

TRAGEDY

It happens. You knew it could.
No one ever said it wouldn't,
and now it has.

The world just goes on – the air
moves, trees keep on standing there and maybe
grieve a little, the sun stays steady.

All of this can't stop for a person,
no matter who, and the whole world
has to rock now and then, but that's all.

So people come by to talk and help
if they can. They shake their heads helpfully.
"You'll get over it," they say.

And maybe, after years, you do,
or at least some of the time when
it's quiet, or during music, you almost do.

William Stafford