

# THE WEEK THAT WAS

By LISA GUTIERREZ and KRIS KNOWLES  
The Kansas City Star



<p><b>SUNDAY</b></p> <p>Bob Geldof tries to re-create <b>Band Aid</b> magic over the weekend with One Direction and a new supergroup to raise Ebola funding but catches flak. Snarks London's Daily Mail, "Do they know it's not the '80s anymore?"</p> <p><b>HUZZAH!</b></p> <p><b>HMMM...</b></p> <p><b>HORRORS!</b></p>	<p><b>MONDAY</b></p> <p>Australian TV host <b>Karl Stefanovic</b> reveals that, as a social experiment, he wore the same (never-cleaned) suit for one year and no one noticed. Thank goodness Smell-a-Vision doesn't exist.</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY</b></p> <p>Cult leader/mass murderer <b>Charles Manson</b>, 80, is planning his prison wedding to <b>Afton Burton</b>, 26. Meanwhile, it's still illegal for same-sex couples to marry in some states.</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b></p> <p>R.I.P., <b>Mike Nichols</b>, Oscar-winning director of "The Graduate," Tony-winning director of "The Odd Couple" and husband to ABC News' Diane Sawyer.</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <p>The New York Daily News reports <b>Ryan Gosling</b> has turned down People's offer to be its "Sexiest Man Alive" many times, which left the mag no option this year but to choose Marvel's hammer-slinging superhero <b>Chris Hemsworth</b> instead. We'd say they nailed it.</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b></p> <p><b>"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1"</b> inspires young government protesters in Thailand to use the movie's famous three-finger salute — because the one-finger salute is so old-school.</p>
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# FYI

## HOLIDAYS | A roundup of gift suggestions

# PRESENTS TO SAVOR

By LISA GUTIERREZ  
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No time of year brings our senses alive like the holidays. The sights, the sounds, the smells. People write songs about it. Can't you just smell and hear those chestnuts roasting on that open fire and feel Jack Frost nipping at your nose?

So we shopped for gifts this year that will engage and delight the senses of everyone on your list. These gifts taste, feel, sound, smell and look good. And we've got the "sixth" sense covered too: Gifts that have some small purpose to do good in the world.

Happy shopping.



### Bizz and Weezy sea salt caramels and chocolate-covered Oreos

Santa will flip if you leave him a plate of these yummy, dressed-up Oreos. But that's just one sweet offering from Olathe chocolatier Bizz and Weezy Confections, which also makes turtles, caramels and ornate truffles. Last December, We B Nuts, 9437 Mission Road in Leawood, which sells all of the chocolate company's goodies, sold 500 pounds of B&W's popular sea salt caramels, dipped in dark chocolate and topped with crunchy imported sea salt. Oreos, about \$6 for six; caramels \$14 for box of 12. bizzandweezy.com. 866-962-7953.

## COMMENTARY

JENEÉ OSTERHELDT



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## MOCKINGJAY AND OTHER VICTIMS

In a dark movie theater, a few "Hunger Games" fans are laughing at Katniss Everdeen's pain.

There's a moment in the new "Mockingjay — Part 1" when the life is nearly choked out of her. We watch the capillaries in her eyes burst, painting the whites red before she passes out. Later, as she lies in bed in a neck brace, a soldier assures her the attacker has been apprehended alive.

"I just had to get him off you," he says.

This is not comic relief. No, this is dismal — one of the hardest scenes to stomach in both the books and the movies. But people in the audience laugh. I can't figure out why. And I'm afraid it's because crimes against women are not taken seriously. Women are often dismissed as objects and property.

People are joking about the mounting rape allegations against legendary comic Bill Cosby. This week alone, former model Janice Dickinson, Florida nurse Therese Serignese and Carla Ferrigno,

SEE JENEÉ | C2

### Season + Square signature salts

Andrea Joseph, hands down one of the most elegant women we've ever met, sells "everything tasteful for your home" at her Brookside shop, Season + Square, 6205 Oak St. She means tasty, too, as in the store's signature salts and spices — Hawaiian Black Lava (\$6.70), Sel Gris Noirmoutier (\$6) and Molokai Red Sea Salt (\$6.95) to name three — and other culinary treats like artisanal cocktail bitters, chocolates and tall bottles of amber-colored Tupelo honey, one of the rarest of honeys that never crystallizes. (We grabbed some honey, too.) seasonandsquare.com. 816-326-3148.



MORE GIFTS TO TICKLE YOUR SENSES THIS HOLIDAY, C3

PHOTOS BY JILL TOYOSHIBA | THE KANSAS CITY STAR



### Alpaca hat

With a hat like this we say, "Bring it on, winter!" Its cloud-like softness comes from the fiber of Bob and Claudia Hey's Ad Astra Alpacas in Baldwin City, Kan. They sell alpaca apparel, blankets, teddy bears, finger puppets, rugs and more at their Farm Store, open 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays.

(No online orders.) Hats range from about \$26 to \$35, depending on the style; some have matching gloves. One of their newest products: alpaca bootliners that wick away sweat and keep toes toasty. A holiday open house kicks off the season from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 29 and 30. 168 E. 1700 Road, Baldwin City, Kan. adastraalpacas.com. 785-594-6767.



### Fine Vines Ketchup

There is nothing basic about Fine Vines Artisanal Ketchup, and that's the point. Bruce Steinberg — aka @KetchupChef on Twitter — is "looking to change the category. Ketchup is the No. 1 condiment, but it has the least amount of flavor choice in the supermarket." His ketchups, made in KC, "change how you use ketchup" in flavors that include Sriracha, Thai ginger, black truffle and Roasterie coffee. (Yeah, coffee-flavored ketchup.) He offers recipes to show you how to use them for stir-fries, baby back ribs, even a breakfast bloody Mary. \$5.99 per wide-mouth jar (because you can't pour this thick, tomatoey goodness from a bottle), at Hen House, Hy-Vee, Cosentino's Markets, McGonigle's Market and some local Price Choppers. finevinesketchup.com.

## FYI BOOK CLUB

# Slicing and dicing academia

By KAITE STOVER  
Special to The Star

A bitterly cold evening kept some folks away, but a small group of FYI Book Club readers this week burrowed into "Dear Committee Members," Julie Schumacher's novel told entirely through one professor's letters of recommendation.

The Women's Center of the University of Missouri-Kansas City was the ideal setting for this slim, speedy book that calls out — skewers, actually — the challenges facing higher education.

"This book is like reading the Chronicle of Higher Education, but funnier," said Brenda Bethman, Women's Center director.

The book's missives are penned by creative writing professor Jay Fitger, who now channels his own bitter witticisms into letters of recommendation for students he barely knows, colleagues he despises, an ex-wife in law school admissions and a former girlfriend in student affairs.

The curmudgeonly protagonist uses the format to bemoan the state of the humanities on college campuses as well as the job prospects for his students.

SEE COMMITTEE | C3