

de Stolfe Journal

Candid

December 2013

Issue 2.12



4 . RG to England Fundraiser

5 . Ten Years Since Graduating

8-9 . 2013 Recap

11 . Are You Squirrel Crazy?

12-16 . More College Writings



Contents

The Regular Stuff

- 3 **Editorial**
What is your mindset?
 - 3 **Monthly Scriptures**
Be made anew!
 - 4 **Saddle Break Reads**
A mail sack of various goodies
 - 4 **RG to England Fundraiser**
Help RG go to England!
 - 11 **Digital Collage**
Lots of great squirrel pics!
 - 12 **Back Page Literature**
Several writing goodies.
-

This Issue Stuff

- 5 **10 Years Since Graduating Tech**
Wow! Ten years already!
 - 5 **10-11 Years of Tech Rodeo Award**
Another cool thing a while ago.
 - 6 **A Bit of Strips**
A cool iPhone app I discovered.
 - 7 **Punctuation Progression**
New punctuation we can really use!
 - 8-9 **Recap of 2013**
Highlights of reports in the newsletter
 - 10 **2014 and New Year Resolutions**
Do you still do these?
-



Pages
8-9

On The Cover

*I graduated Texas Tech in December 2003.
Read more about it on page 5.*

To The Left

*In my Christmas 2013 special issue, I reported about
this special Texas themed tree.*



What is your mindset?

2014



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Well, Labor Day came and went. Then, Halloween came and went. After came Thanksgiving, then went. Then Christmas, and now the last day of the year 2013. While people think that time has gone faster, it goes at the same steady rate it always has. However, people pay less attention to time as it goes, and therefore people only see certain points in time that are increasingly more distant, therefore making time appear like it's going faster.

Well, whatever the appearance rate, we are now upon another year, 2014. So many habitually follow rigid routines of making new year resolutions, then failing to keep them. Or go into a new year with the strangest of attitudes based on past experiences and feelings, thus tainting their future even before it starts. Why do people torture themselves with destructive mindsets and actions with hearts and minds full of poison?? I have noticed that so many people have absolutely no clue of the connection of their words and actions to the results that are active in their lives! If someone is in a bad circumstance, the last thing they seem to understand is that it is caused by what they are

declaring! In other words, the very words they say are happening in their lives and yet they don't understand why it is happening! And what's worse is that other people will speak over them with the same destructive words causing the effects to compound! If someone is having a difficult time with something, are you going to curse them by saying negative, destructive things, or instead are you going to speak over them words of life and constructive support? Sadly, so many just don't understand this!

Another point of observation. Since when has right and wrong, good and bad ever blurred to the point of no distinction? Who can ever understand how and why doing the right (correct) thing actually gets us in trouble? Since when have the laws God established been so challenged that they are considered false and an abomination? How did people come to the point of being so complacent that they didn't even notice it happening, or worse, supporting it?! The Bible is clear when it says that "as in the days of Noah, so shall it be when the Son of man returns!" (Luke 17:26-27) We are there! And scarily enough, it could get much

worse! At the time of Noah, the majority of the people had cast off ALL restraint and gave in to every form of sexual perversion (all sex outside the context of sex between one man and one woman who are married together), they smoked, drank, talked lewdly with regularity and without inhibition! They were corrupt, murders, and gluttonous in every form and type. God was so disgusted with the perversion and corruption of the people, that he purposely caused a flood to wipe out the entire earth in order to destroy all that evilness! That's exactly how so many people act today. They shun God, disregard the Bible, and refuse to listen to anything other than what they say is right or what should be right according to their limited mindset. God doesn't exist to them!

While God clearly said, he will never flood the earth again, he did say that he will destroy the earth and all its perverseness and make the earth brand new at the appointed time. We have hope in this because it is solidly based on salvation in Jesus alone!

Word for Life

Ephesians 4:22-24

"22 Strip yourselves of your former nature [put off and discard your old unrenewed self] which characterized your previous manner of life and becomes corrupt through lusts and desires that spring from delusion; 23 And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude], 24 And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness."

Colossians 3:9-10

"9 Do not lie to one another, for you have stripped off the old (unregenerate) self with its evil practices, 10 And have clothed yourselves with the new [spiritual self], which is [ever in the process of being] renewed and remolded into [fuller and more perfect knowledge upon] knowledge after the image (the likeness) of Him Who created it."

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!"

Saddle Break Reads

RG To England Fundraiser

I very recently got accepted into a summer program called England's Hidden Treasures by Bishop Grosseteste University! In 2014, I will be going to Lincoln, England to participate in this program where students have hands on study at local museums and travel to other areas to tour museums and heritage sites between Lincoln and London. The English do museum work slightly different from people in the United States, which gives me a great opportunity to learn about another culture and their methods in my same field of interest. I can certainly use more education and a broader view of museum work to help me be more qualified and especially experienced for future museum jobs.

Travel of any type is expensive, especially to another country and especially for educational purposes! I am raising funds to pay for at least part of trip. My funding needs partly include:

- Program cost (and initial deposit)
- Roundtrip airfare (not cheap!)
- Roundtrip train travel (London and Lincoln)
- Meals (besides breakfast, which is included)
- Passport
- Free spending money (thousands of miles away and broke??)



New Campaign! Help send RG to England for a museum studies summer program in 2014!

I am raising money through a site called indiegogo.com. Go to my specific page: www.indiegogo.com/projects/rg-to-england-fundraiser/x/5769041

More detail about the trip as I get it and posted in future issues!

Facebook Snippets



Here are a few snippets of quotes I posted on Facebook since the last issue.

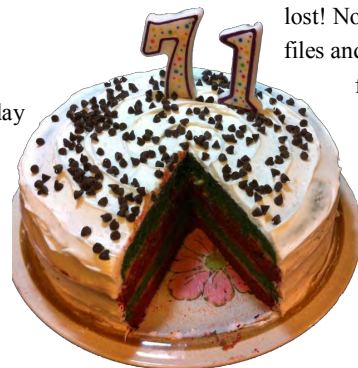
November 30: "I'll never understand this... Why do people "like" things on Facebook that are for sale?? So very irritating!"

December 5:
"Yeah! Now we are at negative double digits!"



December 16: "Some exciting news on the RG front, I just found out that I got accepted into a special museum based program in England! It is a summer program for three weeks studying at English museums and heritage sites in 2014! Now, to figure out how to pay for it!"

December 23: "Dad's birthday today. He is now 71. The cake is a special mix, and I put pudding layers with white frosting and mini chocolate chips on top."



December 26: "Very strange! several months ago, I had a flash drive that went bad on me and caused me to lose months worth of work (and really even years, since I had other stuff on it too). But tonight, I found some recovery software that reclaimed every bit of what I lost! Now, I do need to reorganize the files and rename them to their original file names, but that's far better than trying to figure out how to replace them! I didn't really get any presents this year, but this one was a huge one to get! Thank you Jesus!"



<http://www.facebook.com/rg.destolfe>



<http://myworld.ebay.com/cowbovrg>



<http://pinterest.com/cowbovrg>

10 Years Since Graduating Tech

This year has been a year of several milestone anniversaries. The next milestone is that of my graduation from Texas Tech University and the Museum Science program. My graduation was ten years ago on December 20, 2003. The day was relatively cool and clear. The graduation went well, but was very long. Mom and Dad drove out from Florida and stayed several days. After the ceremony, we went the Grad School reception, then we went photo taking, as so many do after a graduation. Here are several.

I wrote this on Facebook on December 16, 2013:

“Ten years ago around this time, I graduated with my Master degree in Museum Science from Texas Tech University. Sadly, having a Master degree has proven to be useless in obtaining a museum job, even ten years later! :-[“

Top left: This sculpture is in the middle of campus. It is of Will Rogers on Soapsuds.

Top right: This photo was in the rotunda of Holden Hall, the original location of the museum. The murals are modern day (mid century) frescoes painted by Peter Hurd.

Bottom left: This is the seal of Texas Tech University at the very front of campus.

Bottom right: In the middle of campus.



10-11 Years of Tech Rodeo Award

Another anniversary was that of what is to the right. Since coming to Lubbock, I was involved with the Texas Tech Rodeo Association, starting in 2001. The next year, I was given the Dub Parks Memorial Award during the Texas Tech rodeo in October 2002. I also got the award again in 2003.

The Dub Parks Memorial award is named after Dub Parks who was involved with Tech Rodeo from 1949 until he graduated. He was a Bareback rider. He was killed suddenly and unusually in an auto accident in the mid 1950s. The first award was in 1955.

Of course, my buckles now are not anywhere near this shiny anymore.



Go to my Back Page Literature section to read more writings I did in college at Texas Tech University while studying for my Museum Science degree.

A Bit of Strips

I discovered a new iPhone app last month from some other people I know who were also using it. The app is called Bitstrips. Basically, it's a cartoon version of yourself placed in various single frame scenes. Upon starting, I had to create my character, which was quite extensive in every nuance of features so that it really looks like you once done. Then as often or as sparse as you want, you can choose one of many settings to be in, either from the themed categories or from the several new daily scenes. To make a scene, simply choose the scene then customize it by choosing one of dozens of expressions and adding a thought bubble. Some scenes are solo, while some are with two and can be customized with who to be the other person in the scene. Here's a selection of some I've done since starting.



Rg doesn't mind cleaning up the cat's hair balls every week. Really.



RG's new action movie: I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!

RG decides he hates Windows and has had enough!

RG shooting a laptop.

Punctuation Progression

Whether this is meant to be real or sarcastic, they are much fun! I recently found out about some new punctuation marks that are quite useful, even if they are not mainstream. This is from a site called College Humor. As you could guess, the site includes all sorts of text, photos, videos, etc that are meant to be humorous, but in the typical edginess of college thinking.

Here's the breakdown of the marks.



Andorpersand

Use this mark for "and/or".

I would like some bacon & sausage with my pancakes for breakfast.



Mockquotations

Use these quotes to quote a fictional remark that someone characteristically could say.

Doc, Doc! I don't like plutonium!
said Marty McFly.



Hemi-demi-semi colon

Use this mark when you don't have a clue when to use a period, a comma, or a semicolon.

I want to make a cake this weekend; I think chocolate with cream cheese frosting.



Sarcastises

Use these marks for when you want to make a sarcastic statement and come across as sarcastic.

⚡That's an awesome Christmas sweater!⚡



"I'm not angry" mark

Use this mark when you need to make a brief statement, but you are not angry and don't want to come across as angry.

We need to talk.



Sinceriod

In a world of statements not meaning what they say, use this mark for a truly sincere statement.

Thank you. I really like this present.



Superellipsis

Use this mark to give a long, dramatic pause to heighten the next part of the sentence.

As he approached the door, he grabbed the door knob to turn it.. then, he turned around and left.



Morgan Freemark

A mark to designate that the voice of the statement can be in any voice desired. Morgan Freeman is an actor and producer who is well respected and known to speak very well and dramatically.

🗣️ It was a dark and stormy night.. 🗣️



January: Found this cook old figure south of Falcon, Colorado.

Jan

January: Made a cool zebra cake.



February: Facebook quote:

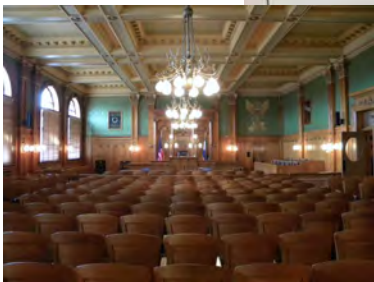
“Just was looking at an old photo book, and in it on one page stated that a “horse is only afraid of what he doesn't understand.” And that, folks, would be just about everything!”

March: Article published: *Butteri of the Maremma.*



February: Heavy snow.

Feb



March: Visit to the Pioneer Museum in downtown Colorado Springs.

Mar



March: Facebook quote:

“Happy 10 year anniversary! Praise to God always!”

April: Very high points gained while playing Matching.



Apr



March: St. Patrick's Day cooking.

May: May Day snow and freeze.

May

May: Article published: *The Wild Life of Bone Mizell.*



May: Made new planting areas at dad's house.

Jun

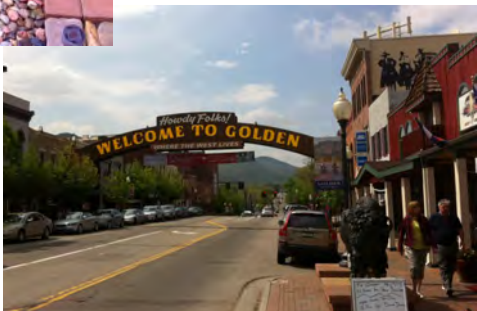


June: Super moon 2013



June: Black Forest fire northwest of Colorado Springs.

May: Visit with friends visiting Golden, Colorado





July: One year of publication of de Stolfe Journal *Candid*.



July: Truck of 4 years repossessed.



41

July: Turned 41 years old in Lubbock. I did not feel too well, but felt better later.

July: While in Lubbock, made banana pudding, twice!



Jul

July: Took a Greyhound bus from Colorado Springs to Lubbock. First time on a Greyhound bus since 2005 and 1994 before that.



July: Facebook quotes:

“Finally after a year! Taco Tuesday! — at Rosa's Cafe & Tortilla Factory.”

Aug

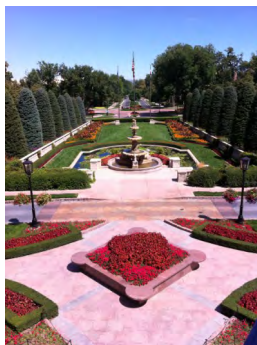
“Bye Texas for now. Will be back eventually after my “studying abroad” !”



August: Article published: *Road Train*.



August: Visited the Broadmoor Hotel.



Sep

August-September: Visit to Jacksonville, Florida.



September: Facebook quotes:

“Just laying in bed and man! The crickets are loud tonight!”



“Can say now that I've been to Nashville! — at Nashville International Airport.”

Oct

“Well, back in the semi redneck land of Jacksonville!”

September: Made pickles!

September: Crazy points game!



November: 11.12.13 14:15:16!



Nov

September: Crazy hail.



September: Made biscuits.



October: First hard freeze of fall.



October: Coffee Cake.



November: Unusually frigid cold!



November: Hodge Podge.



November: Shop Small Saturday.



December: More crazy



December: Christmas cookies!

Dec

December: Facebook quote:

“I'll never understand this... Why do people “like” things on Facebook that are for sale?? So very irritating!”



2014

Happy New Year

New Year Resolutions?

I'm going to get this out of the way right from the start... new year resolutions are stupid! There, I've said it. Now, you can admit it and get past it. Who really likes making resolutions that they KNOW they will cast aside even before January is over! As I said, new year resolutions are stupid! So don't make any! The only reason people make resolutions is to offer a sliver of hope to how they've failed miserably for past failures. Why put yourself through that torture every year?? Stupid! While people's intentions for making these resolutions may be sincere, they also sincerely break them!

Just for fun and laughs, here's a list of common new year resolutions that people make. How many of these have you made then broken?

- Lose weight, get fit, eat healthier, diet
- Manage stress better, reduce stress, be less stressed, worry less
- Quit smoking, stop smoking, smoke less
- Drink less, reduce alcohol, quit drinking
- Spend less money, save more money, get out of debt, manage finances better
- Go back to school, learn something new, get more education
- Spend more time with family and friends, work less, balance time better, time management
- Travel, go to somewhere new, explore a new place
- Volunteer, help others more, be a better person, give more
- Love more, be more loving, find love (in the feeling sense)
- Get a better job, be happier in a job
- Recycle more, be more aware of unwanted things
- Get organized, be more organized
- Be happier, be more satisfied, enjoy life more

Go to this site for some interesting new year resolution statistics:

www.statisticbrain.com/new-years-resolution-statistics

Back Page Literature

As I mentioned in the last issue, I graduated from Texas Tech University in December 2003 with my Master of Art degree in Museum Science. During the 2.5 years I was in the program, I had many classes and had many writings. I included a sampling of them in the last issue, and here are a couple more extended writings I found for this month's Back Page Literature.

For this writing, I had a graduate level independent study Animal Science class. As part of the class, I had to keep a journal recording the things I did each meeting day throughout the term. Here is a small selection of the more interesting days.

Note: the writings for each day may or may not be the entire writing as I wrote it for the class. Also, I replaced people's names with generic words like [the teacher], since names are not what's important in these writings.

ANSC 5001-09 Daily Journal

Tuesday, January 8, 2002

I went over to see [the teacher] at the office. We decided the need to create a syllabus for this self study class. [the teacher] suggested that for the first few classes in the beginning of the term that I attend the group lecturing for background and acquaintance. [Later,] I got to the arena grounds. I started out by trying to catch Peanut (about 4 years old). After a little effort, I put on a halter w/ lead rope and led him to the tack shed. After brushing and cleaning the hooves, I put on some "shoes" and shin pads on the front two feet and some kind of (skid pads?) on the back two feet. After, I led him to the arena to do some lunging. I also did this with another horse, Buddy (about 6 years old).

Monday, January 14, 2002

We had three pens with horses. One pen was Buddy where we practiced lunging and switching directions. The next pen had a new yearling who has not begun training yet. Boy, what a difference between Buddy and the new yearling; a definite difference in exposure to training and activity. The third pen had a horse who did not want to be caught. So, [the teacher] showed the non-hands-on technique of lunging by placement and slowly worked toward being able to touch the horse.

Saturday, January 26, 2002

Today by special arrangements, I went to the arena around noon. I first caught Peanut and brushed and saddled him. Then I took him into a round pen and started lunging him. [the teacher] later showed me how to do the single and double driving. He even started to show me what to do to get a center of gravity and balance on a horse. After [a] short lesson, I then went to get the light palomino, and spent an hour or so practicing the techniques [the teacher] showed us in the class. The palomino is the horse that had the problem of avoiding things around the head. I did manage to get the horse to trust me enough to touch her head and even rub a rope around her head.

Thursday, February 14, 2002

Today was a great day for horse training. I started out getting Peanut, brushing, cleaning, and saddling him. I then got the palomino and worked with her for a while. Apparently, the palomino had a slight digression by running into a pole and knocking off Neal. She also has a few scratches on her with one major one. I got her and haltered and lunged and picked up feet and rubbed her with the rope. She didn't want to be lunged from her left side though; I had some difficulty with that. So, [the teacher] tried a few things and I did a few things then stopped. After, I actually got to ride Peanut in the round pen. Started with a walk and a balance and center of gravity exercise then tried a trot. The trots obviously I need to work on. I then took Peanut to the roping alley and rode him a little longer. I mainly walked and changed directions a few times. [the teacher] then rode him for roping steers and calves. When he was done, I rode Peanut through the arena back towards the front. Quickly, I helped to sort the calves from the steers by horseback. Apparently, [the teacher] was quite impressed that I was able to progress as I did. I do have a lot more practice to do with all these stages before I'll get more comfortable with them.

Saturday, February 23, 2002

By a wait and see, I got a call from [the teacher] and went to the arena around 1:30. I went and got Peanut and Brownie. Brownie is an ex therapeutic riding horse who is soon to be sold. I saddled them both then took Brownie into the round pen and lunged him. I then rode him after [the teacher] rode him a bit. After a while, [another person] needed the saddle to put on her horse. So I transferred the saddle, put away the other saddle, and went to help [the teacher] give the new calves antibiotics. I rode Peanut to push the calves down. I rode him some more while [the teacher] did a few things. Then we went to work giving the calves the antibiotics. I'm just not much for needles! I did two calves, but I mostly pulled the ccs. ... This was a beautiful, warm day.

Back Page Literature

ANSC 5001-09 Daily Journal (continued)

Thursday, March 7, 2002

I arrived around two today and first went around and checked and filled the water troughs so I could finish digesting my lunch. [Later, the teacher] took care of unsaddling and all while I then took Peanut to get a bath. I hosed him down and almost took a bath with him. I then soaped him up real good and [the teacher] rinsed him. I took Peanut back to the shed where we squeegeed him and combed his mane. Apparently, Peanut just got sold... So we took some time to make him look nice and clean and such. After that, [the teacher] was taking a break and we started talking for a bit. He recommended that I wasn't quite ready to actually take the horse training class specifically... Apparently, [the teacher] thinks that I am close but not quite there yet to being a horseman (I think that is what he said). I actually don't think that I'm anywhere near that, but [the teacher] said I wasn't giving myself enough credit, for he says that I have learned a lot in a short period of time. That was a good thing for me to hear, I really didn't know how or if I have progressed in anything specific. I helped unload some oats then hydroed Blue's leg for the sore he had.

Saturday, March 9, 2002

I went over in the mid afternoon and helped [the teacher] doctor the calves. We came back later and we fed. We went to the ABC Rodeo and got to sit real close to the roughstock chutes. We stayed and watched the whole rodeo. ... I thought it was pretty cool to get a more close-up perspective of the riders that what you normally see on TV or even live [up in the stands].

Sunday, March 10, 2002

Stayed the night at [the teacher's] place so that I could help him feed and water in the morning. That was basically the first time I've fed in the early-mid morning. I can see

how it might be pretty cool to get up early in the morning when it is cool and feed and water then go get breakfast. It would be nicer if I didn't have to hear all the cars driving by; in other words, if it was quiet.

Tuesday, March 12, 2002

I went out in the late afternoon to help [the teacher] and he suggested that I go to the horse auction tonight. I've wanted to go since he first mentioned it some months ago. So I went. ... I got there around 7 and stayed there until about 9. It was interesting to see what they auctioned and how they did it. ... It was pretty cool to see how they auctioned the horses. They did go extremely fast; I think there were 40 horses. It is just too bad that some of the buyers were also "gluers" (those who buy horses just for "products").

Tuesday, March 26, 2002

Today was a good day! I got there around 2, then after a while, I went and got the palomino and hydroed her flank which apparently had some sort of whelp. Hopefully the cold water helped. I then took her back and brushed her down. It is definitely spring because all the horses were brushing cakes of hair off. I tied her up and [another person] had already gotten one of the therapeutic riding horses (a huge paint) saddled with one of his saddles and warmed up. [This person] helped and guided me while I rode in the round pen. I started with a walk then tried the trot. I did have split reins and a snaffle bit, which I didn't have before. I also tried the lope, which is smoother but certainly faster. I mostly needed to try to keep balance while reining and smoothing out the bouncing. Definitely something I need to work on! I walked the paint into the big arena then walked around there before getting stuck in a corner. I had a little bit of a problem with the commands.

[the teacher] explained about the holding until action then release and about establishing control. He had me interweave cones for practicing the reining, which helped. We then rode the horses to push the calves down the alley to give deworm medicine. ...

Thursday, March 28, 2002

Like Tuesday, this was another good riding day. I started out by getting Charlie, the paint from Tuesday. I brushed him, hoofed, and put on the saddle after changing out the cinch. Before I actually put on the saddle and started riding and while the saddle was on the rack, I sat in the saddle while [the teacher] explained in detail about how the reining and the reaching for the reins worked. This helped a lot for I now better understand what I was doing wrong and what to do to get a certain result. Also, he showed me what to do if the horse tries to take control. While I sat in the saddle and held onto ropes as reins, [the teacher] acted like a horse while I needed to do the response that corrects it, specifically, to correct the head moving astray or by the will of the horse. I then walked in the round pen trying out the reining and corrections as needed. After, I went into the big arena again and practiced walking the cones. Did that for a while to try out the reining and get used to how to do it. We then went into trotting and loping and body and feet position when riding and coming to a stop. After practicing the trotting and loping on both days, I can say that I am a lot more comfortable and confident with going faster than a walk. ...

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

I did manage to fit in a few hours this week for the class despite the TAM conference. I rode a horse today that I knew I would ride someday, but haven't seen yet, Rick. Rick was about 20 and was a Therapeutic Riding horse. When I first started riding him, I

Back Page Literature

ANSC 5001-09 Daily Journal (continued)

didn't feel like I really had any control of him and therefore didn't like him. He didn't seem to understand the direction commands nor the speed commands therefore he easily went from a walk to a lope or run. Also, when I would say easy, he actually sped up. I tried the technique of spinning him down, but he kept going that speed anyway. I think he may have been a barrel racer horse originally for how quickly he was able to go around corners. I walked around the arena and walked around cones. I did that for most of the time. I did realize though that I might not actually be ready for the riding part of horse training. I did feel edgy the whole time because I couldn't tell what he would do next with the command I would give. So, I basically didn't do much other than the walking. ...

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

Today, I went to the facility in New Deal, which is just north of Lubbock. The Tech horse breeding facility is located here. We left Dub Parks about 12:30... After we got to the New deal facility, most of the time was spent doing the process outlined next. I wasn't trained in any of the activities done, so I mainly watched everyone. Besides me, there were [six other people]. Today, they needed to check and see what mares were ready to breed (palpating?), then collect from the stallions, then artificially inseminate. Here are the steps taken in more detail.

Note: Explicit content ahead.

Check the Mare— First the mares (and colts if any) that needed to be checked were brought and tied. The anal /rectum regions needed to be cleaned out of excess fecal matter (scoop the shit out). Then a sonogram type of machine was inserted along with the person's arm almost to the shoulder to get a visual indicator and measurement of follicle size (shove arm up butt with a hose). This determined if the

horse was ready to breed if the follicle was at least a certain size (35cm?).

Collect from Stallions—If enough mares are ready, then the next step is to collect from the stallions. This requires the use of an artificial vagina (AV), which is a large rubber simulator filled with warm water resembling a large condom. A container is taped to the collection end and a stiff, leather holder goes around the whole thing for support. A horse is brought in who is obviously ready and willing and allowed to sniff a mare. While making extremely strange facial features, the horse becomes more aroused. The horse's penis is washed off and the process continues quickly from here. The horse's penis become extremely stiff and he then jumps onto a padded dummy. At the same time, one of the helpers directs the penis into the AV and holds it while the horse humps away. Three people are usually needed for this, to hold the horse into place until he ejaculates. At this point, the collection is made and the horse turns flaccid extremely fast while become very tired and calm. The bottle of semen is then taken into the lab where a sample is taken and put under the microscope to check for activity and a rough, visual sperm density. If appears good, then an extender is added to the semen which apparently extends the life of the semen as well as creates slightly more volume. The collection is placed into a fridge and more collections are made as needed.

Post Collection— After all collections are taken (we took two, but three tries with one horse), the mares (and colts) are brought in and tied up. The anal and vaginal areas are cleaned three times with soap. The tail is also wrapped and tied out of the way. The semen is put into a syringe ([straw], no needle) and a tube with the arm is inserted into the vagina and the collection (a portion) pressed through the tube. This process is

done with all the mares and stallions as needed and planned.

After, we loaded up the therapeutic horses and came back to Dub Parks [arena].

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Got to the arena today around 3. Noone was around yet, so I got Charlie and picked his hooves. I couldn't find my brushes (I think I left them a couple of weeks ago), so I went around and filled water troughs. After [the teacher] came, I saddled up and started walking Charlie in the big arena. During the about two hours I rode, I realized that Charlie was being a real bastard! The biggest problems I had were with steering (and straight) and speed control. For most of the time, I could not get him to lope. All he'd do is trot faster. Apparently, horses have several trotting speeds. Near the end of riding, I finally got him to lope, but the lopes as well as the trots were extremely rough and had me bouncing all over the saddle (enough to make me saddle sore!). Charlie just seemed to have an attitude problem, which I think I may have overcome but only to a certain extent. ...

Monday, April 29, 2002

Went by the arena just to see what was going on. Noone seemed to be there so, I went around and made sure all the water troughs were full. I plan to continue riding this week and possibly next week even if I do not need to for class purposes. I have learned a lot from this class as the summary report states. Thank you [to the teacher] for giving me many opportunities to learn!

Back Page Literature

During my first term as a Museum Science student in Fall 2001, I had a class called Interpretation and Communication. Okay, so this class was basically an exhibits class. One of our first writing projects was to visit the museum and write about what we saw. Besides it being a writing project, I think they used the writings as feedback to improve the museum, especially if many of the comments were similar. Please note that museums change just like people's lives, and some of my comments might be based on temporary exhibitions or of features the museum has since changed or eliminated.

A Visit to the Museum of Texas Tech

On Saturday, September 15, 2001, I decided to visit the Museum of Texas Tech. As I closed my truck door and started walking towards the front doors, I first noticed how far the parking lot was from the museum. At first I thought this was strange, but then I realized that it was a good idea for it gives plenty of space between the parking lot and the museum. Much of this space was bare and open with mostly grass and sidewalks and a few bronze sculptures to break up the space. Unlike this museum, other museums I have been to had their parking lots real close to the museum which often seemed to take away from the architecture of the building. The first time I came here, I went to the first set of doors on the right. They were locked, and then I saw the sign to use the center doors. I have later observed others doing this and can certainly relate to their subtle embarrassment. As I was going through the vestibule, the cool air gushed by me like the winter wind in mountain country. The lobby was large with high ceilings, but the space gave a sense of feeling cold because of the overall neutral color of the walls and the terrazzo floors. The information desk, where a guard was standing, was the first place I came to. I found the guard to be informative and friendly but not necessarily inviting and hospitable.

I first had to decide what direction to go. On the left, underneath where a large mural was painted, was a gift shop and a hallway. On the right were bathrooms and some stairs to the second floor gallery. I could also go forward through a glass wall. I could assume that this is where the main gallery is, but I could not be absolutely sure since no signage was available to state it. I suppose I could have taken it as obvious, but this situation is comparable to the "idiot lights" on a vehicle. People who understand how cars work know when something is wrong or needs to be fixed without needing the idiot lights to tell them. However, people who do not understand very well how cars work (myself included) can only rely on the lights to know for sure if something is wrong or needs to be checked. I certainly do not want to ask a question that obviously makes me appear stupid. The same is true upon entrance to a museum. I know that if I am not quite sure where something is, I first look for a sign so I don't have to ask. I did pick up a map of the museum located on a table off to the right side, but I did feel that a pamphlet as important as a museum guide should be placed at the information counter.

I walked through the glass doors to find myself in a slightly dark, very large, and essentially empty room where the ceilings were just as high as in the lobby. I did notice that the room had large, white walls but thought it was strange that nothing was being shown on them. The only items in this room were two very large dinosaur skeletons positioned as if they were attacking each other. I would have liked to see a lighted sign, such as what is

used in a mall, to show me where I am and what was where. Even though I did have the printed map, I found myself rarely looking at it, not to mention that I did not want to carry it. I also did not see any signage stating what each of the areas were except for a small "Gallery 1" along the top of three entryways, which did not mean anything to me. I moved on and first went in to the Picasso ceramics. The random path arrangement of this exhibit is not a new concept to me for this is the most common arrangement for fine art exhibits. I found the exhibit quite interesting and informative although the display cases were quite large and seemed crowded together more than what felt comfortable. This is however understandable considering that much of this work was fairly large and voluminous.

I then walked straight out towards the kites, but kept walking because I was not too interested in the kites. I did notice four wooden seating areas in this gallery and thought that at least one or two of them should have been in the main gallery. I continued into the Devitt wing and another gallery where a woolly mammoth skeleton and a giant elephant's head were. These were quite interesting so I then wanted to see the dinosaur exhibit. But a sign stated that the exhibit will open in two years, which disappointed me since I do not know how long this sign has been there. I continued to the Hub City Lubbock Gallery and found this gallery and its photographs and displays quite fascinating. Although, I did notice that the photographs were not in any real order except loosely organized by decade. I did not quite understand the nearby area around the theatre for it appeared to be under construction but the map showed this area did not exist! Next was the Explorium. This is a great place for kids to touch stuff and otherwise explore, although, I was sort of expecting to see more than just animal science displays. I was expecting a broader range of subjects like geology, history, and agriculture (after all we are in West Texas). I did like the interactive displays, though I was uncertain about one aspect of the reading area. The books looked like they were locked up in high glass cases rather than being on low open shelves inviting all to read. Despite this slight misimpression though, I did think the reading area was good idea.

I continued on to the pre-Columbian art and instantly got a visual sense. This sense was from the crowding of the work into small built in cases behind a sheet of glass as if they were in a highly secured environment. The walking space was extremely tight for a gallery, and I felt quite cramped and claustrophobic. Even though the work is mostly small and intimate, I do think that the work was way too crowded making this intimate display of the pre-Columbian art just a little too exaggerated. I have noticed other museums that have pre-Columbian art seem to display these types of artifacts in a similar manner. I

Back Page Literature

A Visit to the Museum of Texas Tech (continued)

would like to have seen these artifacts displayed with considerably more space especially since this gallery seems to be plenty big enough to accommodate. I did however like the zigzag effect of the display cases.

I came out of the general area where the Hub City Lubbock Gallery, the Explorium, and the pre-Columbian art were shown back into gallery two, then went through an entryway into a room where some fine art was exhibited. At first, I had no idea what this exhibit was about except for that the work did seem to have a common subject matter. Not until I got around to the front entrance of this gallery did I then see the sign stating that this exhibit was called Vision and Impression. The work seemed to be well arranged and felt quite comfortable in its arrangement. The overall flow of the gallery led the viewer through a suggested path, at least from the direction where I came in. I did find more work from this exhibit in a small, disconnected hall gallery (gallery four) down and around the corner from gallery three. If it was not for a title, I would not have realized that this work was part of the same exhibit, especially since this work did not seem to match the kind of work in gallery three.

At the end of this hall gallery, I could go left to the Taos gallery or right to the ethnology area. I went right and saw the Hopi, Apache, and Navajo displays in the wall and a few artifact cases. I was then a little uncertain where the rest of this gallery was for this part of the museum did not seem well organized, stocked, nor arranged. The several closed galleries and the lack of any major exhibit in this area also further added to the confusion. This ethnology gallery appears to have been in this condition for quite a while, especially because of the several colors of carpets that do not go all the way to the walls. This doubts my impression that the Museum of Texas Tech has a very strong ethnology collection. I found my way to the African art gallery and looked at the masks and sculptures and then continued on to the Retablos: Arte de Fe gallery which appeared to have Mexican, religious iconography. I really liked the Taos gallery for the Mexican tiles on the floor and the large, wooden, double seat. Likewise, I thought the wood trusses were also a good feature to the overall theme of the gallery. I liked the overall feeling of this room; it was warm and comfortable. I did not understand though why a glass barrier was placed to prevent the visitor to go between the Taos gallery and the Retablos gallery.

At this point, I finished looking around in the galleries that appeared to be the old part of the building and shifted to the back of the museum where the Diamond M Fine Art Collection was exhibited. This collection appeared to be divided into three areas, the NC Wyeth Friends and Family exhibit, the People and Places of the Southwest exhibit, and the Ivory and Jade exhibit. I first went to the NC Wyeth gallery and instantly noticed a much different feeling to the gallery as compared to most of the other galleries. Both the NC Wyeth gallery and the Southwest gallery both were very traditional in display. The rooms were basic rectangles with traditional white walls. The work was hung quite close together, was brightly lit, and was protected by roped barriers and by alarm sensors. Even though these elements were to protect the work, the mere fact that they were there—and especially the alarms—created an unsettling tension. In past times I have been in these galleries, I have heard other people set off the screeching alarm even though they were not real close to the paintings. Because of that, I have no idea what the range of the sensors' reach is and therefore feel like I need to stay as far away from the walls as I possibly can to avoid potentially setting off the alarms. This is again very unsettling because I often like to look reasonably close at the paintings to see details of the brushwork. For that, I feel banned from being able to study the painting techniques and therefore feel that my viewing access is extremely limited. The whole time I am in these galleries I feel tense and uncomfortable just because the sensors keep me from really being able to study all the aspects of a particular painting I like. As a result, I just act like most people when looking at art; I just glance at the work and go through the gallery quickly. This is a shame because this is the type of art I especially have an interest in.

I walked back into the hall between the Diamond M collection and the Devitt Jones Sculpture Court and noticed that there was a red, boarded up entry space that looked similar to the boarded up entry spaces to the dinosaur exhibit. I thought that it was a gallery space being renovated, but no sign was posted stating what this space was or when it is to open. I then looked over to another gallery space contained by three glass walls that had some covered up glass display cases. I wondered if something was wrong with this gallery or if it was new and was waiting for an installation. This general area called gallery seven appeared to either be an overflow of work from the Diamond M

collection or other work from the Museum's collection of a similar subject. Either way, this hall gallery seemed to lack any major unity, very likely because of the few available—but disconnected—areas to place work from all the doors, glass walls, and openings.

During my visit of the museum, I was aware of several issues. First, I noticed many miscellaneous works scattered around the museum. Many of these pieces were interesting but did not seem to have any relation to any specific exhibit. Perhaps they were part of a general art collection that did not have a special category. I noticed and really liked and appreciated those exhibits that had pamphlets of additional and supplemental information relating to the respective exhibit. These pamphlets, such as with the Picasso exhibit and with the display of spurs, give me a sense of importance for they were specifically created as aides in the understanding of the exhibit or display. Also, I was glad to see descriptions for the hygrothermograph since this object is otherwise a mysterious element amidst the works of art and culture. On the slightly negative side, I noticed a major lack of wayfinders or intergallery directional signs which made me rely on the paper map. Luckily, the map was not too difficult to understand but the map of the main building could stand to be bigger. I also noticed that a few of the areas did not have any seating while other areas had too many seats. I would have liked to see seating fairly evenly distributed. Even though I did not go to the Planetarium, I did notice that no seating was provided near the Planetarium entrance. I thought this was strange unless the number of visitors to the Planetarium is usually small. For most of the time I was in the museum, I did not see any guards walking through the galleries, but did notice all the security cameras everywhere.

Overall, I ended spending two hours walking around the museum, I was that interested and leisurely in seeing the galleries. I liked most of the galleries and basically thought that they were comfortable and accommodating except for the little details previously mentioned. I do hope to eventually see work on the walls of the main gallery for it created a void as well as created an uncertainty as to how much of the museum was the same. I liked this museum and will return to see future exhibits. I did though find myself quite cold when I left and was glad to get back into the warm sun.