

From: Doll, Laura
Sent: 3/22/2014 12:16:27 PM
To: jf2@cpuc.ca.gov (jf2@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Today (from The Writer's Almanac), a show I love even though it's Garrison Keilor and even though KQED doesn't carry it

I hope you are having a good visit in Germany, probably well into dinner by now. Bob Weisenmiller left this morning.

I always forget to tell you how great a gift The Sun is. I wish KQED carried The Writers Almanac, but here's a snippet from today, about my favorite poet.

It's the birthday of the man who said, "My poetry is suburban, it's domestic, it's middle class, and it's sort of unashamedly that, but I hope there's enough imaginative play in there that it's not simply poems about barbecuing." That's the poet Billy Collins born in New York City (1941). He was an only child. Before he even knew how to read, he would page through books and pretend that he was reading whenever his parents had company. He said: "I would say it was a fairly happy childhood. But they say he who says that is just better at repressing things." He wrote his first poem at the age of seven when he was driving with his parents and looked out the window and saw a sailboat on the East River.

He hasn't stopped writing poems since then. He said: "I was a most impressionable teenager back in the days of beatnik glory, so I responded fully to Kerouac, Ginsberg, Ferlinghetti's 'Coney Island of the Mind' — still a good title — Gregory Corso, and others. I was in Paris for a summer in the early sixties and hung self-consciously around the corners of the scene on the Boul Mich, as they called it. I sat at the same table with Corso and others, and I even hung around with an American girl named Ann Campbell, whom *Realities* magazine had called 'The Queen of the Beatniks.' (Let's see ... what did that make me??) But mostly I was a Catholic high school boy in the suburbs who fantasized about stealing a car and driving nonstop to Denver. I probably would have done it, but I didn't have access to those special driving pills Neal Cassady had. Plus, there was always a test to study for, or band practice."

Laura Doll

Director, Regulatory Relations

lrdd@pge.com

office: 415.973.8663

mobile: 415.828.3739

