

Briefing

Milestones



DIED
Darrell Royal. Football coach

On any given autumn Saturday, 100,000 football-obsessed Texans pile into Darrell K. Royal–Texas Memorial Stadium to root for the University of Texas. In 1996 the stadium was renamed to honor Royal, the Longhorns' long-time coach, who died Nov. 7 at 88. Royal became head coach after the 1956 season, at age 32, and over the next 20 years he led the Longhorns to 11 Southwest Conference championships and two national titles (as well as a shared third one, with Nebraska, in 1970). He never had a losing season.

Over and above his success—Royal defeated Alabama's Bear Bryant three times and was presented with the 1969 national championship trophy by President Richard Nixon—he was known for his folksy style and memorable phrases. When asked in 1965 after a brief losing streak if he would switch strategies, Royal said you have to “dance with the one who brung ya.” Before his coaching career, Royal was an All-American at Oklahoma—the Longhorns' archenemy—and he carried on a heated rivalry with the Sooners' celebrated coach Barry Switzer. “He was one of us. He was an Okie before he went to Texas,” Switzer said. “We claim him as our own.”

“He stood for the values that make coaching a worthwhile profession.” ABC's legendary football broadcaster Keith Jackson said after Royal's death. “And he stood pretty tall in any room that he graced.” —NATE RAWLINGS

DIED
Elliott Carter
Composer

That Elliott Carter was still creating music as a centenarian—he completed his last work in August—is less impressive than that his music is still in demand. Carter, who died Nov. 5 at 103, began composing in the 1930s and never stopped; he wrote more than 40 pieces between ages 90 and 100. His *String Quartet No. 1*, in 1951, was a breakout work, while the second and third quartets won him the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 and 1973. Four were recorded by the Juilliard String Quartet to mark its 45th anniversary in 1991. (*String Quartet No. 5* came in 1995.) His rhythmically complex work is not easy listening—the quartets have been called the most difficult music ever conceived—but those who take the time to understand it are richly rewarded.

—KAYLA WEBLEY



Barnet's *Mother and Child*, an oil painting from 1961



DIED
Will Barnet
Venerable artist

Though Will Barnet's work can be found in the collections of many American museums, he was rarely cutting edge enough to be a curator's favorite. He didn't need to be. Though Barnet, who was 101 when he died on Nov. 13, made regular forays into abstraction, it was his fine lined slices of everyday life that made his name a byword for the pleasures of skilled draftsmanship and domestic tranquility. From the time in the 1960s when he returned to figurative work—especially his household scenes in broad areas of flat color—his art, instantly recognizable, was widely popular in prints and posters. It didn't hurt that cats figured prominently in quite a few works.

—RICHARD LACAYO

DIED
Valerie Eliot, 86, who married T.S. Eliot in the last years of the great poet's life; she edited an edition of his epic *The Waste Land* that included annotations by Ezra Pound.

ENACTED
A new Russian law with an expanded definition of treason; anyone possessing information deemed secret could be imprisoned for 20 years for espionage.

★ ★ ★ ✗
DEMOTED
William “Kip” Ward, former head of the U.S. Africa Command, from general (four stars) to lieutenant general (three) because of his five-star travel and other unauthorized expenses.

DIED
Frank Peplatt, 85, co-creator of *Hee Haw*, a variety show of comedy and country music that aired on CBS for three seasons, then lived on for 20 years in syndication.

HIRED
By the Los Angeles Lakers, former Knicks and Suns coach Mike D'Antoni; he replaces Mike Brown, who was fired five games into the season.

DIED
James Stone, 89, retired U.S. Army colonel who as a lieutenant in the Korean War led 48 soldiers in holding off 800 Chinese soldiers, earning the Medal of Honor.

ROYAL: AP; CARTER: FELD; BARNET: GREGG DEGUIRE; THE NEW YORK TIMES ARCHIVE; ELLIOTT: GLENNY WILSON; LACAYO: ALEXANDRE GALLERY, NEW YORK