



PHOTO BY BILL FAVER

SUNFLOWER SEEDS enable the cardinal to sing.

Cardinals Sing A Sunflower Song

BY BILL FAVER

Loren Eiseley writes of sunflower seeds and cardinals in one of his poems in *The Innocent Assassins*. His keen sense of history and science combine with his gifts of deep understanding and caring to give us glimpses of relationships we might never grasp on our own.



FAVER

He writes: "When the red cardinal comes to the window ledge, I feed him sunflower seed that's brought from places that I know and he will never see...The cardinal lifts his crest and recognizes seed he's never seen upon a flower, knows too how to split them, flies off, and presently...his voice floats down 'cheer, cheer...'"

Dr. Eiseley recalls how it is the seeds that are singing and how the seeds came to be. He thinks on childhood and sunflowers he has seen: "I think upon

these seeds now being spun by some adroit bird magic into notes that move more than a bird's heart."

The relationship of the seeds to the bird and the sunflower to the soil reminds us of the interrelationships and complexities in nature. Loren Eiseley continues: "I tell myself it is the seeds that sing, that, without seeds, cardinals could not sing, and seeds are brought up from the leaf mould underneath the dark, then formed, shaped within a flower's heart, encased and strewn for any bird. So here the brisk red cardinal sings a bright sunflower song dissolving the sullen silence...I think this bird a miracle to so transform a seed, but then I think the flower also a miracle and so work down to earth, the one composer no one has ever seen but all have heard."

Listen for the sunflower song of the cardinal and ponder the thoughts of Loren Eiseley on how it all ties together into a pattern of marvels and miracles. Such pondering will help bring you joy and awareness of the life around us.

MORE LETTERS

Not Reelecting Incumbents Would Be 'Folly'

To the editor:
Please allow me to express my concern for the coming town elections in Sunset Beach.

My family has had a home on the island at Sunset Beach since 1969. At that time there were less than 100 houses on the island. Mrs. Winifred Wood was mayor, and she was struggling, trying to get a zoning board established.

Obviously our public officials since then succeeded, even to the point that two or three years ago Dr. Orrin Pilkey of Duke University rated us the number-one beach community in North Carolina.

Much work has gone into developing a public sewer and runoff system. In my opinion, it would be the ultimate folly to not reelect our incumbent mayor and councilmen to another term.

E.H. McJunkin
Sunset Beach

Smokers Rewarded?

To the editor:

I was told at school today that there is a program in Brunswick County that if you smoke, and promise to quit for a month, some people will give you a pizza and a free bowling game.

I think this is unfair! If you don't smoke, you don't get anything. This is going to get kids to smoke just for some free stuff.

They are rewarding the smokers. I don't smoke, but I don't get anything for being good.

Alan M. Creech
Shallotte Middle School

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Never stoop again.

Lynn Carlson



The catalog came in the mail today, 88 pages of helpful products to care for my home. This is nothing like your staid Fuller brush offerings of old, when the nice man stopped by and took your order for duster spray, witch hazel lotion and can openers that lasted forever.

These products range from the reasonable to the ridiculous.

People must have more twentys to burn than I do who'll order a \$19.95 vacuum-powered bug sucker: "Never squash another bug...This very clever device allows you to trap and dispose of all types of bugs without touching them, smashing them, or getting near them. The Bug Sucker has a powerful 14,000 rpm fan motor that draws the bugs into a disposable cartridge...(and) has an extension tube for those hard-to-reach bugs."

There are no less than 20 products here to rid your home or yard of spiders, mites, fleas, flies, mosquitoes, roaches, burrowing rodents, raccoons, birds, fleas, snakes, silverfish, mice, yellow jackets, deer and "those cute but pesky squirrels."

If your problems are of a more personal nature, despair not. You can stop toilet tank sweating forever with an insulating foam liner that is "safe to the environment and your family."

Other products designed to enhance the efficiency of your water

closet include the toilet tank magazine rack, set of two, hooks included, \$8.95. And while you're at it, "stop spilling and breaking shampoo, soap or conditioner in the tub or shower." with a four-compartment dispenser, yours for only \$29.95.

And talk about your efficient use of household appliances! You can use your dishwasher for more than just washing dishes. Load your washer with baseball caps, silk plants, plastic pans, weenie dogs (just kidding) and other light items, cover with Stay-Put Dishwasher Net and turn the switch. "Works just like a hairnet. Fits all washers."

This lust for gadgetry is really a guy thing, right? Men think these things up and other men buy them and give them to their wives as gifts which are appreciated, let's say, to a somewhat lesser degree than diamond earrings would have been.

My husband carries in his pocket at all times a Swiss Army knife that has several blades, a pair of scissors, a screwdriver, a nail file, a waffle iron and a tiny collapsible table saw.

My father takes an electronic dog-zapper when he goes for walks. He reports only partial success with it. All the lamps in his home are equipped to turn on and brighten in 30-watt increments at the touch of any of their metal parts.

My brother-in-law-to-be has a serious hardware addiction which

manifests itself in not only gadgetry but in all things electronic. My sister gave him a welding torch for Christmas. He was impressed.

A guy thing, indeed, my righteously indignant husband smirks!

He guides me around our house, past the lighted makeup mirror and under-your-pillow television ear-phone to point out the electric coffee grinder, balloon and spoon whisks in eight varieties and sizes, six kinds of cheese graters, seven colanders, a dozen spatulas (wooden, plastic and metal, large and small, with holes and without) and five pepper grinders.

I murmur something vague about my search for the ultimate one of each, and, besides, you use different kinds for different things...

I'm taking his hand to lead him down to the storage room for a retaliatory tour, when I notice the cabinet door is open and clearly visible are no less than a dozen pie plates, a half dozen pizza pans and seven muffin tins.

I change the subject.

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It's time for the citizens of Ocean Isle Beach to be a part of the political process!

ELECT KEN PROCTOR OCEAN ISLE BEACH COMMISSIONER

You don't have to wait to read in the newspaper to find out what is going on with your town government. You can be a part of the decision-making if you elect a commissioner that will represent the interests of all the citizens of Ocean Isle and not just the special interests.

Growth of our town is one of the most important issues that will face our town in the years to come. Growth must and will come, but it must also be orderly.

This is, after all, primarily a residential community, and I feel it should remain so. Our town should stay family oriented.

I have experience in this matter since I serve on the Town Planning Board. I am also involved in many other activities of the town, including serving on the Board of Directors of the Ocean Isle Museum of Coastal Carolina and on the Board of Directors of the Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association.

I sincerely ask for your support and vote and I promise to always try to represent the best interests of all the people of Ocean Isle Beach, to work to keep the current tax rate and continue to provide first-rate town services.

Flu Season Is Just Around The Corner... Don't let it catch you.

Dr. Kirk Steptoe is now administering the influenza vaccine in his office at the Doctor's Complex.

If you think you are considered a "high risk" individual and would benefit by the vaccine, call Dr. Steptoe today to see if this vaccine is recommended for you.

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