

Remembering 'The Voice' I'll miss the most

Monday afternoon, my friend Jeff sent me a text message from his house in our hometown of Voorhees, N.J., a Philadelphia suburb. "Harry died," he wrote.



SAM ROSENTHAL
SENIOR WRITER

Instantly, I knew who he meant. Jeff didn't elaborate. Didn't need to.

Harry Kalas. "The Voice of the Phillies," Philadelphia's home team. The voice of NFL Films, located 10 minutes from Voorhees in Cherry Hill.

The voice of our youth. Listening to anybody broadcasting a Phils game besides Kalas

felt like watching a substitute host on Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. It wasn't the same.

Remember, Tar Heel fans, occasionally having to curse the TV set during Billy Packer's play-by-play instead of enjoying Woody

Durham's? For 38 years, that was any Phillies game without Kalas.

Right now, thousands of Phillies fans feel emptier than AIG's piggy bank — myself included.

It's a weird phenomenon. Most of us never met Kalas, yet we all feel that we lost a dear friend.

Think about Jeff's text: "Harry died." As if we spent every day hanging out with the guy. Most likely, thousands of people sent that same text to their close friends and family, and the person receiving the text probably never replied, "Harry who?"

That's amazing. This man con-

nected with people, through the simple act of announcing baseball games, in a profound way.

What is it that draws us to sports media personalities such as Kalas, or Durham, or Howard Cosell or Vin Scully? Or outside of sports, to people like Walter Cronkite, Edward R. Murrow or Johnny Carson?

We don't know them, yet we sometimes feel closer to them than our own family members (especially in-laws).

People understood Kalas. Trusted him. Knew his style, his cadence, his "Struck 'im outttt!" and "Outta hereee!" calls like their parents' "Dinner!" yells.

My singular meeting with Kalas sticks in my mind: Starry-eyed, pimply-faced, teenage me approaching a hometown legend with a red baseball bearing a white "P." Still got the ball, and the memory.

The last time our paths crossed, though, was Halloween 2009. I know because I left Chapel Hill on Oct. 30 at 11 p.m., caught the Phillies World Series victory parade at home, then made it back to Franklin Street 24 hours after

departure. The last time I saw Harry Kalas, he was perched on a fire truck, beaming, a world champ. That made it worth the trip.

I can still hear his understated voice narrating my daily activities: "Rosenthal rubs his eyes. Top of the seventh hour. Goes into his stretch ... leg swing, and he's up, up, up ... That boy is outta bedddd!"

But Harry the K was more than a voice. He was 38 years of Phillies history.

Think about it: Kalas told the Phillies' story, day-in, day-out, to three generations of fans. My dad was there for Kalas' first Phillies broadcast, on April 10, 1971, when the team opened Veterans Stadium.

When the Phils moved to Citizens Bank Park in 2004, guess who occupied the broadcast booth? (The Phillies have now renamed it "The Harry Kalas Broadcast Booth: 'That ball's outta here!'")

Kalas represented the Phillies as much as, if not more than, the red and white on the players' uniforms, the "P" on their hats and the stadiums they played in.

beside Kalas' casket. Get this: Such an on-field memorial happened only twice before in MLB history — once for revered broadcaster Jack Buck, and once before that for a fellow named George Herman Ruth. Some people called him "The Babe."

Know what? Buck and Bambino are in damn good company. My friend Jeff flew back from Jersey to UNC on Wednesday. That entire afternoon, he must have looked at me at least five times, shook his head, and said, "Harry's gone." Had to convince himself of the unthinkable.

He said it wouldn't hit me until I went back home and watched a Phillies broadcast without The Voice of the Phillies.

He was right. It won't sink in until a Phils broadcast comes on, and some stranger's face gives me the "Wait — that's not Mister Rogers" reaction.

That's when it'll become real: Harry died. Harry's gone. And it won't be the same. Ever.

Contact Sam Rosenthal at samrose@email.unc.edu.

Town celebrates poetry month

BY MAZARE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER

This month, Carrboro residents can bring their lunch and sip on free coffee while feasting on the art of local poets.

In honor of National Poetry Month, the Carrboro Cybrary is hosting the fourth annual "Poetry on Your Plate," a lunchtime poetry reading. The first of three weekly readings was Thursday.

Orange County has shined the spotlight on local poets for years through its myriad poetry events, such as open mics at local cafes and the West End Poets Festival.

But April is a special month for poets across the nation.

"National Poetry Month gives people more of a reason to have poetry events and write poems," Carrboro's poet laureate Neal McTighe said.

McTighe, who has served as Carrboro's poet laureate since 2007, performed at the Cybrary last year and said he welcomed the opportunity to hear audience feedback.

"The audience opens your eyes to your own poems by being interactive," he said.

McTighe began writing when he was a teenager and helped start his high school literary magazine.

As a current poet laureate,

POETRY ON YOUR PLATE

Time: Noon, Thursday and April 30
Location: Carrboro Century Center
Info: www.co.orange.nc.us/library/cybrary

McTighe connects people to poetry by participating in and helping organize various poetry events.

"In Carrboro and Chapel Hill, especially, there are a lot of people who are writing," he said. "But there are not enough that are being heard."

Allie Hansen, an activity supervisor for the Carrboro Recreation and Parks Department who helped publicize Poetry on Your Plate, said poetry events should offer venues for both well-known and unknown poets to share their works.

"We're not looking for just the college-educated poets," she said. "We want to give exposure to all kinds of voices in the community."

Local poet and musician Gilbert Neal was the first to perform this year.

Neal strummed his guitar to the rhythm of his poetry, which reflected his childhood, his love life and his experiences as a father.

"My poetry is more effective because it comes from a rhythmic place," he said.



DTH/COLLEEN COOK

Songwriter and musician Gilbert Neal performs at the Carrboro Cybrary's "Poetry on Your Plate" event for National Poetry Month.

Neal and McTighe said poetry should be celebrated longer than it is during National Poetry Month.

"We should make it poetry year and then poetry would be eternal," McTighe said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

games



SUDOKU

THE SACRED OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group
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Level: 1 2 3 4

4				2				
						8		
		7	5	3		4	2	
6			8					9
	5		6		7			4
					4			
								6
	7			2	6	5		
		9						
			3					8

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution to Thursday's puzzle

1	3	6	9	7	8	4	5	2
2	5	8	6	4	3	9	1	7
4	9	7	2	1	5	3	8	6
9	7	2	8	5	6	1	4	3
5	1	4	3	2	7	6	9	8
6	8	3	1	9	4	2	7	5
3	6	5	4	8	1	7	2	9
8	4	9	7	3	2	5	6	1
7	2	1	5	6	9	8	3	4

Last lecture

Professor Paul Ferguson will give a lecture in the style of Randy Pausch's "Last Lecture." See pg. 1 for story.

Thursday Night Live

Saturday Night Live actor Kenan Thompson joined other comedians for a night of laughs. See pg. 3 for story.

Police examine e-mails

Police are deciding whether false e-mails sent in a developer's name were fraud. See pg. 3 for story.

Pit bulls attack man

Police are looking for a man who unleashed two pit bulls on another man at a bus stop. See pg. 6 for story.

Dorm-room mixer

First-year Madison Bullard is also an electronic music remixer and disc jockey. Go online for story.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
1 Butterfly units?
8 Home in the Alps
14 "Again ..."
15 Rock salt
16 Step in a pizza recipe?
18 Cotton plant originally from Peru
19 Tranquility
20 Simpson dad with a dozen donuts?
24 Floor covering
27 November winners
28 Suffix with Caesar
29 Touchy?
32 Milo of "Barbarella"
34 Broadcast
35 Hook's mate in his formative years?
39 Pooh pooh-bah
40 Farmer's concerns
41 Paul who played the principal in "The Breakfast Club"
44 Dander
45 Filmom's Lupino
48 AOL rival
49 Headline about carpentry work for a new financial institution?
52 "Awakenings" Oscar nominee
55 "Must've been something ..."
56 Classic breakup line, and a hint to the formation of this puzzle's theme answers

- 61 Brunch fare
62 Actor whose birth name was Aristoteles
63 Thermometer, e.g.
64 Gold or silver

DOWN
1 One in Tarzan's family tree?
2 Routs
3 Chart again
4 Cockney anticipation?
5 Muscular doll
6 Satisfy the munchies
7 Tempest
8 "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind" author
9 Saintry ring
10 Father-daughter boxers
11 Dynamo
12 Quartier d' : July/August Parisian festival
13 Some NFL receivers
17 Dogs in shoes?
18 21st Greek letter

J A V A G I L E M A G I
A N E G I B E S M I N O R
W G N A G E N T O R A N G E
A L T O S A X D I M E
T E L U S L I A O T I M O
G I N G E R R O G E R S
G E N A L O B E R O A S T
O T O G E O L O G Y R E O
S A W I I D A L I E A R P
S T A G E M A N A G E R
S V E A T I C A G E R I S
E J O A N P H I R O W O N
G E O R G E E L L O T I G A
A T S E A T E E N A N U I
G E E S H A R D G G E L

21 Enthusiastic agreement
22 Chemistry Nobel Otto
23 Fit for service
25 Sailor's heading
26 Crossed (out)
30 City with a view of the Laramie Mountains
31 Allen and Burton
32 Chaplin's last wife
33 Film buff's station
35 Suffers
36 Assimilates
37 Actor Estrada
38 German town
39 Vegas's ___ Grand
42 ___ dictum: passing remark
43 Old-timey "not"
45 Bo Diddley hit
46 Loathe
47 Lime ending
50 Western omen
51 Grocery section
53 Env. contents
54 Manhattan area above Houston Street
56 Lex Luthor's 200, and others
57 Datebook abbr.
58 Chi.-based flier
59 "___ been had!"
60 Scot's topper

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- 10:00 am Sustainability: What Does it Mean? What Does it Matter
- 12:00 noon Crime and Safety: Order in the County?
- 2:00 pm Education: The Arithmetic of Quality Education in Tough Economic Times
- 4:00 pm The Arts: Painting the Issues

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