRUGGLED TO CONFIRM TRUMP’S SUPREME COURT PICK, THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF WAS BUSY HOSTING FOREIGN LEADERS.

LAST WEEK, HE WELCOMED CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING TO HIS FLORIDA ESTATE, WHERE THEY DISCUSSED THE ECONOMY, IMPROVING TRADE TIES, AND FOREIGN CONFLICTS.

BOTH SIDES APPEARED HAPPY WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE MEETING – EVEN IF THERE WERE NO CONCRETE RESULTS FROM IT.

THIS ACT OF DIPLOMACY COMES AS WE OBSERVE THE ANNIVERSARY OF ONE OF THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS IN HISTORY – 100 YEARS AGO, AMERICA DECLARED WAR ON GERMANY, AND OFFICIALLY ENTERED WORLD WAR I. THE WAR HAD BEEN RAGING IN EUROPE FOR NEARLY 3 YEARS WHEN PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON ASKED CONGRESS FOR THE DECLARATION OF WAR, SAYING THAT HE BELIEVED THE FATE OF CIVILIZATION WAS AT STAKE.

MILLIONS OF AMERICANS PARTICIPATED IN THE WAR EFFORT – INCLUDING MORE THAN 200 THOUSAND PEOPLE FROM OHIO.

THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN CASUALTIES FROM WORLD WAR ONE ARE BURIED IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY – A LARGE MILITARY CEMETERY IN VIRGINIA.

AND, LAST WEEK FORMER ASTRONAUT AND AMERICAN ICON JOHN GLENN WAS ALSO LAID TO REST THERE.

GLENN’S PIONEERING MERCURY FLIGHT IN 1962 MADE HIM AN INSTANT NATIONAL HERO. HE BECAME THE OLDEST MAN IN SPACE WHEN HE RETURNED ABOARD THE SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY IN 1998 AT AGE 77.

GLENN ALSO REPRESENTED OHIO IN THE U-S SENATE FOR 24 YEARS.

SENATOR GLENN DIED DECEMBER 8TH, BUT, UNTIL THIS WEEK, HIS CASKET HAD BEEN DISPLAYED AT THE OHIO STATEHOUSE, WHERE IT WAS VISITED BY THOUSANDS OF MOURNERS.

BECAUSE OF PIONEERS LIKE JOHN GLENN, NASA HAS COME A LONG WAY – MAKING NEW DISCOVERIES – AND CAPTURING STUNNING IMAGES – LIKE THIS ONE OF JUPITER.

RECENTLY, AS JUPITER MADE ITS NEAREST APPROACH TO EARTH IN A YEAR...ABOUT 415 MILLION MILES AWAY...NASA'S HUBBLE SPACE TELESCOPE CAUGHT THE SOLAR SYSTEM'S LARGEST PLANET IN ALL OF ITS UP-CLOSE GLORY.

YOU CAN SEE ITS COLORFUL ATMOSPHERE, THE GREAT RED SPOT AND RED SPOT JUNIOR ON THE LOWER RIGHT SIDE.

IF YOU'RE AMAZED BY THESE SHOTS, YOU'RE NOT ALONE – GETTING A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PLANETS THAT DOT THE SKY ABOVE US HAS INSPIRED COUNTLESS ASTRONAUTS, ASTRONOMERS, AND SPACE ENTHUSIASTS.

UP NEXT, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT MARGARET THOMPSON INTRODUCES US TO ONE OF THEM!

MARGARET:

From here on Earth, the stars just look like little specks of light, but, through a telescope, it's a whole new world – literally. It's this spectacular sight that inspired David Eicher to pursue a career galaxy gazing.

[Saturn CLIP]

At this young age, David turned his fascination with the final frontier into his career.

[As a kid CLIP]

Astronomy is a magazine – and a website, and David is an Editor there. That means he gets to read, write, and talk about space all day. Doesn't sound so bad to me – especially with all the new things we're learning about the cosmos every day!

[Trappist-1 CLIP]

But “really close” in cosmic distance isn't actually that close at all! As we've mentioned, the Trappist-1 system is about 40 light years away – or roughly 235 trillion miles away!

That didn't stop a lot of you from imagining traveling there when we told you about them a few weeks ago. But Izzy from Ford Intermediate said she'd rather stay here on Earth, writing:

“When I was younger, I would think that gravity would somehow pull me down into a black hole. Even though there isn't gravity in space.”

Well, actually, Izzy, your younger self has a point, according to David.

[Black Hole CLIP]

Luckily, if you want to learn more about space without having to dodge black holes, there are plenty of resources online, like Astronomy.com – and, according to David, another resource is right above us every night!

[Look at sky clip CLIP]

THANKS, MARGARET. AS YOU HEARD, DAVID EICHER BEGAN A CAREER WRITING ABOUT ASTRONOMY WHEN HE WAS NOT MUCH OLDER THAN ALL OF YOU! AND THIS WEEK'S A PLUS GOES TO ANOTHER GROUP OF STUDENT JOURNALISTS WHO WROTE THEIR WAY INTO ACTION.

AUSTIN HYSLIP HAS THEIR STORY.

WHAT STARTED AS A PROFILE ABOUT THEIR NEW HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL ENDED IN NATIONAL ATTENTION.

JOURNALISM STUDENTS AT PHS WERE WRITING AN ARTICLE ABOUT THEIR NEW PRINCIPAL, DR. AMY ROBERTSON.

THAT'S WHEN THEY FOUND SOME THINGS THAT DIDN'T QUITE ADD UP. Patrick Sullivan / Student: "Everyone was really shocked. The most common question is how did the school board not catch this earlier and not follow up on it and how did we catch it before everyone else? And my response is, I think we just did our job as journalists."

WHILE ROBERTSON DOES HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TULSA...

THE SCHOOL WHERE SHE RECEIVED HER DOCTORATE, CORLLINS UNIVERSITY, DOESN'T SEEM TO EXIST.

Pittsburg Superintendent Destry Brown: "She had a lot of documents that she was using to back up the claim that they were valid degrees."

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS SAY THEY HAVE A VETTING PROCESS THAT WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THE SAME THINGS, BUT THE STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO RELEASE THE INFORMATION SOONER.

Pittsburg Superintendent Destry Brown: "We can't go out and tell everybody what we've been doing and that sort of thing-- we were asking the same questions." Kalli Ponitske / Student: "What we were just writing to give our community some information has turned into this big ordeal."

FOR THEIR EXPERT RESEARCH SKILLS, THESE SLEUTHING STUDENTS GET OUR NEWSDEPTH A PLUS.

NOW THAT'S WRITING THAT HAS AN IMPACT!

AND WHILE, YOU DIDN'T GET ANYONE FIRED (HOPEFULLY!) – YOUR FEEDBACK IMPACTS US EVERY WEEK!

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT HOW YOU VOTED IN LAST WEEK'S COLORFUL POLL. WE ASKED: IF YOU COULD STEP INTO THE SHOES OF CRAYOLA, WHICH RETIRED CRAYON COLOR WOULD YOU BRING BACK?

ONE COLOR CAME OUT WAAAAAY AHEAD OF THE PACK – AND THAT'S THE OH SO REFRESHING MAGIC MINT! 64% OF YOU SAID THAT'S THE COLOR YOU WANT BACK! FOLLOWED BY TEAL BLUE AT 24%.

BUT YOUR THOUGHTS THIS WEEK WERE BRIGHTER THAN ALL THE CRAYONS IN THE BOX! LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT YOU HAD TO SAY:

[INBOX]

KALEB FROM MINSTER ELEMENTARY TOOK THE NEWS OF DANDELIONS'S RETIREMENT REALLY HARD, WRITING:

I REALLY LIKE THE COLOR DANDELION, AND I AM VERY SAD THAT THEY ARE RETIRING THIS COLOR. MY TEACHER HAD TO COMFORT ME BECAUSE I WAS IN TEARS WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS THAT THEY WERE RETIRING THIS COLOR. I USE DANDELION ALL THE TIME, AND I'M NOT SURE HOW I AM GOING TO DRAW THE SUN ON MY PICTURES ANYMORE. HOW WILL I DRAW A BILL ON A DUCK? HOW WILL I DRAW THE FEET ON A PENGUIN? HOW WILL I GO ON?

GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, KALEB – AND MAYBE EXPERIMENT WITH YELLOW, OR YELLOW ORANGE!

A LOT OF YOU – INCLUDING OLIVIA FROM WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – THOUGHT ONE COLOR IN PARTICULAR SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETIRED INSTEAD. OLIVIA WRITES:

I WOULD CHOOSE THE WHITE CRAYON TO RETIRE. FIRST OF ALL, YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE IT UNLESS YOU HAVE THE BEST EYES IN THE WORLD. ALSO, SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE BLACK PAPER, SO THEY CAN'T EVEN USE THE CRAYON. IT IS USELESS. LASTLY, PEOPLE BARELY USE THE WHITE CRAYON. IT JUST SITS IN THE BOX AND DOES NOTHING!

BUT CARTER FROM KENSINGTON INTERMEDIATE WOULD GET RID OF ONE PARTICULARLY CONFUSING SHADE:

I WOULD RETIRE THE CRAYON RED ORANGE. I ALWAYS FOUND IT SO STRANGE TO HAVE TWO COLORS TOGETHER. AND I CAN NEVER TELL IF IT IS RED OR ORANGE!

MALLORY FROM ST. RAPHAEL HAS THE BLUES ABOUT A CERTAIN SHADE OF BLUE, TELLING US:

I WOULD WANT OCEAN BLUE TO RETIRE BECAUSE I AM NOT A FAN OF DARK BLUE. TO REPLACE OCEAN BLUE, I WOULD LIKE A NEON PINK. I DRAW A LOT AND I DO NOT USE THAT COLOR AT ALL, BUT I WOULD USE PINK.

AVERY FROM LAKEVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS A MORE DRAMATIC SUGGESTION ABOUT REVAMPING THE COLORFUL BOX: I WOULD TAKE THEM ALL OUT! I WOULD LOVE TO BE TRUSTED WITH THE JOB OF MAKING A WHOLE NEW COLOR SCHEME BECAUSE I THINK THEY NEED TO BE MODERNIZED FOR KIDS THESE DAYS.

THANKS, AVERY! SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A COLORFUL CAREER AHEAD OF YOU! THANKS ALSO TO KALEB, OLIVIA, CARTER, AND MALLORY!

WE LOVE HEARING FROM YOU EVERY WEEK – AND, WHILE WE MOST OFTEN GET TRADITIONAL LETTERS, EVERY NOW AND THEN...WE GET A POEM! MANY OF OUR VIEWERS FROM MARYLAND ELEMENTARY SEND US THEIR CREATIVE POETRY INSPIRED BY A STORY ON OUR SHOW. LIKE THIS ONE FROM MAYA, WHO WROTE ABOUT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

*HE NEVER RAISED A FIST
YET, HIS MESSAGE SENT WAS CLEAR
THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL
AND WE FIGHT,
FIGHT, WITHOUT FEAR*

*HE ALWAYS PERSEVERED
HE SPOKE TO YOU AND ME
HE WALKED AND TALKED AND RALLIED
'TILL ALL PEOPLE WERE FREE*

AS MAYA DEMONSTRATES, POETRY IS A KIND OF WRITING IN WHICH FEELINGS OR IDEAS ARE EXPRESSED WITH A RHYTHM. POET TERRENCE HAYES HAS ANOTHER WAY TO DESCRIBE IT, HE SAYS: "POEMS ARE A FORM OF MUSIC -- AND LANGUAGE JUST HAPPENS TO BE OUR INSTRUMENT."

WELL, NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO TRY YOUR HAND AT THIS NEW KIND OF WRITING BECAUSE APRIL IS NATIONAL POETRY MONTH! THAT'S A MONTH DEDICATED TO CELEBRATING POETRY.

SO...LET ME GIVE IT A SHOT:
ROSES ARE RED, VIOLETS ARE BLUE,
UP NEXT, HERE'S A GREAT STORY ABOUT POETRY FOR YOU!

...OK, I WON'T QUIT MY DAY JOB...

(Alex Lewis/Founder of Car Window Poetry) "Personally, I believe words are the most powerful force on the planet."

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY HE CREATED CAR WINDOW POETRY.
ONE WINDSHIELD AT A TIME...HIS POEMS ARE MAKING A SMALL, YET MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES.

(Alex Lewis/Founder of Car Window Poetry) "Those words can be something that if you're hurting, they can give you hope. If you're starting to feel like your dreams don't matter, they can be the thing that breathes life into them."

LEWIS ISN'T THE ONLY ONE WITH A MESSAGE TO SHARE.

(Marissa Bruno/Student at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) "Here is a little note to say I hope you have a wonderful day."

(Jonathan Smith/Student at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) "Don't look at the blood, but share the love with everyone because we are one big family."

HE RECRUITS WRITERS FROM VARIOUS SCHOOLS TO HELP CRAFT THE TINY NOTES AND SAYS THE PERSPECTIVE BEHIND THE PEN IS WHAT MAKES THESE POEMS SO UNIQUE.

(Alex Lewis/Founder of Car Window Poetry) "Our perspectives matter, our stories matter and so -- you know -- not everybody has that perspective or that story. It's something that's unique to us. It's something that can speak to others and they're stories that people can see themselves in."

(Marissa Bruno/Student at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) "I really think it's an amazing idea. It's such a little thing that can make such a big impact on someone's day."

(Jonathan Smith/Student at University of Colorado, Colorado Springs) " we're so spread apart and so divided right now that these little notes can really start to bring everyone together so that we can be on the same page."

THE POEMS DON'T HAVE TO BE LONG OR IN DEPTH...

ONLY A FEW SENTENCES WILL DO WHEN IT COMES TO CAR WINDOW POETRY.

(Alex Lewis/Founder of Car Window Poetry) "At the heart of it is sort of just this idea that words matter and they can encourage people and inspire people. And if we can get those out into the world, somehow, someday, then they can make a difference in somebody's life."

SO AS ALEX AND HIS GANG OF ROVING POETS SHOW US, POETRY CAN BE USED TO BRING JOY...EVEN WHEN YOU LEAST SUSPECT IT!

BUT SOMETHING A LOT OF POETS NEED – IS A MUSE! WE'VE MENTIONED THIS WORD BEFORE ON THE SHOW -- A MUSE IS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR ARTISTS. AND, UP NEXT, KNOW OHIO'S MARY FECTEAU TELLS US HOW THE BUCKEYE STATE SERVED AS A MUSE FOR SOME OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST FAMOUS POETS!

[KNOW OHIO]

MARY:

IT COULD BE OUR REMARKABLE HISTORY, OUR BREATHTAKING LANDSCAPE, OR OUR DIVERSE CITIES – BUT, WHATEVER IT IS, THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT OHIO THAT INSPIRES CREATIVITY. THE BUCKEYE STATE HAS BEEN THE MUSE OF MANY NOTABLE POETS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS – WHO'VE USED THE WRITTEN WORD TO TRY TO CAPTURE OHIO'S ONE-OF-A-KIND SPIRIT.

ON FAMOUS POET WHO SEEMED TO FREQUENTLY HAVE OHIO ON HIS MIND WAS CARL SANDBURG. BORN IN ILLINOIS, IN 1878, SANDBURG BECAME ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST CELEBRATED POETS DURING HIS LIFETIME. SANDBURG

DEVELOPED A UNIQUE FORM OF FREE VERSE THAT REFLECTED THE RHYTHMS AND COLOR OF MIDWESTERN SPEECH.

HE'S WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS POEMS ABOUT CHICAGO, BUT THE POET ALSO CAPTURED OHIO'S MULTIFACETED SCENES. IN HIS POEM "HONKY TONK IN CLEVELAND, OHIO," PUBLISHED IN 1920, SANDBURG DESCRIBES THE SOUNDS OF A BIG CITY JAZZ CLUB ALMOST LIKE A ZOO, WRITING:

"IT'S A JAZZ AFFAIR, DRUM CRASHES AND CORNET RAZZES.
THE TROMBONE PONY NEIGHS AND THE TUBA JACKASS SNORTS."

BUT IN A CALMER POEM, "CROSSING OHIO WHEN POPPIES BLOOM IN ASHTABULA," SANDBURG PAINTS A DIFFERENT OHIO – A MORE RURAL ONE, AS HE DESCRIBES THE TRANSITION FROM SPRING TO SUMMER:

PICK ME POPPIES IN THE BACK YARD
IN ASHTABULA.
MAY GOING, POPPIES COMING, SUMMER HUMMING:

OF COURSE, SANDBURG IS FAR FROM THE ONLY POET TO GET HIS CREATIVE JUICES FLOWING IN OHIO – IN 1854 ACCOMPLISHED POET HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW WROTE ABOUT ANOTHER KIND OF FLOWING JUICE – CINCINNATI'S FAMOUS CATAWBA WINE. THE WINE WAS MADE FROM CATAWBA GRAPES PLANTED IN THE CITY'S VINEYARDS – AND, IN HIS POEM, APTLY NAMED CATAWBA WINE, LONGFELLOW CELEBRATES CINCINNATI'S NICKNAME, THE QUEEN CITY, WRITING:

"AND THIS SONG OF THE VINE,
THIS GREETING OF MINE,
THE WINDS AND THE BIRDS SHALL DELIVER,
TO THE QUEEN OF THE WEST,
IN HER GARLANDS DRESSED,
ON THE BANKS OF THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER."

WHILE SANDBURG AND LONGFELLOW WERE JUST VISITORS WHO HAPPENED TO FIND INSPIRATION HERE – OHIO ALSO CLAIMS ITS FAIR SHARE OF POETS. PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS IS DAYTON, OHIO-BORN PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR. GROWING UP IN THE 1800'S, HE BEGAN WRITING POETRY AS A VERY YOUNG CHILD AND EVENTUALLY GREW TO BECOME THE MOST FAMOUS AFRICAN AMERICAN POET IN THE COUNTRY. HIS POEMS WERE OFTEN ABOUT THE DIFFICULT AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AT THE TIME – AND HE DIFFERENTIATED HIMSELF FROM OTHER POETS BY WRITING IN A TYPE OF SPEECH COMMON TO AFRICAN AMERICANS.

ANOTHER OHIO-BORN POET, JAMES WRIGHT, FREQUENTLY FOUND INSPIRATION IN HIS HOME STATE. IN HIS POEM, BEAUTIFUL OHIO, WRIGHT PAINTS A PICTURE OF HIS HOMETOWN, MARTINS FERRY ALONG THE OHIO RIVER, WRITING:

SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND FIVE HUNDRED MORE OR LESS PEOPLE
IN MARTINS FERRY, MY HOME, MY NATIVE COUNTRY,

QUICKENED THE RIVER
WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT.
AND THE LIGHT CAUGHT THERE
THE SOLID SPEED OF THEIR LIVES
IN THE INSTANT OF THAT WATERFALL.
I KNOW WHAT WE CALL IT
MOST OF THE TIME.
BUT I HAVE MY OWN SONG FOR IT,
AND SOMETIMES, EVEN TODAY,
I CALL IT BEAUTY.

THE BEAUTY WRIGHT SPEAKS OF, IS FOUND THROUGHOUT THE STATE – AND
IN DIFFERENT PLACES, FROM A JAZZ CLUB IN CLEVELAND TO A VINEYARD IN
CINCINNATI. IT'S THESE DIVERSE SCENES THAT MAKE OHIO SUCH A
POWERFUL MUSE – EVEN IF FINDING THE RIGHT WORDS CAN BE TRICKY!

THANKS, MARY.

SO YOU JUST HEARD HOW POETS LIKE CARL SANDBURG TURNED WHAT THEY
SAW AROUND THEM INTO BEAUTIFUL VERSE – AND, NOW, WE WANT TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

WE'VE GOT AN OPENING FOR A NEWSDEPTH POET LAUREATE – SO SEND US
YOUR POETRY INSPIRED BY WHAT'S AROUND YOU – YOUR SCHOOL, YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD, YOUR CITY, OR EVEN YOUR STATE!

WE KNOW MANY OF YOU WHO WRITE IN WANT TO BE INCLUDED ON THE SHOW
-- IN OUR VERY SELECTIVE INBOX SEGMENT. AND WHILE SEEING YOUR NAME
ON SCREEN MIGHT BE A THRILL, IMAGINE IF YOUR WRITING COULD EARN YOU
SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER – LIKE A LIFE-CHANGING PRIZE! ONE NORTH
CAROLINA WOMAN IS OFFERING JUST THAT TO THE WINNER OF AN ESSAY
CONTEST.

DAVID GRZYBOWSKI HAS MORE.

Nat Sound:

NORMA BURNS SITS IN HER WHITE WOODEN CHAIR LOOKING INTO HER ALMOST
13 ACRES OF FARMLAND.

FOR THE LAST 18 YEARS THE BLUEBIRD HILL FARM HAS BEEN HER HOME.

BUT BURNS BELIEVES IT'S TIME FOR A NEW CHAPTER.

Norma Burns/Bluebird Hill Farm:

"It's too much work for one person. I've worked from dawn til dark for most of the
18 years. And I just, I just... My body won't let me do it anymore."

SO SHE'S CREATED A CONTEST TO WIN HER LAND. IT'S CALLED A GIFT OF GOOD
LAND.

THIS CONTEST IS NOT FOR EVERYONE.

NORMA IS LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL COUPLE. PEOPLE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO
FARM LIFE.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE FARM CONTEST IS JUNE FIRST.

REQUIREMENTS ARE A 200-WORD ESSAY, A RESUME AND A 300-DOLLAR ENTRY FEE.

Nat Sound:

Norma Burns/Bluebird Hill Farm:

"The first person who called said is this for real. And I said yes it is. It's for real. For sure."

NORMA'S PHONE HAS NOT STOPPED RINGING, PEOPLE CALLING TO GET MORE DETAILS ABOUT HER FARM.

BESIDES THE HOUSE, THERE'S A BIG RED BARN, A LARGE LAKE, AND A CHICKEN COOP.

Norma Burns/Bluebird Hill Farm:

"As soon as it went out it just kind of exploded. I've heard from people I haven't heard from in 20 years. Calling and saying oh I wish I could have that farm. Most of them are too old. So it's just been a real surprise. A pleasant surprise."

SHE PLANS ON PICKING 20 OF THE BEST ESSAYS AND THEN LETTING A PANEL OF JUDGES MAKE THE FINAL DECISION.

AFTER NORMA LEAVES HER FARM SHE WILL THEN HEAD UP TO CHAPEL HILL AND LIVE IN A RETIREMENT COMMUNITY.

THE THOUGHT OF SAYING GOODBYE IS NOT EASY.

Norma Burns/Bluebird Hill Farm:

"It's just been everything to me for the last 18 years."

Nat Sound:

REPORTING FROM BENNETT. DAVID GRZYBOWSKI. CBS NORTH CAROLINA.

---SUGGESTED TAG--

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER THE CONTEST.

THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN ESSAY IS JUNE FIRST.

FIND OUT MORE AT BLUEBIRD HILL FARM ESSAY CONTEST DOT COM.

THANKS, DAVID.

SO, ESSAYS ARE ONE KIND OF WRITING – ANOTHER KIND OF WRITING YOU CAN FIND IN THE NEWSPAPER – AND, NO, I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT JOURNALISM – I'M TALKING ABOUT THE COMICS!

COMICS COMBINE CREATIVE WRITING WITH STRIKING IMAGES -- AND, ON THIS WEEK'S BUCKEYE BEAT, WE INTRODUCE YOU TO DAYTON DAILY NEWS COMIC STRIP ARTIST MIKE PETERS.

[BUCKEYE BEAT]

WHILE MIKE PLUGS AWAY AT HIS COMIC STRIP, YET ANOTHER GROUP OF WORDSMITHS IS THREATENING A STRIKE – AND IT COULD EFFECT SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOWS!

THE WRITERS GUILD OF AMERICA IS A LABOR UNION – THAT'S AN ORGANIZED GROUP OF WORKERS FORMED TO PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS. AND THE WRITERS GUILD IS MADE UP OF THE PEOPLE WHO WRITE SOME OF OUR MOST POPULAR FILMS AND TELEVISION SHOWS.

THE UNION SAYS IT NEEDS PAY RAISES FOR ITS WRITERS AND BETTER ASSISTANCE FOR HEALTHCARE, BUT NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRODUCERS AND STUDIO HEADS HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL – AND A STRIKE IS LOOMING.

NOT EXACTLY THE HOLLYWOOD ENDING I WOULD HAVE WRITTEN!

BUT SPEAKING OF WRITING, THIS WEEK WE HAD STORIES ABOUT A FEW DIFFERENT WAYS WE EXPRESS OURSELVES WITH THE WRITTEN WORD, AND, IN THIS WEEK'S POLL, WE WANT TO KNOW: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF WRITING? WE HAVE FOUR OPTIONS FOR YOU: JOURNALISM, POETRY, ESSAYS, OR CREATIVE WRITING. TO VOTE, JUST HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AND CLICK THE POLL BUTTON!

WELL, ONE TOPIC *OUR* WRITERS WOULD LIKE TO SEE CONCLUDED – THE CONTINUING SAGA OF APRIL THE GIRAFFE! AT THIS POINT, WE HAVE YET TO MEET APRIL'S BUNDLE OF JOY – BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IN FOR ANOTHER GROUP WEB CAM CELEBRITIES IN AVON LAKE!

A PAIR OF NESTING EAGLES NEAR REDWOOD ELEMENTARY IN AVON LAKE HAVE WELCOMED TWO NEW EAGLETS TO THEIR FAMILY – AS 2 OF THE 3 EGGS IN THEIR NEST HATCHED LAST WEEK! THE NEW PARENTS HAVE BEEN SLOWLY BRINGING HOME FOOD TO FEED THE GROWING FAMILY. OUR NATIONAL SYMBOL, THE BALD EAGLE WAS ONCE IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION, BUT STEPS WERE TAKEN TO PROTECT THEIR HABITAT, AND THE BIRD IS NOW FLOURISHING IN THE UNITES STATES.

WELL, THAT'S ONE BIRD NEWS CAT WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH! SPEAKING OF OUR FELINE REPORTER, LET'S SEE WHAT SHE HAS ON THE DOCKET IN THIS WEEK'S PETTING ZOO!

[PETTING ZOO INTRO]

HI NEWS CAT! ARE YOU MAKING SUMMER PLANS YET?

OH...NEWS CAT SAYS SHE'S PLANNING A TRIP TO MEMPHIS – ARE YOU AN ELVIS FAN NEWS CAT? THINKING OF TOURING GRACELAND? I USED TO LIVE ABOUT A MILE FROM THERE YOU KNOW!

OH, I SEE, NEWS CAT WANTS TO SAY HI TO A MEMPHIS ZOO'S NEW BABY HIPPO! ITS CUTENESS CAN ONLY BE RIVALED BY OHIO'S OWN FIONA. TO MEET THIS NEW AMPHIBOUS ADDITION, CLICK THE PETTING ZOO BUTTON ON OUR WEBSITE. THANKS NEWS CAT!

AND, AS ALWAYS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. AFTER YOU VOTE IN OUR POLL, WRITE TO US. SEND YOUR E-MAILS TO NEWSDEPTH AT IDEASTREAM.ORG - OR MAIL YOUR LETTERS TO 1375 EUCLID AVENUE, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44115.

YOUR LETTERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MONDAY AFTERNOON TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT SHOW. YOU CAN ALSO TWEET AT US @ NEWSDEPTH OHIO.

THANKS FOR WATCHING, I'M RICK JACKSON. WE'LL SEE BACK HERE NEXT WEEK.