

Art as taxing as describing a cherry tree

PETE MCMARTIN

From BI

But the third line, which sounds like a cosmetics ad, breaks the poem's sublime air. Life each day is new! With twice-daily applications of our miracle skin cream!

It was an ambitious try, I'll give him that: Campbell's is a big thought in a little poem. In evok-

ing the restorative power of the sight of gently falling cherry blossoms, he was suggesting the contradictory nature of that power. In every end — in this case, the fall of a flower — there is a new beginning.

But Campbell telegraphed his intent, and broke one of the cardinal rules of haiku writing.

A good haiku, to quote from the festival's website, "uses con-

crete images to imply the poet's emotion without stating it."

"The things I look for in a good haiku," said festival judge Michael Welch, a published haiku poet, "are objectivity and clarity. That is, as soon as you write 'beauty,' for example, you're telling me something is beautiful rather than showing me. As soon as you tell someone how to feel in a haiku, you close down the poem."

"So it's not easy."

"But by paring something down to the essential objective description, it allows the reader to make a subjective interaction."

That, of course, can be said about a lot of writing, journalism included. I've done several columns on cherry trees, and described their blossoms as pink as a Barbie toy and as gaudy as pom-poms and as fragile as prom decorations in the rain. I've described cherry trees as being in the shape of exclamation points and cumulus clouds and firework fountains. I've written that their dark, ragged limbs

against the light clouds of blossoms looks like calligraphy on a page.

But the essence of cherry trees, and how they made me feel, always seemed to escape me.

I threw simile after simile at them, and hoped something stuck.

Always, though, the cherry trees defeated my best efforts. I remember one rainy afternoon, standing under a lane of old Yoshino cherry trees out at UBC, and they were in full bloom, and their petals fell like confetti on the wet sidewalk, and what little light there was came through the trees and washed everything in a pastel light.

I thought, how do I describe this? How do I capture this beauty on paper?

I looked down at my sodden notebook, and instead of an image, found a rebuke there.

There they were stuck fast, the cherry blossoms bleeding, pink ink on the page.

pmmartin@png.canwest.com
604-605-2905

Passengers delayed after airport screening error

From BI

3,000 passengers, a portion of whom were required to be rescreened prior to the South Korea-bound passenger being found, said airport representative Ralph Eastman.

The incident occurred during the busiest period for the airport, the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. slot.

Among the passengers caught in the delay was Victor Bertolette, sitting on the floor and playing cards with his wife and two children, and waiting to return home to Mexico City after a ski holiday at Whistler. Their day started at 5 a.m. and already included a two-hour delay due to a traffic accident on the Sea-to-Sky Highway.

"What can we do?" said Bertolette. "We've had breakfast here, lunch here, maybe dinner too."

Christine Bødt, 36, a teacher currently living in Moscow, was flying back to Russia after visiting with her parents in Qualicum Beach. Recovering from foot

surgery, she feared she would miss her connecting flight to Moscow in Frankfurt, Germany.

Tabunaru could not identify the liquid the passenger was carrying, but emphasized it was mainly an issue of volume.

Federal regulations allow passengers to bring liquids, gels and aerosols through security screening at airports provided the items are packaged in containers with a maximum capacity of 100 ml/100 grams, and the containers fit in one clear, closed and resealable plastic bag with a maximum capacity of one litre. The regulation relates to the potential use of explosives by terrorists.

lpynn@png.canwest.com
dahansen@png.canwest.com

Shots sounded like fireworks

From BI

moments later when Sham and his family were inside their suite. "Then we heard something — just like machine gun or fireworks — it started," he said during an interview. "Twenty or 30 shots."

Sofia Longo heard shots and opened an outside door, but didn't stray far from her home. "I'm scared, so I just walked out a metre or two," she said.

On Friday morning, resident

Keith Robinson, who was walking his two dogs nearby, said he felt good about all the police in his neighbourhood. "They seem to really be on the ball," he said.

dward@png.canwest.com
gbohn@png.canwest.com

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the Donald goes Hollywood



Season Premiere
THE APPRENTICE: LOS ANGELES
9.30

TOMORROW
8.00 The Simpsons
New Episode
8.30 American Dad
New Episode
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 **The Apprentice: Los Angeles**
Season Premiere

